

# Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Virtual GoToMeeting

Meeting Time: 5:30- 7:08pm

Originally scheduled: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

### Present at Meeting:

TJ Johnson, TCD Board Chair

Betsie DeWreede, TCD Vice Chair

David Iyall, TCD Board Auditor

Doug Rushton, TCD Board Supervisor

Helen Wheatley, TCD Board Supervisor

Ben Cushman, TCD Attorney

Leah Kellogg, TCD Staff

Sarah Moorehead, TCD Executive Director

Jean Fike, WSCC

Chris Sterns, TCD Associate Supervisor

### Summary of Action Items

- 1       • **ACTION ITEM:** The Board has asked ED Moorehead and Legal Counsel Ben Cushman to draft a
- 2       policy resolution to delegate the authority, to the District's elections officer, to publicize open
- 3       appointed Board Member positions on behalf of WSCC.
- 4       • **ACTION ITEM:** The Citizens Advisory Committee Policy will be re-drafted by Staff, distributed
- 5       to the Board Members before the March 2021 Work Session, and reviewed at that Work
- 6       Session.
- 7       • **ACTION ITEM:** The Board will continue to explore and educate themselves about the Tenino
- 8       Agriculture Business and Innovation Business Park and report back at the March Work
- 9       Session.
- 10      • **ACTION ITEM:** ED Moorehead (and other Board Members) will participate in the site visit on
- 11      Feb. 26, 2021.
- 12      •

### Summary of Motions Passed:

- 14      • *Supervisor DeWreede moved to adopt the Agenda. Supervisor Rushton seconded. Motion*
- 15      *passed unanimously, (5-0).*
- 16      • *Supervisor DeWreede moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Supervisor Rushton seconded.*
- 17      *Motion passed unanimously, (5-0).*
- 18      • *Supervisor DeWreede moved to adjourn. Supervisor Iyall seconded. Motion passed*
- 19      *unanimously, (5-0).*

### Full Version of the Minutes

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#### Welcome & Introductions

5:30pm TCD Board Chair Johnson called the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Board Meeting to order via an online forum *GoToMeeting*. Thurston CD Board and Staff were introduced by the Board Chair verbally. Chair Johnson will name out Supervisors on each vote and announced that the meeting is audio recorded.

27 **Agenda Review**

28 An item was added to the Governance section to discuss the proposed Conservation and  
29 Education Center.

30 ***Supervisor DeWreede moved to adopt the Agenda. Supervisor Rushton seconded. Motion***  
31 ***passed unanimously, (5-0).***

32 **Consent Agenda**

- 33 • January 2021 Board Meeting Minutes  
34 • February 2021 Financial Report  
35 • Agreement: Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs – Veteran’s Conservation Corps # 305V-21-012

36 ***Supervisor DeWreede moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Supervisor Rushton seconded.***  
37 ***Motion passed unanimously, (5-0).***

38 **Public Comment (Three minutes per person)**

39 No members of the public choose to comment.

40 **Partner Reports**

41 **A. Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Update, *Jean Fike***

- 42 • The Washington State Legislative Session is still underway.  
43 • WSCC Regional Managers are currently conducting preliminary reviews of  
44 Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (CAPP) compliance for  
45 the Districts in their regions. CAPP is a list of 15 statutory laws and requirements  
46 that all conservation districts must meet to receive state funds from WSCC.

47 **B. Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Update, *Supervisor Rushton***

- 48 • Written update information is provided in the Board Packet.  
49 • WACD Legislative week will be March 10-17, 2021

50 **C. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Update, *Supervisor Rushton***

- 51 • Written update information is provided in the Board Packet.  
52 • NACD is preparing for its annual “Fly-in”, which will be held virtually this year on  
53 March 22. The meeting is to educate legislators about conservation issues at the  
54 national level.

55 **D. Department of Ecology (DOE), *Alena Reynolds***

- 56 • Alena Reynolds was not present.

57 **E. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update, *Robin Buckingham***

- 58 • Robin Buckingham was not present. Robin’s written report is provided in the  
59 Board Packet.  
60 • The EQIP grant cycle timeline has been altered.

61 **Covid-19 Update, *ED Moorehead***

- 62 • Staff is monitoring new legislation that may affect the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA)  
63 and the Safe Start Plan.

