

All-staff meeting notes 3/17/25

Hosted by Nicole Boyes!

Next staff meeting is 3/31/25.

James:

- Budget: 6+ weeks away from possibly knowing. Legislature will be working towards a final, but lots of give and take and public negotiations in the space. Minority party put forward a no new revenue budget. Stay tuned and calm. We feel fairly safe in what we are trying to accomplish. We are in a position to keep staff where they are and keep programs functioning.
- Ombuds program: Third-party to help work through different issues. Brought a group together in Spokane a few weeks ago to talk about vouchering. Very pleased about spirit of cooperation and participation. Will have a draft in a couple of weeks. Goal is to give conservation districts a voice in how that comes together.
- March Commission meeting: Lots of work has gone into preparing for this meeting. Appreciate all of your work to prepare! We will be asking for public comment on guidelines in four programs and the grants and contracts manual. Most complex program and changes are with the Riparian Grant Program (RGP).
- Liberum: Was employed to help develop the work stream and the processes that support the RGP. That work has been very productive, providing support to program managers, how the work interacts with other programs, efficiencies, and identifying goals and technology needs. Great resource to have a program manager be able to drive a project management structure. It can be work to plan, but creates clarity within the org and externally.

Thomas:

- Welcome Brandon! New data consultant. [Check out his bio](#)

Dani, Legislative update:

- We are in the hurry up and wait time for budget creation.
- Tracking bill for updates on Sustainable Farms and Fields. Rates and Charges bill is continuing to move forward. Continue to advocate for budget with legislators. Continue to work on the proviso language for the RGP. Create new champions and build relationships.
- Revenue from CCA is higher than expected. Will see overall revenue forecast come out tomorrow. Will inform the operating budget that is expected to come out for both chambers on March 24.
- Heard through the rumor mill that the capital budget may be released on March 31 (informed by operating budget).

Jon:

- Shared a diversity video.

Josh:

- Saw Ripple Effect during Kracken hockey! If you hear or see any ads in the wild, please report it at: [Share Your Feedback](#)
- See full website: [‘Ripple Effect’ campaign encourages stewardship of Washington’s waterways](#)