



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WINTER 2021/2022 NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 75 years of Conservation in our Community!

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

What a year and a half it's been! It hasn't been easy, but we've managed to navigate through the numerous challenges of COVID-19, and weathered substantial staff turnover. Thankfully, none of us has gotten sick, but COVID has significantly altered how we conduct business. Although things are nowhere close to normal, we're happy to say that Jefferson County Conservation District is back on its feet and eager to serve.

This past spring, we hired Joe Holtrop to fill our manager position that was vacated by Al Cairns in September 2020. Joe comes to us from our neighboring conservation district to the west. Way back in 1989, Joe split his time for one year between Clallam and Jefferson conservation districts before going fulltime in Clallam, so he's no stranger to Jefferson County and conservation. We also hired Chimacum resident Sierra Young as our conservation planner this past spring. Although new to conservation district work, her environmental training, outdoor education experience, and enthusiastic energy have helped her hit the ground running, taking on numerous projects without hesitation.

Our office remains open by appointment only, but we're working on ways to engage with the community more effectively through our website and social media. We're still holding our monthly board meetings virtually. As you will see later in this newsletter, we're in the process of updating our long-range plan. We're also bringing back our native plant sale after suspending it for a year, and we're planning to restart our soil testing program next spring. We thank you for your patience during this time of transition.

— Al Latham

LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

Conservation districts are required by state statute ([RCW 89.08](#)) "to prepare and keep current a comprehensive long-range program recommending the conservation of all the renewable natural resources of the district." These programs or plans are updated every five years.

We just started the process of updating our plan and would greatly appreciate your input and feedback. Plan drafts will be posted on our website soon with instructions on how to provide comments. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@jeffersoncd.org if you have suggestions about natural resource conservation priorities you think we should focus on.



Conservation Planner, Sierra Young

STILL ALIVE AT 75!

2021 marked our 75th anniversary here at Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD). COVID-19 has prevented us from holding a community event to commemorate this milestone, but we're hoping to hold a proper celebration in 2022.

A detailed history of conservation districts, and JCCD in particular, will be posted on our website: jeffersoncd.org. Meanwhile, here's a snippet about how we got started and how we've progressed over the last 75 years.

East Jefferson County Soil Conservation District was formed by a vote of landowners in 1946. Our name was later changed to Jefferson County Conservation District following the addition of the western portion of the county, and to better reflect our broader natural resources mission.

Conservation district history began during the Dust Bowl with our federal partners the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Over JCCD's first four decades, the NRCS (then known as the Soil Conservation Service), provided virtually all of the technical assistance to land users.



Marcus Larson works with SCS, 1953

We hired outreach coordinator Frank Petrich as our first employee in 1986. In 1989, we partnered with Clallam Conservation District (CCD) and hired our current manager Joe Holtrop as a technician. A year later

when the grant ended, Joe went to work full-time with CCD and was replaced by Al Latham who served in that role for the next 21 years.

Conservation districts have a long history of working with farmers. In fact, three of the five board members, known as "supervisors," are required by state statute (RCW 89.08) to be farm operators or landowners.

However, the law also stipulates a very broad mandate to conserve all renewable natural resources, without any limitations or restrictions on land type or land managers.

JCCD supervisors have demonstrated their dedication to conservation through years of volunteer service. John Boulton was a supervisor for 55 years and continues as an associate supervisor. Current supervisors Julie Boggs, Lige Christian, Al Latham, Laurie Hannan, and Janet Aubin have a combined 47 years of service to our community.

During the early years of the district, emphasis was on helping farmers improve production, including installation of drainage systems, pasture productivity, woodland management, and equipment rentals.



Tile ditching machine on Kawamoto Farm

Over time, the focus shifted to water quality, which became our main program area in the 1980s. In the 1990s, salmon habitat restoration began to receive increased attention, due largely to the extirpation of the Chimacum Creek summer chum salmon.

We've made the tremendous progress working with land users to improve water quality over the past 30 years. These achievements have been studied and well documented by our long-time water quality & fish habitat specialist Glenn Gately. Reports are available on our website.

We've also made considerable headway improving salmon habitat, like restoring riparian forest buffers along miles of streams. Our work on these resource concerns continues, while we address some unforeseen impacts of forested stream buffers, such as increasing beaver populations and associated flooding.

We've also made progress partnering with organizations like the Jefferson Land Trust to help foster the development of the area's thriving small farm movement and preserve our valuable farmland.

In 2018, we secured stable funding through a system of rates and charges. This major achievement gives us financial security that we've never had, enabling us to expand our programs and services beyond what can be done through grant funding alone. Last but not least, we annexed the City of Port Townsend into the district, thereby allowing us to serve the city's residents in an official capacity.

We're looking forward to the next chapter and hope you will help us determine how best to conserve our natural resources for the benefit of all current and future residents of this special place we call home.



Putaansuu Creek, 1991—no buffer



2007

Putaansuu Creek, buffer and fence

NATIVE PLANT SALE IS BACK!

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID19 and staffing challenges, our “annual” **native plant sale** is back. In an effort to reduce our labor requirements and minimize COVID risks, we’re instituting a few changes, so please bear with us.

