



Walla Walla County Conservation District
July 2026 Board Meeting

Date: July 13, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person at USDA and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent, Acting Chair

Supervisors Present: Rhonda Gothberg

Supervisors absent: Jesse McCaw, Matt Williams (Via Zoom), Don Schwerin

Other Agencies: Heather Wendt, WACD; Tami Stubbs, SCC

Also present: Annie Byerley, Jenny Freer, Brandon Panensky, Alison Crowley, Joanna Cowles-Cleveland

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jim Kent.

Kent invited the public to comment. There were none.

Due to there not being a Quorum, no actions were taken.

New Business:

1. **Partner Updates: Wendt, WACD;** gave an introduction to the board and shared that supervisor elections are the main focus. Currently the group is drafting their own bill to put forth to the legislation. Brad Bortner is the National Director and point person for WACD. Western Washington University is conducting a feasibility study for sustainable funding; this study should be out in August. **Stubbs, SCC;** shared that the Climate Commitment Act reporting deadline has been extended to July 31. There will be training on this reporting on July 17. There is a new North East Regional Manager-Scott Noble and Mike Lopez is the new Director of Tribal Affairs. Laura Liegel is the new Puget Sound Regional Manager. There is a commission meeting on July 16 where they will be working on changing the WACs due to the OFM projection that the budget is bleak. A formal budget request will be made in September. Byerley, on behalf of NRCS and FSA; J. Jackson is the only staff member doing CRP and acreage reporting is due July 15.
2. **Shared New Potential Projects:** Staff shared a slide show of potential projects.
3. **Health Insurance Options: Freer** shared the three options that our insurance agency is offering for the new year which starts August 1.
4. **Discussion on Valley Giving Guide: Crowley/Freer** wanted feedback on participating with the Valley Giving Guide that partners with a non-profit to solicit funds through media and flyers. We could go through WSC as a non-profit which would require a payment to WSC once these funds would be distributed in January

2027. Freer stated that we can create a policy during our November board meeting when we update our policy and procedures manual. Wendt share that the WSC has limitations on receiving private funds and that would need to be taken into consideration.

5. Discussion Regarding Pesticide Handlers License Held by Staff:

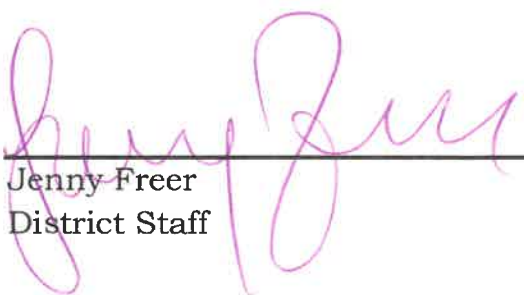
Byerley/Panensky shared that WWCCD currently has two staff members who have a history with spraying pesticides for former government agencies. Due to the prevailing wage costs to hire a contractor, WWCCD is asking questions about licensing staff. This requires continuing education credits to maintain.

Program Updates:

A.) District Operations: **Byerley** shared a copy of the district operations report which summarizes projects along with upcoming trainings and partner meetings.

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenny Freer
District Staff



Board member

Next meeting: Monday, September 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

No motions were made due to lack of Quorum.