Washington State Conservation Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

Regular Business Meeting ~

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually as well as in-person on Thursday, January 15, 2026, in Lacey, Washington. Chair Cherie Kearney 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

Cherie Kearney, Chair, Governor Appointee (online)
Wade Troutman, Vice-chair, Elected central region (online)
Larry Cochran, Elected east region (online)
Amy McKay, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (online)
Dani Gelardi, Department of Agriculture (online)
Bill Blake, Elected west region (online)
Jim Kropf, Washington State University (online)
Katie Rose Allen, Department of Natural Resources (in-person)

A quorum was present.

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

James Thompson, Executive Director
Alicia McClendon, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Wilson, Chief Engagement Officer
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Mike Poteet, Voluntary Stewardship Program
Sarah Groth, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Wilcox, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Additional staff are listed in the attachments.

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Angie Reseland, Dept of Fish and Wildlife (online)
Roylene Comes at Night, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (online)
Nick Vira, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (online)
Craig Nelson, WA Association of District Employees
Sarah Moorehead, WA Association of District Employees
Tom Salzer, WA Association of Conservation Districts (online)
Heather Wendt, WA Association of Conservation Districts (online)
Ryan Baye, 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

The meeting was opened with Commissioner roll call taken by Lori Gonzalez. A quorum was present. Following roll call, introductions were made for guests attending both in person and online.

Chair Kearney asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda; none were offered.

CONSENT AGENDA

Draft December 4, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the draft December 4, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion passed.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

City of Poulsbo Annexation Request into Kitsap Conservation District

Motion by Commissioner Blake to approve the Petition for inclusion of additional territory within the Kitsap Conservation District, as requested by the Kitsap Conservation District and the City of Poulsbo.

Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion passed.

Lewis Conservation District Mid-Term Supervisor Appointment

Motion by Commissioner McKay to appoint Robert Russell to the Lewis Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion passed.

PROGRAMS

Appointment of New Member to the Voluntary Stewardship Program Statewide Advisory Committee

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to appoint Ben Buchholz to the Voluntary Stewardship Program Statewide Advisory Committee to serve out the remainder of the current two-year term* for one of the positions representing agricultural organizations, effectively immediately. **Through May 10, 2027*

Seconded by Commissioner Blake. Motion passed.

Farmland Protection & Land Access Application – Big Red Barn Farm (N. Olympic Land Trust)

Motion by Commissioner Blake:

The Conservation Commission accepts the FPLA Work Group's recommendation regarding North Olympic Land Trust's Big Red Barn Farm application.

The Conservation Commission approves up to $2,678,000 in FPLA funding to North Olympic Land Trust for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Big Red Barn Farm property owned by Olympic Peninsula Conservation Resources, LLC.

The Conservation Commission authorizes its Executive Director to sign the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary.

Seconded by Commissioner Gelardi. Motion passed.

Chair Kearney adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Attachment A

Zoom Registration Report for January 15, 2026

	First Name	Last Name		First Name	Last Name
1	Wade	Troutman	**31**	Paige	DeChambeau
2	Larry	Cochran	**32**	Tyler	Dix
3	Kris	Neely	**33**	Jean	Fike
4	Tami	Stubbs	**34**	Kim	Williams
5	Brandy	Reed	**35**	Toyo	Garber
6	Jodi	Prout	**36**	Levi	Keesecker
7	J	W	**37**	Margaret	McKeown
8	Joy	Garitone	**38**	Alec	Sorensen
9	Alan	Chapman	**39**	Thomas	Salzer
10	nick	vira	**40**	Mike	Baden
11	Bill	Eller	**41**	Karen	Hills
12	Becca	Hebron	**42**	Jennifer	Boie
13	Corey	Brenner	**43**	Alicia	McClendon
14	B'Elanna	Rhodehamel	**44**	Virginia	Shogren
15	Dana	Myers	**45**	Cherie	Kearney
16	Sarah	Wilcox	**46**	Hilary	Aten
17	Nick	Peak	**47**	Heather	Wendt
18	Josh	Larsen	**48**	Kate	Delavan
19	Zorah	Oppenheimer	**49**	Roylene	Comes At Night
20	Amy	McKay	**50**	Allisa	Carlson
21	Tom	Sanford	**51**	Amy	Martin
22	Bill	Blake	**52**	Sarah	Moorehead
23	Kara	Kaelber	**53**	Evan	Bauder
24	Karla	Heinitz	**54**	Annie	Byerley
25	Jenny	Coe	**55**	Dani	Madrone
26	Victoria	Fischella	**56**	Sierra	Young
27	Jim	Kropf	**57**	Jon	Culp
28	Dani	Gelardi			
29	Jan	Thomas			
30	Megan	Stewart			

Attachment B

Washington State Conservation Commission

Thursday, January 15, 2026 ~ Regular Business Meeting

Please Sign In

	Name	Entity
1.	Lorl Gonzalez	SCC
2.	Alicia McClendon	SCC
3.	Jessica Wilson	SCC
4.	Ryan Baye	WACD
5.	Craig Nelson	OCD
6.	Sarah Wilcox	SCC
7.	Katie Rose Allen	DNR
8.	Sarah Groth	SCC
9.	Sarah Moorehead	Thurston CD
10.	James Thompson	SCC
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