

Walla Walla County Conservation District NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021
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325 North 13th Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
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In This Issue

- Thank you, Lisa
- Vote in Our Election
- Water Needs
- Job Announcement

Save the Dates

Jan. 20th Last day to request a mail-in election ballot for the Walla Walla County Conservation District Board election

Feb. 5th Last Day to mail or drop off your ballot for the Walla Walla County Conservation District Board election

Contact Renee 509-956-3756 or renee.hadley@wwccd.net for details.

Thank you, Lisa Stearns for your years of service



December 9 was Lisa's last day at the Walla Walla County Conservation District before she transitioned to her new career chapter. You may not have known the many things Lisa did for us over the years, so here are some highlights.

As a Civil Engineering Technician, Lisa worked on numerous irrigation efficiency piping projects. Dozens of miles and many more pump stations later... she drafted hundreds of fish screen and flow meter designs for staff, contractors & landowners. She helped with agricultural burn permit processing including those maps and legal descriptions. Did you record your Township, Range & Section numbers on those forms? If not, Lisa may have helped you. What about recording rainfall information? Lisa collated the rainfall data and maps since 2015.

In the past few years, Lisa coordinated with agencies on restoration projects, such as the McCaw reaches on the Touchet River between Bolles Bridge and Waitsburg. She didn't stop there. The Walla Walla County Conservation District is solely funded by grants. Recently, she expanded her skills into grant writing and secured funds for projects on the Touchet River and Mill Creek.

Lisa, Thank you for over 13 years of service to the community and Walla Walla County Conservation District.



Vote in our Election!

On February 5th, 2021, the Walla Walla County Conservation District will hold our annual election for an open seat on our board of supervisors. Supervisors are non-partisan public officials that meet monthly to discuss and oversee district activities, policies, finances and provide guidance. They are volunteers who serve without compensation and must reside within District boundaries. Board meetings are held on the evening of the second Monday each month.

Eligible voters are registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the District (outside city limits). Our election will take place via mail-in or drop-off voting.

Ballots can be requested from the District office by calling 509-956-3756, or by contacting any district staff.

The deadline for requesting a ballot is **January 20, 2021 at 4:00 PM.**

Ballots must be postmarked or returned to WWCCD no later than **February 5, 2021 at 4:00 PM.** Ballots may be dropped in the mailbox located outside of our office at 325 N 13th Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

Questions? Contact the District office by phone: (509) 956-3756
or email: info@wwccd.net
Election Supervisor — Catalina Garza, email: cat.garza@wwccd.net.

Water needs

The Walla Walla County Conservation District often works behind the scenes to serve the need of our community. Below is one example. We worked with our partners at WSU and a select few local irrigators in the Fall of 2019 to fine-tune this survey.

We continually seek funding for water efficiency and recharge projects. We participate in many water and stream forums to make sure the natural resources concerns are heard and the challenges private landowners face are dealt with.

Often it takes years to come up with solutions. Stream

projects are no exception. Over the past few years, we heard hundreds of concerns over flooding, erosion and changing river channels. We worked with the Columbia Conservation District, the Snake River Salmon Recovery office, Anchor QEA, and landowners to develop the *Touchet River Conceptual Plan*. This technical document helps us prioritize and accelerate restoration on the Touchet River from Prescott to above Dayton. We have a few other proposals pending for Mill Creek and the Walla Walla River. Nature is outside our control. But we are doing our part to help restore streams, one mile at a time.



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY



WSU launches Water Management Survey in Okanogan, Methow, Walla Walla, Yakima Basins

Do you have views about how water should be managed within your Basin? We want to hear them!

Washington State University scientists and collaborators will survey owners of irrigated farms this winter in the Okanogan, Methow, Walla Walla, and Yakima river basins. Insights from irrigators will help researchers develop innovations to foster water use efficiency for Northwest residents, agriculture, and the environment.

We hope that over time, the results will help you by improving irrigated farming yields and increasing the value and security of water rights. The survey does not ask any questions that would put anyone's water right at risk of relinquishment. All responses will be kept confidential.

How You Can Be Involved

Please complete your survey if you are contacted. If you have questions, please contact Joe Cook, at joe.cook@wsu.edu or by phone at (509) 335-3817.

If you'd like to complete the survey but have not been contacted, you can! Please contact the survey lead, Joe Cook at joe.cook@wsu.edu or by phone at (509) 335-3817.

Survey Overview

The survey asks people about their use of weather forecasts and how they might best be improved, basic information about their operations, their views on water management policies, and their views and experience with water markets. It will be conducted on behalf of the WSU research team by Pacific Market Research through January 2021.

To learn more about the survey and the overall project, visit the Washington Water Research Center's survey webpage.

Job Announcement: Project Manager for Stream Restoration Projects

The Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD) is seeking an experienced full-time **project manager for stream restoration projects**.

The District has a talented team of passionate and committed people who are mission-driven and care deeply about serving and improving our community. Our dynamic organization is led by volunteer board members and paid staff members who help landowners implement “on the ground conservation”. The successful candidate will work closely with local landowners, coworkers, and conservation partners to develop and implement conservation plans specific to each landowner’s needs.

Required knowledge, skills, and abilities

- 1) A bachelor’s degree in natural resources, sciences or a related field. Master’s preferred.
- 2) Minimum of five years of experience managing natural resource projects including permitting, oversight of design and implementation, grant writing and community engagement. Additional qualifying experience may substitute year-for-year for the education requirement.

Submit cover letter and résumé to Renee Hadley via renee.hadley@wwccd.net or at our office at 325 N 13th Avenue, Walla Walla WA by Jan. 20, 2020 for primary consideration.

Walla Walla County Conservation District

District Staff

Renee Hadley, District Manager
Audrey Ahmann, Assistant Manager: Finance
Jeff Klundt, Burn Permit Coordinator
Joanna Cowles Cleveland, CREP Scientist
Lynda Oosterhuis, Conservation Technician
Cat Garza, Conservation Technician
Lorna Emerich, Conservation Scientist
Lance Horning, District Engineer

Board of Supervisors

Jeff Schulke
Ed Chvatal
Todd Kimball
Pat McConnell
Jim Kent
Associate Annie Byerley

www.wwccd.net

Our USDA SERVICE CENTER partners

NRCS Staff

Tracy Hanger, District Conservationist Snake River Team
Bryce Krueger, WW area Resource Conservationist
Cassie Jacobson, WW area Soil Conservationist
Katy Walters, Snake River Team Program Support

WDFW Staff

Sean Taylor, Fish Passage & Screening Biologist

FSA Staff

Kelley Betts, County Executive Director for WW & Columbia
Nicole Armijo, Program Technician
Norma Colunga, Program Technician
Jill Monetta, Program Technician
Tiffany Maccarone, Temp. Program Technician, CFAP

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