

SCC – CDs Round Table Notes

May 8, 2025

Notes by Josh Giuntoli

Welcome and Introduction

- Allisa Carlson facilitated and welcomed the group.
- June Roundtable will be cancelled due to June 12 Leadership Forum

Leadership Remarks – James Thompson, Executive Director

- Governor has until May 20 to sign the budget
- SCC May meeting hosted by North Yakima CD – includes SCC strategic planning (May 13-15)

Budget/Legislative Update – Kate Delavan, Policy Director; Sarah Groth

- Governor can sign, line item veto, or veto budget all together and/or call back for special session.
- Budget - In general, SCC fared ok – most hits in the operating. Elimination of DAP, bigger cuts to engineering and forest health. in a wait and see mode until signed. Capital budget was a better budget for us. Did not have as many reductions. Received additional funding for NRI. Been stuck at \$4m, now \$5m. Irrigation efficiencies received a bump – the rest were about the same as current.
- Riparian Roundtable – received proviso to continue
- Policy team will be doing post session reflection and look for how to do things better. One highlighted area is to have better feedback with CDs and policy team. Reach out to Kate or Dani if there are ways we can better serve the community.
- Budget –
- Forest Health was the biggest hit – recognized the work of SCC and WACD sharing the needs for this program.
- June 12 – [all districts meeting](#) – will discuss priorities for upcoming year.
- Grants Manual review
 - Seven CDs provided comments – with broader support for those comments amongst the CD community. June 18 SCC special meeting for adoption
- RGP program guidelines will be brought forward at the June 18 special meeting
- June 18 SCC Special meeting notice
 - You're invited to join a special session of the State Conservation Commission on June 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The session will include presentations of the updated Riparian Grant Program Guidelines and Grants and Contracts Policy and Procedure Manual for approval.
 - The meeting will be held online via zoom. To register for the session, click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/vHlnW1tTS2KoCw90GEcZHg>. Limited accommodations are available for in-person attendance at the WSCC Office. Please contact Lori Gonzalez at lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov to make arrangements.

Questions/Comments

- CDs generated a Forest Health budget spreadsheet that was intended to capture the needs. Plans to do something similar for other programs?
 - Answer – yes, helps with alignment. Having a methodical look at demand informed by CDs would be helpful. Can explore at the June 12 meeting. For gathering information, using the online spreadsheet form was helpful as there was transparency.
- Can we engage Tribal leadership in the CD engagement strategy along with legislators? It would be great to have some of these conversations in the field thoughtfully at a strategic level.
 - Answer – absolutely. None of this work can be done without the CDs.
 - Sarah Moorehead - We engage our own tribal partners, but I think taking it up a level would be great to collaborate on with WSCC.
- Do we need to fill out the returned funds form for RCPP allocations that are continuing into the next biennium?
 - Answer – No
- I think that a lot of CDs supported the comments provided by those 7 CDs who responded on the grants manual. Responses will be shared when ready for final adoption. Consultant report will be included as well.
- Can the grants manual update to the Commission as an interim fix until work can be done with the 10 CD's collaborating with SCC staff for a more comprehensive update?
 - Answer - Ombuds group will pick up work to make adjustments and revisions to an adopted manual. If things are discovered that wouldn't be too disruptive – could do a mid-biennium update – but that can create challenges between fiscal years.
- Additional support that many more than 7 districts are fully behind the manual comments. Several of those extensive comments submitted were broadly distributed amongst other Districts.

New CCA Process Requirement – Jean Fike

- See recent [GovDelivery](#) and [May District Digest](#)
- There is a pre-app requirement – before a grant can be made, a letter needs to be sent to DFW, Tribes, and DAHP. Includes offer to discuss.
- What's changing – for DAHP, there is an automatic reply that asks applicant to get in touch with them.

Questions/Comments

- Could they just ask for shapefiles or what they specially need?
 - Answer – we'll see if there are any adjustments.
- How can they ask for discussion with an automatic response without looking at any of the information we sent them? It defeats the purpose of sending them the notification it seems like they are asking us to do it twice?
 - Answer – seems cumbersome. We don't know their internal processes.
- I wonder if it would help if our tribal partners reached out to DAHP to tame this situation.
 - Answer – don't know.

- On the subject of CR's I am wondering if other districts are having requests to do monitoring by an archeologist during installation.
 - Answer – happens a fair amount.

Deadlines and year-end reminders – Sarah Groth

- Reminders –
 - May 10 is the last day for return funds form – form will go offline after.
 - SAO annual financial report – due May 30
 - Last day of FY is June 30 – all final vouchers in by July 10. If you have a conflict, reach out to RM and fiscal team to help prioritize.
 - July 30 – all FY 26 grant addendums are due. Cannot reimburse before receiving
 - Annual work plan due May 30

SCC program updates – Various

- Riparian Grant Program – Amy Martin
 - Thank you for your patience as year end requests come in
 - Working on opening application – next couple weeks.
 - Enter cost share and DIP projects in CPDS with Ready for Funding. Will using CPDS to track metrics.
 - Comments received for guidelines – working for that ahead of June 18 special meeting.
- RGP Comments/Questions
 - When CPDS is asked to be updated – does it have anything to do with competitiveness to get awarded for SCC programs.
 - Answer – RGP will require CPDS plus formstack. Will pull CPDS data when apps are submitted.
 - Similar process for other programs?
 - Answer – no. NRI does not require. Some programs do rely on ready for funding submitted CDPS entries. FH/CWR does not rely on CPDS for funding awards.
 - RGP – heard from RCO side that RGP will start doing land acquisition using SCC RGP funding. Pacific CD is strongly opposed to this.
 - CD manager - I absolutely agree that acquisition should not be eligible.
 - CD manager - I agree, acquisition should not be prioritized with these funds. It's so expensive and will take too many resources where we need them.
 - Across SCC grants - In this last biennium, we had few awards where budget or task categories changed between the application and award. For all upcoming grant applications, if there are pre-determined ways the budget or tasks need to be broken up, can the form clearly describe that so we can set up our budget accordingly?
 - Answer – yes. Working on this.
 - In addition to comments about acquisition. A CD manager would like to comment that culverts, LWD, and other instream work is NOT riparian. We finally have a dedicated riparian source and it should not be spent on other non riparian habitat activities that have multiple other sources of funding.

