

All-Staff Meeting Notes 4/28/25

Hosted by Mike Baden

- Director update - Kate D.
 - Kate is acting director this week while James is in WA DC for Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Please send anything you would normally need from James to her as well.
 - Budgets came out on Sat. am. Good news is that SCC landed in a better place than expected. Goal is to share information with staff and districts by Wednesday. The best news is that we do not need to eliminate any of our SCC staff. Please feel free to ask questions to Kate D., Dani, and Sarah G. throughout this process.

- Policy update - Dani
 - Session ended yesterday. Budget was not released until 10 am on Sat.
 - Policy-wise, we fared well. One bill we were working on got through the entire process without any strange amendments. The bill about rates and charges from WACD made it through. Able to get unfavorable language tied to the proviso corrected, so programs can be implemented.
 - It was a very difficult year for the budget due to the budget shortfall and the transition of the Governor.
 - Highs: Science Hub made it into the final budget and is also able to secure the Tribal Liaison position to support all work. CTA was left largely intact.
 - Lows: Forest Health came in at the low number. This is one of the CD's top priorities. Seeing cuts in forest health and fire in other agencies as well. Also, further cuts to the engineering fund.
 - Dani will begin to do legislative outreach to districts. What work is going forward or not and checking in on legislative tours. What can we do in the interim to continue to coalesce around priorities?
 - All CD meeting is coming up on June 12. Will have the opportunity to give a legislative update and discuss future budget priorities. We will ask how SCC best engage with CDs.

- Budget update – Sarah G.
 - The Governor has 20 days to sign the budget (by May 20). The only option is to veto things; otherwise, it should be okay.
 - Currently, there are no furloughs or wage cuts for staff. There are also wage increases. Continues to develop.

- Operating budget was fairly close to, however, took more reduction to engineering and also the Riparian Grant program.
 - If you manage a capital grant program, Sarah G will send back a screenshot of the proviso. OFM cannot make changes but need to know if there are any fatal flaws.
 - NRI got bumped to \$5M, RGP received \$25M (two different funds), FPLA \$4M, IEGP \$7M, Shellfish \$3.5M, RCPP \$6.3M, VSP \$3M, WSRRI \$3M.
 - New item in capital budget (seeing it in other agencies too) at risk of having challenges around reappropriation if funding is not put into contracts at the end of the biennium. Will need to come up with a well-developed project if contracting.
 - Concern around Salmon Recovery Funding and CREP - Funds were reappropriated.
 - Alternative Manure Management reappropriated and pulled out into own budget item.
 - Digester funding has been moved to Commerce.
 - Two positions eliminated, DAP and Riparian Education Outreach; however, we have funding alternatives to provide options for those two positions.
- DEIB – Jon
 - Video:
 - How do we best serve all districts and residents of WA state?
- What do we do about Formstack shared login? Thomas, Admin
 - Security issue, but also the company wants to increase memberships.
 - Working on how best to go forward. It would be helpful to do a poll in the next couple of days to figure out how best to organize sign-ins.
- Statewide contracts use – Nicole
 - [Contract Search](#)
 - Please reach out to Nicole and Alec if you need help.
 - If you need something, start with the question, “what do I need to buy?” Search for that item. Please make sure your scope of work matches what you are doing.
 - DES and OMB set supplier diversity goals for what percentage of our contracts and purchase orders should go to small, women, veteran, or minority owned business. DES recommends that we reach out to small or veteran business. Can cc Alec and Nicole if reaching out so we can keep a

record.

- SCC clothing orders are due today (4/28) to Courtney and Sarah G!

- Appreciations and celebrations – Jodi
 - New section for staff meeting. This is a way to stay connected and acknowledge all the incredible efforts happening across the team. Welcome to share a small act of kindness, going above and beyond our role, or any thanks.

- Brandon Bourgette will facilitate next time, 5/12