

KLICKITAT CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts
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Districts Update Their 5-Year Plans

EKCD held its 5-year planning meeting on Tuesday, December 17 at McKinley Springs Winery in Prosser. There were 19 people in attendance, and everyone enjoyed the lovely surroundings and delicious BBQ lunch prepared by winery owner, Doug Rowell.



Ray Ledgerwood, of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), was the meeting facilitator, and he expertly guided the group through the process of identifying and prioritizing the natural resource concerns of land users within the district.

Of the resource concerns named, farmland preservation emerged as the number one priority, followed by water quality; soil quality and erosion; water use/irrigation; rangeland, forest, and habitat management; wildfire prevention; and public education. The need to support the next generation of farmers was also discussed.

CKCD's 5-year planning meeting, held at Maryhill Winery, was attended by 31 people. We were especially pleased to have such a broad representation of the varying land use interests within the district, including cattle ranchers, wheat and hay farmers, hobby farmers, local business people, and representatives from several county agencies.

Ray Ledgerwood and Bill Eller, both of WSCC, were the facilitators for CKCD, effectively focusing the efforts of the large group and organizing participants' responses. Farmland preservation, water quality, and small-acreage outreach were the top three natural resource priorities among the 11 resource issues identified by participants. Other concerns identified included forest and rangeland health, soil erosion, wildlife habitat, and weed control.



Participants' input was used by each board of supervisors to produce a 5-year plan, which is recognized by the state as an official government document. Both districts will use their long-range plan as a starting point for each year's detailed operating plan, and also as documentation for grant proposals and coordinated watershed planning activities. The final documents can be viewed on our web sites, ekcd.org and ckcd.org.

The boards of both districts would like to thank everyone who participated in this planning process. Stake-holder involvement is just one example of how your conservation districts use conservation, development, and **self-government** to improve, conserve, and promote the wise use of natural resources within Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts.

EKCD Named South Central Area District of the Year

The Washington State Conservation Commission recently named Eastern Klickitat CD "2013 District of the Year" for the South Central Area. According to the WSCC, the board's "willingness to 'step outside the box' and support, encourage, promote, and advocate for a conservation easement program...demonstrates the innovative spirit of the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District. By being one of the first districts to actively pursue conservation easements, the District took a bold risk and expanded their services beyond their usual comfort zone (but well within their mission statement)."

**CENTRAL & EASTERN KLICKITAT
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2014 Annual Meetings & Supervisor Elections

On one Thursday every February, you can find farmers, ranchers, and other land users gathering in a local Grange hall, drinking coffee, eating fresh cinnamon rolls, visiting with each other, and hearing from local and state agency representatives on issues relating to local agricultural and natural resource issues. These conservation district annual meetings are opportunities for citizens to meet district supervisors and staff, learn more about our programs, hear from other agricultural agencies, enjoy a free lunch, and even earn some pesticide applicator credits. We hope that you will make time to join us this year.

Eastern Klickitat CD will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, **February 13**, 2014 from 9:00 to 4:00 at the **Alder Creek Grange Hall in Bickleton**.

Central Klickitat CD will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, **February 20**, 2014 from 9:00 to 4:00 at the **Goldendale Grange Hall**.

Supervisor elections for a seat on the board are usually held in conjunction with our annual meetings. This year, **in accordance with WAC 135-110-370, both elections have been cancelled and the incumbents (Mike Copenhefer in EKCD and Dan McCarty in CKCD) declared automatically re-elected**, due to the fact that they were the only persons to file as candidates. In addition, each incumbent submitted nominating petitions containing the signatures of at least 25 qualified district electors. No poll-site, mail-in, or absentee balloting will be performed in either district.

CKCD Board Says Goodbye, Appoints Replacement Member

The Board of Supervisors bids farewell to retiring 3-term member, board auditor, plant sale volunteer, and **2013 Supervisor of the Year** for the South Central Area, **Vic Blandine**. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with Vic, and we greatly appreciate his years of enthusiastic service.

We are pleased now to welcome his board-appointed replacement, Tom Tasto. Tom is retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Goldendale, and is well-versed in local resource issues and practices. He will serve the remainder of Vic's term, which will be open for election in February, 2015. Thank you, Tom, for your willingness to serve. We look forward to working with you to protect and promote the wise use of natural resources in Central Klickitat Conservation District.

2014 Plant Sale

Catalogs and order forms available on-line or by request.
Call, e-mail, or come by the office.

Accepting orders now through March 21st

Pick-up day is Saturday, March 29th
9:00 am—1:00 pm
at Goldendale Farm Store.

Credit and debit cards welcome for in-person purchases over \$5.00.