64 **Governance, All**

65 A. 2021 Election Update

- 66 • TCD election ballots available upon request.
- 67 • The TCD website has been updated to assure that the 2021 election ballot
- 68 request process is Covid 19 compliant and includes a secure drop box available
- 69 at the TCD office location.
- 70 • The Thurston County Auditor's office sends a representative to the office weekly
- 71 to verify signatures with election staff.
- 72 • No ballots will be opened or counted until Election Day in the presence of
- 73 Thurston County Auditor's representative.
- 74 • Supervisor Wheatley is the one candidate on the ballot. Changes to the WAC this
- 75 year make write-in candidates eligible to become supervisors.
  
- 76 • One of the two appointed WSCC appointed Board Member positions is open for
- 77 applications. Supervisor Rushton, who currently fills this position, will reapply for
- 78 his seat. March 31, 2021 is the deadline.

79 **ACTION ITEM: The Board has asked ED Moorehead and Legal Counsel Ben Cushman to draft a**  
80 **policy resolution to delegate the authority, to the District's elections officer, to publicize open**  
81 **appointed Board Member positions on behalf of WSCC.**

82 B. TCD Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Associate Supervisors

- 83 • The Board Supervisors agree that both a CAC and the Associate Supervisors are
- 84 not necessary and are considering which stakeholder group would be best for
- 85 the District.
- 86 • The Citizens Advisory Committee Policy was live edited by the supervisors to
- 87 simplify the member appointment process, responsibilities, and requirements of
- 88 potential CAC members.

89 **ACTION ITEM: The Citizens Advisory Committee Policy will be re-drafted by Staff, distributed**  
90 **to the Board Members before the March 2021 Work Session, and reviewed at that Work**  
91 **Session.**

92 C. Conservation and Education Center (CEC) Update.

- 93 • The CEC ad hoc committee (Supervisors Iyall and DeWreede, ED Moorehead, and
- 94 Staff Member Shelton) met to discuss a feasibility analysis of the proposed CEC.
- 95 • There is a potential site for building the CEC at the Thurston Economic
- 96 Development Council's (EDC) Tenino Agriculture Business and Innovation
- 97 Business Park.

98 **ACTION ITEM: The Board will continue to explore and educate themselves about the Tenino**  
99 **Agriculture Business and Innovation Business Park and report back at the March Work**  
100 **Session.**

101 **ACTION ITEM: ED Moorehead (and other Board Members) will participate in the site visit on**  
102 **Feb. 26, 2021.**

103 D. March Work Session Topic List development

- 104 • Staff presentation: Frogs on the Farm Program, Mara Healy
- 105 • February 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes Review
- 106 • Covid-19 Health Update
- 107 • 2021 Election Update
- 108 • Citizens Advisory Committee
- 109 • Conservation and Education Center
- 110 • Legislative Week Update
- 111 • March Board Meeting Agenda Development.

112 **Other Reports**

113 A. Board of Supervisors Report, *All*

- 114 • At the WACD Annual meeting, a resolution on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was  
115 passed.
- 116 • Olympia Farmland Loss and Mitigation meeting will be held on Mar. 8, 2021.  
117 Board Chair Johnson will present a report at March Work Session.

118 B. Executive Director Report, *Sarah Moorehead*

- 119 • The TCD engineer position is closed; interviews will take place the first week of  
120 March.
- 121 • Moving forward, the monthly TCD Work Session will be summarized in minutes  
122 that certify that the Board met and that no formal actions were taken.
- 123 • A non-profit in Oregon would like TCD to participate in an electric tractor  
124 research project.
- 125 • The TCD Native Plant Sale is taking place on March 4-6, 2021. Staff and  
126 Supervisors are encouraged to volunteer to assist in contactless fulfillment and  
127 pickup of the presale orders.
- 128 • TCD is actively recruiting members for the Veterans Conservation Corp; the  
129 announcement has been posted on local media. The first term starts April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 130 • The updated TCD Equipment Rental Program is open with a new online  
131 reservation system which is accessible on the TCD website.

132 ***Supervisor DeWreede moved to adjourn. Supervisor Iyall seconded. Motion passed***  
133 ***unanimously, (5-0).***

**Adjourn 7:08pm**

Respectfully,

X 

TJ Johnson  
TCD Board Chair