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NACD Update

Thurston Conservation District

Board Meeting/Work Session of October, 2025

This update is mostly excerpted from NACD CEO Jeremy Peters' October 6, 2025 NACD Update on Recent Congressional and Executive Actions.

Working with and assembling data from various federal agencies affected by the government shutdown, NACD shares what it has learned as of October 6, 2025. Keep in mind these things change. If you would like the full five page update, please contact one of the following Association Presidents, Executive Directors, or NACD Board Member (WACD National Director).

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

	USDA	NRCS	FSA	USFS
Total employees on board before implementation of contingency plan	85,907	9,237	9,468	32,390
Total employees expected to be furloughed	42,256 (49%)	8,849 (96%)	6,377 (67%)	12,744 (39%)

USDA's Lapse of Funding plan can be found [here](#).

EXCERPTS ON SPECIFIC AGENCIES

USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Approximately 96% of NRCS employees are furloughed. Activities such as conservation planning, practice implementation, and program support—including EQIP, CSP, RCPP, and related Farm Bill conservation programs—are suspended.

Terminated Agreements Last week (week of September 29), NRCS terminated several **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** agreements funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Terminations were prompted by the recent rescission of associated financial assistance (FA) funds, which made it impossible for the impacted projects to continue. If you are involved with a terminated RCPP, please reach out to Connor Simons at connorsimons@nacdnet.org. NACD also encourages districts to share any impacts these terminations may have had on participating landowners and producers, including sharing impact stories with their Congressional representatives.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) 67% of FSA staff are furloughed. Most operations—including loan processing, program payments (ARC/PLC, CRP, ELRP), and new program enrollments—are suspended.

Forest Service (USFS) The Forest Service continues only essential operations related to fire suppression, emergency response, and protection of federal assets.

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EPA furloughed approximately 89% of its workforce during the lapse in appropriations. Only essential operations—including emergency response, Superfund cleanup, and law enforcement—will continue.

Department of the Interior (DOI) - Approximately 82% of DOI's workforce is furloughed.

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 66% on furlough. Law enforcement, care of captive animals, and activities funded under existing agreements continue.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Approximately 26% of BLM staff are furloughed. Fee-funded and energy-related permitting, inspections, fire response, and public safety operations continue.

INFORMATIONAL NOTE

- **CEO Policy and Partnership Updates** are the fifth item on the [All Resources](#) page (members only).
- In the October 6 update there is information **(page 4) on Grassroots Advocacy** (what to say; How to remain nonpartisan; Key messages, and a Shutdown Impacts template (for email, text, letters, leaving a phoner message, etc.) so you can tell your story. NACD's request for grassroots advocacy is an opportunity for members to share impact stories related to the shutdown and how your conservation district is affected, including a template letter that can be adapted and shared with your Congressional leadership.

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Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors Work Session Topic List & Board Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2025, 5:00 pm - 7:50 pm

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91658577844?pwd=cDgvaC9jcWRBU0luUFFHc1lrb3hLQT09>

Passcode: 2918

Meeting ID: 916 5857 7844

Call in: 1-253-215-8782

Work Session Topic List

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

1. Topic List Review, All
2. Staff Presentation: Shore Friendly: What we are Seeing. Range of Sites, *Karin Strelloff*
3. Community Partner Presentation, *TBD*
4. WACD Annual Meeting Business: White Papers & Resolutions, *All*
5. Strategic Planning Process, *Executive Director Moorehead*
6. Long-Term Funding Committee, *TJ Johnson (Chair), Executive Director Moorehead*
7. Conservation and Education Center (CEC) Development, *All*
8. Important Updates & Announcements
 - a. Board of Supervisors, *All*
 - b. Executive Director, *Sarah Moorehead (Executive Director)*

Board Meeting

6:30 pm – 7:50 pm

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome, Introductions, Audio Recording Announcement | 6:30 PM
<i>5 minutes</i> |
| 2. Agenda Review | 6:35 PM
<i>5 minutes</i> |
| 3. Consent Agenda – Action Item | 6:40 PM |
| A. October 22, 2025, Board Work Session & Meeting Minutes | <i>5 minutes</i> |
| 4. Public Comment | 6:55 PM |
| *Three minutes per person | <i>10 minutes</i> |

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 5. Partner Reports (if present) | 7:05 PM |
| A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) <i>DaShell Burnham</i> | <i>15 minutes</i> |
| B. Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), <i>Josh Giuntoli</i> | |
| C. Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), <i>Doug Rushton</i> | |
| D. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), <i>Doug Rushton</i> | |
|
6. Governance, All – Action Item |
7:20 PM |
| A. TCD 2026 Budget Review | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| B. Dec 17, 2025 Work Session Topic List & Meeting Agenda Development | |
|
7. Executive Session: To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate |
7:30 PM |
| <i>RCW 42.30.110 (1b) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of</i> | <i>15 minutes</i> |
| <i>real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such</i> | |
| <i>consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price.</i> | |
|
8. Executive Session Report Out – Action Item |
7:45 PM |
| | <i>5 minutes</i> |
|
Adjourn |
7:50 PM |
| Informational Only Items: | |
| I. <i>Executive Director’s Report</i> | |
| II. <i>November Ecology Nonpoint Newsletter</i> | |