We are paying extra to have the wholesale nursery supply us with bundles of ten plants per species so we don’t have to break down larger bundles and re-bundle for your order. We are going to try to do all our sales online with credit or debit cards. We will try to make special accommodations for customers who cannot order online with a credit or debit card. Lastly, we will not be doing any in-person sales during plant pickup day. Details about plant offerings and pricing will be posted on our website.



Price breaks may be available for orders of 100 or more per species. The deadline for larger bundle size price breaks is December 29. Please contact us at info@jeffersoncd.org as soon as possible for larger bundle sizes so we can do our best to fill your order.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: PLANNING A NATIVE LANDSCAPE

District manager, Joe Holtrop will present on how to plan and implement a native plant-based landscape. The presentation will cover basic site analysis, an overview of common native trees and shrubs, plant selection, bare-root plant care, planting and maintenance. Time will be allotted for questions and answers to help participants choose plants offered through our plant sale that best fit their land.

When: Tuesday, **December 14, 2021**, 4:00-5:30pm
and again on Wednesday, **January 12, 2022**, 6:30-8:00pm

Register by emailing info@jeffersoncd.org to receive a link to attend the workshop via GoToMeeting. If you aren’t able to attend live, please email info@jeffersoncd.org to request the recorded presentation.

Tips for Selecting Native Plants

Make a plan before you place an order. Just like a trip to the grocery store, avoid impulse buying by making a list of the plants you need and want. So how do I know what plants I need, you ask? A landscape plan will help. Below are key considerations for your plan. We’ll cover all this in detail during our virtual workshop.

Before working on your plan, **make a list of your objectives.** Ask yourself what you want from your landscape. Do you want to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators? Do you need space for children or grandchildren to play? What about pets? Are there certain “must have” plants on your list? By going through the exercise of writing down your objectives, it helps you prioritize what’s really important.

Next, **figure out what nature has given you to work with.** In other words, analyze your site. It’s helpful to have a base map or sketch of your property to make notes on. Make note of the following on your base map:

- Soils, focusing on the texture (i.e., gravel, sand, silt, clay)
- Existing vegetation—what to keep and what not to
- Microclimates (i.e., sunny, shady, windy, protected)
- Views—both desirable and undesirable
- Also note the locations of structures, driveways, utilities, other infrastructure, streams and ditches

With luck, your site conditions will match up with your objectives. Then it’s at a matter of choosing between trees and shrubs, evergreens and deciduous. Always keep in mind the mature height of the plants you select.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION INFORMATION

Each conservation district in Washington is governed by a board of five members, called *supervisors*. Three are elected registered voters in the district, and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (“WSCC”). Supervisors set policy and direction for the district and serve without compensation.

A mail-in only election will be held for the 2022 Jefferson County Conservation District election. The elected position whose term is expiring in May 2022 is currently held by Laurie Hannan. No appointed terms on the Jefferson County Conservation District Board of Supervisors expire in 2022.

Below are details for filing for the Jefferson County Conservation District position of elected supervisor, as well as details for how to vote. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district office is currently open to the public by appointment only. **All election-related correspondence, inquiries, and requests for assistance or special accommodations should be directed to Elections Supervisor Tracy Kier by email at tkier@jeffersoncd.org, by telephone at 360-385-4105, or by mail at 205C W Patison Street, Port Hadlock, Washington, 98339.**

INTERESTED CANDIDATES – FILING DEADLINE 4:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 4, 2022

Interested candidates must be registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the district, which includes all of Jefferson County. If you are interested in running for this elected position, see the [WSCC Guide to Elections for Conservation District Candidates](#). To learn about conservation district supervisor responsibilities, [click here](#).

Interested Candidates must file the required “Candidate Information for the Office of Elected Supervisor” form with the district on or before 4:00 p.m. (PST) on February 4, 2022. To access the WSCC Form PF-A “Candidate Information for the Office of Elected Supervisor,” [click here](#). If you are unable to access or print the required paperwork, please contact district Election Supervisor Tracy Kier.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS AND BALLOTS

Eligible voters are registered voters who reside within Jefferson County. Ballots can be requested by contacting Election Supervisor Tracy Kier. **The deadline to request a ballot is 4:00 p.m. (PST) on February 15, 2022.** Ballots will be mailed to requestors during the week of February 21, 2022. [Click here](#) for the Ballot Request Form.

Completed ballots must be returned to the district drop-off ballot box located outside the office on or before 7:00 p.m. (PST) on March 8, 2022; or by mail to Jefferson County Conservation District, 205C W Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington, 98339, postmarked no later than March 8, 2022.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

Election procedures and rules can be found in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [Chapter 135-110](#). They can also be requested by contacting Election Supervisor Tracy Keir. Additional conservation district election information can be found on the [WSCC website](#) or by contacting WSCC Elections Officer Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov or 509-385-7512.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Al Latham, Chair
Julie Boggs, Vice-Chair
Lige Christian, Auditor
Janet Aubin, Member
Laurie Hannon, Member

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

John Boulton
Erik Kingfisher

DISTRICT STAFF

District Manager: Joe Holtrop
Office Manager/Financial Specialist:
Tracy Kier
Fisheries Biologist/Resource Specialist:
Glenn Gately
Conservation Planner:
Sierra Young

Contact Us

Please email: info@jeffersoncd.org
Or Call: 360-385-4105

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Find us at Jefferson
County Conservation
District.