Washington State Conservation Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2026

Regular Business Meeting ~

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually as well as in-person on Thursday, July 16, 2026, in Burlington, Washington. Chair Cherie Kearney called the meeting to order at 9:30 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
Wade Troutman, Vice-chair, Elected central region
Larry Cochran, Elected east region
Amy McKay, Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Brook Beeler, Department of Ecology
Dani Gelardi, Department of Agriculture
Bill Blake, Elected west region
Jim Kropf, Washington State University (online)
Katie Rose Allen, Department of Natural Resources (online)

A quorum was present.

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

James Thompson, Executive Director
Alicia McClendon, Administrative Assistant
Allisa Carlson, Central WA Regional Manager
Bill Eller, Special Projects Coordinator
Dani Madrone, Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs
Jessica Wilson, Chief Engagement Officer
Kate Delavan, Deputy Director
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Sarah Groth, Chief Financial Officer
Tami Stubbs, SE WA Regional 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
Nick Vira, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (online)
Craig Nelson, WA Association of District Employees (online)
Tom Salzer, WA Association of Conservation Districts (online)
Heather Wendt, WA Association of Conservation Districts
Ryan Baye, WA Association of Conservation Districts (online)

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 Alicia McClendon. 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 May 21, 2026- Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the draft May 21, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion passed.

Out of State Travel Request

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the SCC executive director and a commission member to travel to Guam for the NACD Pacific and Southwest Regional Meeting August 23-28, 2026.

Seconded by Commissioner Blake. Motion passed.

POLICY, BUDGET AND FINANCE

Authorization on 2027-2029 Decision Packages and Not-to-Exceed Amounts

Motion by Commissioner McKay to approve submission of decision packages and not-to-exceed amounts, presented in Option B for all programs except the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The RCPP amount will reflect the match request submitted by conservation districts by the August 24, 2026 RCPP application deadline. Seconded by Commissioner Gelardi

Seconded by Commissioner Gelardi. Motion passed.

Decision Package Prioritization:

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the following prioritization of decision package requests. Seconded by Commissioner Gelardi:

Capital budget:

1. Natural Resources Investment
2. Riparian Grant Program
3. Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program
4. Voluntary Stewardship Program
5. Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative
6. Shellfish
7. Regional Conservation Partnership Program
8. Farmland Protection and Land Access

Operating budget:

1. Conservation Technical Assistance
2. Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency
3. Science Hub

Commissioner Troutman moves to amend the current resolution on the floor to prioritize decision packages based on the number of conservation districts participating in each program.

Seconded by Commissioner Beeler.

Original motion as amended. Motion passed.

Policy on Policies: Comment Period Update

Motion by Commissioner Beeler to approve a change to Policy # 2023-09: SCC Procedure on Creating a New Policy to reduce the 45-day minimum public comment period to 30 day minimum.

Seconded by Commissioner Blake. Motion passed.

PROGRAMS

ACES Authorization to Enter Purchase and Sale Agreements

Motion by Commissioner McKay: The Commission has determined acquisition of conservation easements on the subject properties is consistent with the mission, duties, and purposes of the State Conservation Commission.

The Commission hereby authorizes the Conservation Commission's Executive Director to sign documents for acquisition of agricultural conservation easements, at appraised value, on the approximately 1,555-acre Williams Rangeland in Yakima County, and 1,326-acre Luna Gulch farm in Klickitat County, contingent upon completion of the appraisal reviews and survey.

Seconded by Commissioner Gelardi. Motion passed.

Voluntary Stewardship Program Statewide Advisory Committee Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Blake to appoint Greg Green from Ducks Unlimited to the VSP Statewide Advisory Committee for a two-year term, effective immediately.

Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Commissioner Gelardi abstains. Motion passed.

Chair Kearney adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Zoom Registration Report for July 16, 2026

	First Name	Last Name		First Name	Last Name
1	Alicia	McClendon	22	Tara	Long
2	Angie	Reseland	23	Rachel	Haymon
3	nicole	boyes	24	Becca	Hebron
4	Craig	Nelson	25	Annie	Byerley
5	Ashley	Wood	26	Tom	Salzer
6	Bill	Eller	27	Kim	Williams
7	Zorah	Oppenheimer	28	Karen	Hills
8	Jodi	Prout	29	Mike	Nordin
9	Brandy	Reed	30	Megan	Stewart
10	Virginia	Shogren	31	Alan	Chapman
11	Mike	Poteet	32	Katie Rose	Allen
12	Tami	Stubbs	33	Kate	Delavan
13	Heather	Wendt	34	Evan	Bauder
14	Brad	Riehle	35	Levi	Keesecker
15	Allisa	Carlson	36	Lori	Gonzalez
16	Scott	Noble	37	Anna	Lael
17	Josh	Larsen	38	Linda	Lyshall
18	Margaret	McKeown	39	Kara	Kaelber
19	Nate	Jackson	40	Alec	Sorensen
20	Ryan	Williams	41	Michael	Tobin
21	Sarah	Moorehead	42	Vicki	Carter

Washington State
Conservation Commission

Thursday, July 16, 2026
Regular Business Meeting

Please Sign In

	Name	Entity
1.	Craig T Nelson ✓	Okanogan CD
2.	Sarah Green ✓	SCC
3.	Jessica Wilson ✓	SCC
4.	NICK VIRA	NRCS
5.	Bill Blake ✓	SCC
6.	Dani Gelardi ✓	WSDA
7.	Jennifer Boie ✓	Palouse CD
8.	MIKE LOPEZ ✓	SCC
9.	Dani Madrone ✓	SCC
10.	Sarah Jones ✓	Snohomish CD
11.	LARRY COCHRAN ✓	SCC
12.	Wade Troutman ✓	SCC
13.	Jim Kropf ✓	WSU
14.	Amy McKay ✓	WACD/Commissioner
15.	Hilary Aten ✓	SCC
16.	Paul D'Agnolo ✓	SCC
17.	Alan Chapman ✓	Whatcom CD/WACD
18.	Ryan Baye	WACD
19.	Kate Delahan ✓	SCC

Business Meeting Minutes Approved September 17, 2026

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Please Sign In

	Name	Entity
20.	Linda Lyshall ✓	Snohomish CD
21.	Addie Candub	American Farmland Trst
22.	Josh Giuntoli ✓	WSCC
23.	Lora Liegel ✓	WSCC
24.	Jennifer Coe ✓	SCC
25.	Sarah Moorehead ✓	TCD / WADE
26.	Lori Gonzalez ✓	SCC
27.	Alicia McClendon ✓	SCC
28.	James Thompson ✓	SCC
29.	Cherie Kearney ✓	SCC
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