Important Future Dates

November 2025

Thanksgiving, TCD Office Closed,	Nov 27
Native American Heritage Day, TCD office Closed	Nov 28

December 2025

WACD Annual Conference, Spokane, WA	Dec 1-3
WSCC Commission Meeting, Spokane, WA	Dec 04
TCD Board Work Session & Meeting 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. In-person and Virtual (Zoom)	Dec 17
TCD Closed, Christmas Day	Dec 25

January 2026

TCD Closed New Years Day	Jan 01
TCD Closed Martin Luther King, Jr., Day	Jan 19
TCD Board Work Session & Meeting 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. In-person and Virtual (Zoom)	Jan 28

Informational Items



Executive Director's Report

Sarah Moorehead – Executive Director

October 22, 2025

Priority Initiative Updates

TCD Harvest Festival Success!

Another successful Harvest Festival is in the books for TCD! With over 600 attendees throughout the day, community members enjoyed new and traditional favorites – such as cider apple pressing, scarecrow making, learning about soil layers, making plant art prints, and exploring trees and cones! Workshops were well attended and the opportunity to honor our community members was a highlight as always. Thank you to all of the board, staff, volunteers, businesses, partner organizations and community members who make this educational and fun day possible!



Upcoming: Help Navigating Regulatory Processes

Townhall with Regulatory Agencies: *Get your questions answered and hear about support programs for farms!*

November 6, 2025

5:30-7 PM

Brighton Park Grange

815 Brighton Park SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Do you have questions about how and why regulatory enforcement happens on farm properties? Are you looking for solutions and information? Join Thurston Conservation District, a non-regulatory agency, as we host representatives from Thurston County and Department of Ecology to answer your questions. We'll also share information about the

Voluntary Stewardship Program as a solution-oriented path forward to a collaborative and site-specific way of managing natural resource concerns and ensuring the future of local agriculture. Questions & Registration: nwhite@thurstoncd.com

Anticipated Impactful Legislation

1. *Allowing the acquisition of water rights for agricultural purposes under the Conservation Futures program.*
 - Thurston County is exploring a change to Chapter 84.34 RCW that would allow the purchase of interests or rights for strategic conservation purposes that would allow for the acquisition of water rights to support farmland preservation.
 - Thurston CD brought this concept to the Southwest Area meeting on October 16th and it was met with a tremendous amount of interest and support from CDs and partners.
 - TCD will support WACD and WSCC to explore an informational session at the WACD Annual Meeting around Conservation Futures and how to maximize support for developing local farmland preservation programs.
 - An example of a successful farmland preservation program funded through Conservation Futures (Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program):
<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/NRFarmLegacy>
2. *Allowing an opt in general ballot option for Conservation District elections.*
 - Interest continues from King County legislators to include a general ballot option for Conservation District elections.
 - A bill is likely to be forthcoming that may include provisions such as:
 - Individual CDs ability to choose to be on the general ballot at their own expense.
 - All supervisors would be required to fill out F1 financial disclosure form annually.
 - Elected supervisor terms would become 4 years instead of 3, and elections would take place every other year.
 - Potentially more than 3 supervisor positions would be elected positions.
 - The bill is likely to drop before the WACD Annual Meeting and WACD will provide a full update.

District Operations

September 24, 2025 Board Meeting Action Items

- No action items.

Thank you, Marguerite Abplanalp!

This month we'll add our thanks to a care package for Marguerite Abplanalp, TCD's former Agricultural Programs Manager, who began a new adventure abroad! Marguerite has been instrumental in helping to build Thurston Conservation District into the impactful organization that it is today. Her experience and passion for agriculture has helped so many land stewards in our community and her advocacy for voluntary stewardship embodies the conservation district ethic.

TCD will be filling her position along with a planned Natural Resources Specialist position. Position descriptions will be posted here: <https://www.thurstoncd.com/get-involved/career-opportunities/>

WACD Annual Meeting & Resolutions

As Conservation District's host area meetings throughout the state during the month of October, passing resolutions will go to WACD committees for review and revision prior to going before the entire membership during the annual conference.

Draft resolutions, along with the meeting schedule and other important information can be found here: <https://wadistricts.us/annual/2025meetings/2025conference/>

Updated Executive Director Evaluation Timeline

To help avoid holiday scheduling conflicts, the following schedule has been updated for the Executive Director evaluation timeline:

October	ED to provide references to Board Chair. Staff to begin conducting evaluation process.
November	ED provide self-evaluation to Board. Board to conduct executive session to review and discuss feedback from partners, staff and ED.
December	Board to evaluate ED during executive session and provide written evaluation letter.

Monthly Staff Reports

Reminder – Monthly staff reports can be viewed electronically! The link to view monthly staff reports can be found on your Board Portal.



Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Southwest Regional Nonpoint Newsletter from the Washington State Department of Ecology! Below, you'll find our monthly updates on ongoing projects, events, and resources relating to nonpoint source pollution and water quality in southwestern Washington.



Fall Events Recap

Falls Fest & Art Walk

We had a great time tabling at Falls Fest in Tumwater on September 27th and at the Puget sound Estuarium's Art Walk in Olympia on October 4th! Our Water Quality staff facilitated environmental education activities, distributed informational handouts, and established valuable new connections with local residents.



Have An Event in Mind?

If you think your community event would benefit from having Water Quality staff present, let us know!

Tackling Nonpoint Pollution



Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS)

In September, we received a total of **4 ERTS reports** from community members in southwestern Washington. See the attached table for the location of the reports by county.

County	ERTS	Watershed Evals
Mason	0	0
Thurston	1	0
Pierce	0	0
Lewis	0	0
Grays Harbor	2	0
Pacific	0	0
Clallam	0	0
Jefferson	0	0
King	1	0
Cowlitz	0	1
Skamania	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0
Clark	0	0

Watershed Evaluations:

In addition to responding to ERTS reports, our team proactively addresses nonpoint pollution through watershed evaluations. These evaluations involve visits to targeted areas during the wet season where we assess potential sites from public rights-of-way. In the month of September, we conducted a total of **1 watershed evaluations** as listed in the table above. During these evaluations a total of **3 new sites were identified** in southwestern Washington.

Technical Assistance and Warning Letters:

Directly addressing ERTS reports and identified sites of concern from watershed evaluations, Ecology's Nonpoint staff generate and send Technical Assistance (TA) letters as a means of communicating

County	TA 1	TA 2	Warning Letter
Mason	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	0
Pierce	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	0
Clallam	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	0
King	1	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0
Clark	0	0	1

nonpoint related issues to landowners and establishing a collaborative plan for BMP implementation. If a landowner is unwilling or unresponsive a Warning Letter may be issued final attempt to detail the violation and its potential consequences, available resources, and a timeline for compliance. In September 2025, our staff sent out a total of **1 TA letter and 1 Warning Letter** across southwestern Washington as depicted in the chart attached.



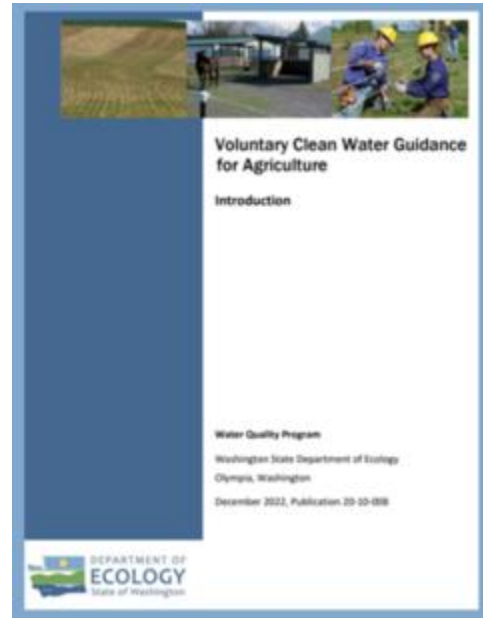
Explore Nonpoint Pollution Strategies

Our [Nonpoint Pollution Webpage](#) provides general information on nonpoint pollution, details about the types of pollutants we manage and our efforts to address them. It also covers our regulatory authority, ongoing statewide plans,

the processes we use to collaborate with local partners and landowners and more.

Seeking more information on Ecology's BMPs?

Check out our [Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture](#), a guide to water quality BMPs intended to support healthy farms while helping producers meet clean water standards. This guide complements existing resources like the NRCS Field Office Technical Guides and helps producers make productive water quality decisions during farm planning. Ecology uses this guidance for grant funding, watershed cleanup, technical assistance, and outreach, while supporting other programs in recommending water quality projects to landowners.



We are currently working on the remaining eight chapters that will be submitted to EPA alongside the Nonpoint Plan by December 31, 2025. These chapters will have their own formal comment period, anticipated for this fall. Ahead of this, we are posting draft materials for early preview as available on our [webpage](#). Four chapters are currently available to preview.

Did You Know? Ecology Offers Language Services

Ecology provides language services to ensure individuals whose primary language is not English can access important information about our programs and resources. Language services are available to community members and partners collaborating with Ecology, including landowners and partner organizations/agencies.

We can help with:

- Information written in your preferred language

- Access to qualified interpreters, both in person and over the phone

For more information, please reach out to your Ecology Nonpoint staff contact



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To Report Environmental Concerns:

Online: [Statewide Report Form](#)

Email: swroerts@ecy.wa.gov

Phone: 360-407-6300

[Subscribe / Unsubscribe to SWRO Nonpoint Newsletter](#)

ADA Accessibility To request an ADA accommodation, email chloe.steffes@ecy.wa.gov, call (564) 250-0995, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit Ecology's website for more accessibility information.