- CD manager - I agree, minus that I stream riparian work I feel is important to secure planting areas, and help salmon, but high level I agree.
 - CD manager - I can't fully agree with this statement Evan, we use large woody debris and beaver dam analogs to also keep our plants watered and alive. Dam removals also could be in the pipeline for us. Not sure the other sources of funding but these are major enhancements to riparian systems. It seems like we have a lot of money to do a lot of work, including in stream
- Sustainable Farms and Fields – Karen Hills
 - Anticipated application window for Sustainable Farms & Fields program for the next fiscal year to be open from May 19, 2025, to June 20, 2025, if the final state budget is submitted by May 19. A list of eligible practices for funding for the SFF fiscal year 2026 is available [here](#).
 - Program guidelines are being updated – going before commission at May meeting. Once approved, they will be in effect for the next biennium.
 - Aquaculture SFF – PCD has been leading a cohort of CDs to identify practices for aquaculture. Would have to be a demonstration project. Next spring, the report will be looked to for inclusion.
 - Is there a comprehensive list of application periods for all the WSCC programs?
 - Yes - there is a place for that online here: <https://www.scc.wa.gov/cd/funding-matrix> we will be updating this location as we figure out application periods for programs.
- Forest Health – Jenny Coe
 - Acknowledging the great conversations over email/phone calls – please be patient – been receiving lots of calls.
 - Moving target at the moment for funding based on lots of opinions. SCC will have to make hard decisions.
 - The timeline for application period is out the window now based on current conversations. Goal is to have funding awards out by July 1.
 - Lots of work trying to find the most fair process based on this biennium allocation. Everyone is going to feel the pinch somewhere. Clarify – there is no allocation coming before the May commission meeting.
 - <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/climate-lab/wa-lawmakers-slash-wildfire-budget-in-half/>
 - Shana mentioned further information that I have heard regarding DNR's budget outcomes is that they are looking at lay-offs potentially. Their 1168 account funding was always envisioned at a \$125M level. That account has never been fully funded by the Legislature (as they committed to do) and the funding level for DNR was only \$60M (don't quote me on that figure) for the next biennium. Deep cuts there as well.

Records management lessons/tips – Kara Kaelber (Franklin CD); Kim Williams (Clallam CD); Brandy Reed (Whatcom CD)

- If interested in learning more about records retention grant through Archives, reach out to presenters.
- Franklin was successful in receiving a grant through Archives to help pay for staff time to sort through documents. Included training.
- Clallam – will share resources in the shared google drive for managers. Recent huge uptick in public records request. Past two years have spent \$65k in responding. 26 requests – but very broad requests. Largest request, had to produce 13k documents. Three main takeaways:
 - Rotate your records according to records retention schedule.
 - State updated on training. 8-hr training from MRSC on records management was wonderful. WA state archives are very helpful in training. Enduris may provide scholarships for trainings.
 - Have a tracking log – helpful in tracking requests.
- Whatcom – shared information related to PRR that trigger farm plan exemptions. Will share information in the Google Drive for managers.
 - Had received a CREP farm plan request. Learned there is a lot of variability in handling this request.
 - There is a process to go through, redact, and release.
 - Have to be in communication with landowner.
 - Utilize legal counsel.

WACD updates – Ryan Baye

- General comments around the budget – looking ahead to next budget cycle. All – district meeting – will be an important time for conversation.
- Rates and Charges bill awaiting signature. Final version has \$25 cap with an index on inflation.
- Ready and willing to serve the member districts.

CTD updates – Jan Thomas

- Webinar series on Thursdays at 9am
 - Conservation pro tool kit webinars – geared to new staff, but check out.
- Irrigation water management training – next week. Class is full
- ArcGis training series should be wrapped up by the end of June. Will be on demand trainings.
 - Lidar, Farm Plan, etc...
- NRCS classes – staying in touch on how best to get CDs into limited NRCS trainings.
- Use training list inventory – Jan uses as a roster for filling seats.
- Looking forward to WADE – working on online training platform – sneak peak at WADE.
- Training plan template – last fall when NRCS restructured planning levels, that new information is now posted on CTD website in NRCS certification area. Excel sheet not updated – reimaging what something different could be for tracking.

Additional items generated by the group

- FH Funding community call – will be scheduled through email.
- The WADE Employee of the Year nominations have been extended for the **final** time to the end of the day May 16th. See info here and email Zorah with any questions!
https://sites.google.com/site/wadistrictemployees/home?authuser=0#h.p_Xn2Wrzpz-FeY
- Mike Nordin – Pacific County Resource Marine Committee annual science conference – Cranberry research center in Longbeach, WA – May 17. [More information and RSVP.](#)
- Does the governor hear from us on the forestry need?
 - WACD reply – no additional FH funding via his ability. Can only remove. Interim, will be working on getting NR on the radar. Generally, didn't hear priorities related to natural resources.

Next Round Table Meeting

July 10, 2025