



Whatcom Conservation District

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TO: WCD BOARD
FROM: GEORGE BOGGS
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
DATE: 9/13/18
CC: DAWN

Since your last Board meeting until today, I have mostly been prepping my boat for the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival and then attending it. While scrapping off every inch of the old varnish off, sanding and applying eight coats of new varnish may not be how many people would spend vacation time, presenting her in Bristol shape to the other wooden boat aficionados was a delight. [Here is a few of the over 200 boats.](#) Weather was generally excellent and I was able to return safely before the storm.

Here are some updates on district matters that I kept an eye on though away from the office:

COMING EVENTS:

- Sept 18th – At 10:00 am meet our new Outreach & Communication Technician, Gabriella Mednick. She will also introduce herself at the Board meeting. [Resume & Job Description here.](#)
- Sept 19th – [Water Temperature in the South Fork Nooksack](#) sponsored by the South Fork Watershed Education Committee (Pie!).
- Sept 20th -- Partnership Breakfast (continental) at Ecology's New Bellingham Field Office from 10:00 am to Noon. Optional tour of office. [Map here.](#) Parking space is limited so they asked that folks carpool or use the nearby (5-minute walk) public parking at the Squalicum Creek Park
- Oct 2nd -- [WACD NW Area Meeting Invite.](#) It will be at the Plant Materials Center in Bow. If you can go, let Dawn know so we can RSVP.
- Oct 3rd – Meet the New EPA Region 10 Administrator. [Draft itinerary here.](#) We will have coffee and donuts. Also, we just found out that WSDA Director Sanderson may be attending.
- Oct 9th – Monthly Staff Meeting. It starts at nine and will close with a presentation by Larry Davis, Chris Clark and Nichole Embertson on what they learned at their recent training on working with Native American Tribes.
- Oct 10th – Business Conservation Leaders Breakfast. Whatcom Land Trust will host a buffet breakfast to honor Cold steam Farms (\$50/person). [Press release.](#)
- Nov 2nd – Board and Staff Retreat – Suzzi secured the conference room at the North County Christ the King Church, in Lynden. It provides modern technology, lots of space and restrooms.
- Nov 26-28th – WACD Annual Conference, Kennewick, WA. RSVP to Dawn so we can register you for the conference and accommodations.
- Feb 2-6th, 2019 NACD Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES/CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Implementation Grant Amendment – District's whose Implementation Grant was reduced from historic levels, were able to request a one-time restoration on a hardship basis. Here is our [request](#). We received notice that \$24,550 will be restored to the District's IM grant for the identified purposes.
- State Audit – The District is being audited again because the amount of federal dollars we received exceeded the threshold. The cost of the audit will be paid from the restored IM grant dollars (above).
- WSCC Livestock TA Working Group – This group is to recommend how Livestock TA (Technical Assistance) dollars are to be distributed next fiscal year. I accepted an invitation to participate on the working group. It is contemplated to be just one in person meeting at a time, date and place TBD.
- Workplace Sexual Harassment Training – Larry, Theresa and I attended a morning meeting courtesy of our insurance carrier. Lessons will, no doubt, be included in the personnel manual re-write.
- [Washington Dept. of Ag Notices of Correction/Penalty](#).
- [Washington Dept. of Ecology Notice of Violation](#).
- Transboundary Technical Collaboration Group is established. As perhaps you do not recall, about 18 months ago the farmers wrote to our County Executive alerting him of the poor quality of the water coming south from Canada. He wrote to the Governor who, in turn, directed Ecology to try to do something about it. What was done was the formation of a group on both sides of the international boundary who are to carry out a 3-year work plan. [See here](#).
- E.coli 0157:H7 Outbreak – Here is a [podcast](#) about the E.coli outbreak earlier this year emanating from contaminated food. It is interesting to hear how the source was identified and underscores the importance of the district's largest program. An associated story is [here](#).

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Whatcom DNA (MST) Project – The Commission amended our shellfish grant agreement to provide \$200,000 for the District to, among other things, develop a fecal source reference catalog and a standard operating procedure for collecting samples to develop such references in other areas. [Scope of work here](#). This necessitates contracting with labs with unique abilities to analyze the samples. Staff request authorization to contract with laboratories identified in the proposal, namely, Exact Scientific Services, Inc. of Ferndale and Practical Informatics, LLC of Bellingham. Subcontracted amounts are not to exceed, respectively, \$124,500 and \$41,500.
2. WACD Annual Dues – Conservation districts are assessed dues according to a formula established to ensure that the amount is proportionate to their respective abilities to contribute to the operations of the Association. The amount of this District's assessment is \$3,600. It was anticipated in the budget previously approved by this Board. Staff request authority to pay these dues.
3. Resolution(s) for WACD NW Area Meeting -- To date, we have received just one resolution to be voted on at the upcoming area meeting. It addresses fire-adapted communities and can be found [here](#). Assuming that more resolutions will be forthcoming (as is the typical practice), I will forward links to you.