

Regular Business Meeting ~

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually as well as in-person on Thursday, July 17, 2025, in Port Townsend, Washington. Chair Larry Cochran called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Note: All meeting materials can be found on our [meetings webpage](#). You will find the meeting packet with background information, presentations and past meeting information.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Larry Cochran, Chair, Elected eastern region rep.
Cherie Kearney, Vice-chair, Governor Appointee
Brook Beeler, Department of Ecology
Dani Gelardi, Department of Agriculture
Dean Longrie, Elected west region
Jim Kropf, Washington State University (online)
Katie Rose Allen, Department of Natural Resources
Wade Troutman, Elected central region
Amy McKay, Washington Association of Conservation Districts

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

James Thompson, Executive Director
Alicia McClendon, Administrative Assistant
Hilary Aten, Office of Farmland Preservation
Jodi Prout, Communications
Josh Giuntoli, SW Regional Manager
Kate Delavan, Policy Director
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Sarah Groth, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Wilcox, Communications
Shana Joy, District Operations Manager

A quorum was present.

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Angie Reseland, Dept of Fish and Wildlife (online)
Roylene Comes at Night, Natural Resources Conservation Service (online)
Craig Nelson, WA Association of District Employees
Nick Peak, EPA Region 10 (online)
Heather Wendt, WA Association of Conservation Districts

All other guests are listed in the following attachments:

Attachment A – online registration/attendance sheet

Attachment B – in-person sign-in sheet

ACTION MINUTES TAKEN

Meeting opened with Lori Gonzalez taking commissioner roll call. A quorum was announced as present. Following commissioner roll call, introductions were done for guests who attended the meeting in person as well as online.

Chair Cochran asked if there were any additions or corrections needed to be made to the agenda. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Draft May 15, 2025 regular business meeting minutes

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the May 15, 2025, draft business meeting minutes Seconded by Commissioner Kearney. Commissioner Allen abstained. Motion carried.

Draft June 18, 2025 special meeting minutes

Motion by Commissioner Gelardi to approve June 18, 2025, special meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Commissioner Allen abstained. Motion carried.

Out of State Travel

Motion by Commissioner McKay to approve the State Conservation Commission (SCC) Executive Director and designated member(s) to attend the NACD Southwest and Pacific Region Meeting September 7-10, 2025, in Golden, Colorado. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion carried.

COMMISSION OPERATIONS

Farmland Protection Project Approval – Swauk Prairie Farm

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the following:

The Commission has determined the acquisition of a conservation easement on the property is consistent with the mission, duties, and purposes of SCC.

The Commission hereby authorizes the State Conservation Commission’s Executive Director to sign documents for acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement, for appraised fair-market value, on the approximately 601-acre Swauk Prairie Farm in Kittitas County, project 22-1544, contingent upon completion of the appraisal review and all standard due diligence.

Seconded by Commissioner Kearney. Motion carried.

POLICY, BUDGET AND FINANCE

Supplemental Budget Decision Package

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the supplemental budget decision packages authorizing staff to seek supplemental budget allocation up to the following amounts:

- 1. Forest Health & Community Wildfire \$2.5M
- 2. Conservation Technical Assistance \$2.25M

3. IT – Data Modernization \$3.2M

Seconded by Commissioner Beeler. Motion carried.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Annexation of Territory – Okanogan Conservation District

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the petition for inclusion of the City of Twisp within the boundaries of the Okanogan Conservation District. Seconded by Commissioner Kearney. Motion carried.

Walla Walla Conservation District Mid-Term Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Troutman to appoint Rhonda Gothberg to the Walla Walla Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion carried.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI) Draft Program Guidelines

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve staff to initiate opening a 45-day review and public comment period on the WSRRI draft guidelines. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried.

Farmland Protection and Land Access (FPLA) Guidelines for Approval

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the adoption of the revised FPLA Guidelines, effective July 17, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried.

Voluntary Stewardship Program Funding Guidelines for Approval

Motion by Commissioner Beeler to approve the Voluntary Stewardship Program Funding Guidelines effective retroactively to July 1, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion carried.

Chair Cochran adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

July 17, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes approved at the September 18, 2025 Business Meeting

July 17, 2025 Commission Meeting**Zoom Attendee Details**

#	First Name	Last Name	#	First Name	Last Name
1	Ashley	Wood	28	Paul	D'Agnolo
2	Karla	Heinitz	29	Paige	DeChambeau
3	Roylene	Comes At Night	30	Karen	Hills
4	Brandy	Reed	31	Alicia	McClendon
5	B'Elanna	Rhodehamel	32	Allisa	Carlson
6	Victoria	Fischella	33	Dave	Hedrick
7	Evan	Bauder	34	Jean	Fike
8	Mike	Mumford	35	Toyo	Garber
9	Jennifer	Coe	36	Amy	McKay
10	Kris	Neely	37	Emmy	Engle (Okanogan CD)
11	Amy	Martin	38	nick	vira
12	Angie	Reseland	39	Bill	Eller
13	Sarah	Wilcox	40	Brian	Cochrane
14	Kara	Kaelber	41	Tom	O'Brien
15	Jan	Thomas	42	Taylor	George
16	Nate	Jackson	43	Rosa	Mendez
17	Zorah	Oppenheimer	44	Anna	Lael
18	Nicole	Boyes	45	Allen	Lebovitz
19	Heather	Folks-Lambert	46	Leslie	Michel
20	Mike	Poteet			
21	Alan	Chapman			
22	Megan	Stewart			
23	Joy	Garitone			
24	Ryan	Williams			
25	Wade	Trotman			
26	Jack	Clark			
27	Jim	Kropf			



Washington State Conservation Commission

ATTACHMENT B

Please Sign In

Conservation Commission Business Meeting

Thursday, July 17, 2025

	NAME	ENTITY/DISTRICT
1.	Lori Gonzalez	SCC
2.	Alicia McClendon	SCC
3.	Sarah Green	SCC
4.	Kate Delavan	SCC
5.	Sarah Wilcox	SCC
6.	Josh Giuntani	SCC
7.	Ryan Baye	WACD
8.	Evan Bruecker	Mason CD
9.	Dana Ward, guest (JST)	
10.	Joe Holtrop	Jefferson CD
11.	Mark Craven	Snohomish CD
12.	Jennifer Boje	Palouse CD
13.	Jodi Pratt	SCC
14.	LARRY COCHRAN	WSCC
15.	Levi Yee Secker	WSCC

16. Dean Longrie CCD
17. SARAH MOOREHEAD TCD
18. Craig Nelson WIAE CO-President
19. Katie Rose Allen DNR
20. Brooke Becker ELY
21. Amy McKay WACO
22. Wade Troutman Eastern Rep Commissioner
23. Dani Gelardi AGR
24. Cherie Kearney Vice-Chair
25. James Thompson SCE Exec Director
26. Shara Joy SCE RM
27. Al Latham Jefferson CD
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
34. public