

All-Staff Meeting Notes 3_3_25

Hosted by Karen Hills. Thanks Karen!

Please reach out to Lori if you'd like to host the next all-staff on March 17.

James – Gov. Ferguson's proposed budget

Governor Ferguson's proposed budget was shared last Thursday.

Our top goals are to keep all SCC staff and conservation districts employed. Reductions in Ferguson's proposed budget are detailed here: [LINK](#). The legislature will now work on their budget. Cuts are proposed mostly in the operating budget rather than the capital budget. There is no one reason why our programs are being targeted. The session currently ends on April 27.

Furloughs have been proposed at 1 day per month for the next two-year biennium. The union also negotiated COLA increases of 3% in FY25 and 2% in FY26.

Communication to conservation districts: James sent an email to managers on Friday.

Dani – policy update

Policy and fiscal cutoff for bills in their house of origin (House or Senate) has passed, so a lot of bills have died. We have seen a lot of bills with high fiscal notes either pared back significantly or not advancing at all. Some bills that are still alive that we are tracking are the Rates and Charges bills for conservation districts, technical updates to Sustainable Farms and Fields, and a bill to form a workgroup to address wildfire mitigation and insurance.

The next revenue forecast will come out March 18, and we'll probably see the operating budgets from the House and the Senate in the coming weeks. The House is aiming for \$8 billion in cuts and \$8 billion in revenue, with priorities identified as food, shelter, and health. We are engaging with legislators to help them understand the impacts of losing our Science Hub and tribal liaison and are continuing to work on fixing the proviso language for our Riparian Grant Program.

Mike Poteet - Welcome Victoria as VSP Specialist! SCC's newest addition

[See Victoria's bio here](#)

Jodi - Ripple Effect campaign!

Went live this weekend. Ads ran during the Oscars! CDs can use these materials and tailor to their own needs. Printing up materials as well.

- Website: <https://www.conserve.wa.gov/> (public facing website - technical resource library for land managers and the general public, self-guided technical assistance) and toolkit.
- Land manager [video advertisement](#) | [radio ad](#)

- General audience [video advertisement](#) | [radio ad outreach toolkit](#)

Jon – Diversity video

Find a link to the video here: <https://microvideos.thediversitymovement.com/videos/types-of-diversity>

Thomas – Teams Chat update

Teams chat has been changed. A message used to delete after 7 days, now does not delete. Use for Teams is intended for transitory exchanges and not for making decisions. You cannot delete any chats. Chats will remain for 100 years (question for the Gov. office.)

Sarah Groth – Grants Manual

Thank you all for your time and attention to work through questions and comments around updating the Grants Manual. Courtney has had to roll up all comments and notes and get updated. Held a meeting in Spokane with a handful of CDs to gather additional comments for this update and for future updates. Will be shared at the March Commission meeting to be approved to be put out for 45-day public comment. There is work identified that will need to happen in phases and in the future.