

SCC – CDs Round Table Notes

October 9, 2025

Facilitated by Jean Fike | Notes by Allisa Carlson
Next Roundtable Meeting: November 13, 2025 – 9:30am

Welcome and Introduction – Call for CD Topics?

- A note that we typically don't accept AI meeting note requests as those will become a public record and we want the roundtable to remain an open forum where folks can feel free to express themselves. We always take notes and send those out to the group. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please reach out to your regional manager.

SCC Leadership Remarks – Kate Delavan

- **Supplemental Decision Packages** – Three supplemental decision packages were submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on September 15, 2025:
 - Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency - \$2.5 million
 - Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) - \$2.25 million
 - Business Technology Transformation - \$3.2 millionRegarding the CTA request, OFM asked if CDs get non-competitive funding from any other state funding sources. We were able to answer - no!
- **Still not hearing positive things about the state budget forecast.** Also tracking a **lot of interest in forest health overall.** 3 forest/fire related packages coming forward from state agencies, including SCC and DNR, Governor will be briefed on all three together. SCC will be sharing the talking points that have been developed with districts, especially on how CDs work with other agencies such as DNR and how it all fits together, and that DNR is supportive and in alignment. SCC is developing a handout we will share with the Governor. Still fine tuning this product in partnership with DNR. Jenny Coe will distribute handouts once they are final.
- **WACD template support letter** – Developing a template support letter with paragraphs around all three decision packages so you can tailor for your own priorities. This was sent out via email a few weeks ago. Recommended due date is October 15. Working with Brynn Brady to send a letter to the Governor to share how the SCC requests align with the Governor's priorities.
 - Is this deadline absolute? Hoping by October 15, but okay if it goes in later. More of a general target, end of the month is just fine to accommodate board meetings, etc.
- **WACD Area Meetings** – Looking forward to seeing everyone at the WACD area meetings, prepping for WACD Annual Conference and Meeting as well as December SCC meeting. Election of Western Representative for SCC will occur during the annual meeting. Dean Longrie has stepped down and the position for the Western Representative Commission Member is open. Anyone eligible and interested can apply through the Candidate Interest Form. [Read more here.](#)

- **Shared Goals Progress** – Hearing feedback about program implementation, thinking about the process we need for improvements and how we can work together. More to come.
- **Ombuds Group** – Second meeting of group was held in September to discuss improvements of the Grants Manual. See notes below.
- **Riparian Grant Program** – No news yet for subsequent rounds of RGP. Looking forward to sharing once ready.

Update from Ombuds Group – Jennifer Boie

- The ombuds group includes district managers and directors and finance staff from across the state. Also includes commission staff – Kate, Jessica, James, RMs and finance staff. Had our second meeting on September 30, 2025 (first meeting was held February 2025). Focus is to dig into the Grants Manual and look at finance policies and procedures. Reviewed priorities identified in first meeting. Looked at feedback that came in from surveys.
- Timeframe: Have changes to the grants manual ready by January 2027 for the FY27-29 biennium
- Next steps: Combining ALL of the comments that came in from the Jan 2025 and Sept 2025 requests for feedback, notes from February ombuds group meeting, and September 30, 2025 meeting. Group will review list and identify if anything has been resolved, what has not been resolved, and if there is opportunity to make changes (identify if state law, SCC policy, procedure, etc.) Ombuds group will share with entire CD community, hoping this will come out in early November. The ombuds group will be asking the entire CD community to make sure it is comprehensive and captures your concerns, thoughts, ideas.
- Will report out at December SCC meeting.
- Concurrently, reviewing manual and determining if items are SCC policy, procedure, program guideline, or state law. This should help identify the “why” and where we do or don’t have flexibility. Taking a deep dive!

Status of Landowner ID for VSP Contract Amendments – Mike Poteet

- In the first round of capital funding, a district requested the removal of participant names from amendments that are sent out associated with awards. Asking to provide some anonymity in respect to public records as they go through the process at county and state levels. This is only for VSP capital award amendments. A number of districts voiced support for this approach. With feedback provided in RT, Mike felt this was enough to move forward. Reach out to him if you have any other perspectives, thoughts about this.

SCC Program Updates

Sustainable Farms & Fields – Karen Hills

- **SFF update:** all funding for the fiscal year has been allocated to projects. A list of projects funded in FY26 has been published: [SFF-Funded Projects FY2026-PDF](#)
 - Scores and reviewer comments have been communicated to all applicants. Contact Karen Hills if you have questions.
- **AMM update:** award notifications have started to go out for AMM and I've communicated with all applicants regarding the status of applications.
 - Another pull of applications will be made Nov. 3
 - [AMM Request for Applications](#)
- **Dairy Digester grants through Commerce** – preapplication and feedback now open
 - <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/funding/dairy-digester-grants-preapplication-and-feedback-now-open/>
- **Western SARE grants** open including professional development grants. Deadline 11/20
 - <https://western.sare.org/grants/>

Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI)

- The final WSRRI guidelines were approved at the September 18, 2025 commission meeting. The first solicitation for projects is currently open and applications are due by the end of the day on **Friday, October 17, 2025**. Depending on the remaining funds, subsequent review rounds will occur, including the second one scheduled for January 2026. Great to see a lot of wildlife-friendly fencing applications coming in so far. We are also soliciting habitat restoration projects, which CDs are eligible for. [Learn more here](#) and reach out to [Allisa Carlson](#) with any questions.

WACD Update

- Initiated launch of legislative outreach this week! Post card campaign – there is a user's guide of how to use the postcards. If you go to the Hub and the Advocacy Tab, you can choose options of how to use the cards in the way that works best for your district. Idea is to collect in batches. WACD is happy to provide to legislators if you aren't comfortable with that. Legislators want to hear from their constituents! Opportunities: express statewide benefits and showcase how CTA is important for you. Any questions, anything at all, just reach out, WACD is here to help!
 - If you do not have funds to print postcards we have funds to help CD with that. There is no cost to use the digital versions. 😊
 - Postcards created in Canva, but okay if you aren't familiar with this program, reach out to WACD, here to help...don't let time and technology be a barrier!
- Area meetings reminder

- Northwest Area Meeting on October 15, 2025 – King CD
- Southwest Area Meeting on October 16, 2025 - Wahkiakum CD
- Northeast Area Meeting on October 22, 2025 - Stevens County CD
- North Central Area Meeting on October 23, 2025 - Foster Creek CD
- South Central Area Meeting on October 28, 2025 - Eastern Klickitat CD
- Southeast Area Meeting on October 29, 2025 – Columbia CD

Center for Technical Development (CTD) Update

- Thank you for all those that have responded to the [Training Needs Inventory](#), and we are hard at work creating an FY26 training calendar to share with folks. More to come! (TNI will remain open, feel free to continue to submit requests)
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY26-CTD-TrainingNeedsInventory>

Extra Items

[MRSC - 2025 Bill Expands Services Subject to Retail Sales Tax](#)

[Services subject to sales tax | Washington Department of Revenue](#)

Next Round Table Meeting – November 13