



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WINTER 2018/2019

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES, A STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP AND A NEW YEAR OF REBUILDING AHEAD

CHALLENGES

2018 marked a year of challenges for District staff and Supervisors as the effect of a significant loss of funding continued to strain our capacity to deliver our services at the level we have set and that our county's residents deserve.

A seven month period of debate in the State legislature over a contentious water rights issue stalled the passage of the State's Capital Budget which the District has historically depended on to deliver the majority of our programs. By early 2018, the legislature resolved the issue at hand and was able to pass a budget. This averted the closure of your Conservation District with less than a month of operating reserves left.

The District has been able to manage the many projects already underway with support from our program partners and to deliver a curtailed level of service with much-reduced staff and hours of operation.

PLANT SALE CANCELLED

Unfortunately, delivering what would have been our **25th Annual Native Plant Sale** was simply beyond staff's current capacity and the District's Board of Supervisors had to make the difficult decision to put the sale off for one year.

JEFFERSON COUNTY AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENED

The District has enjoyed a long history of collaboration with Jefferson County and the Board of County Commissioners recognized the value of the programs the District offers by establishing long-term, stable funding for our operation by passage of a system of rates and charges.

Rates and charges are based on a per parcel and per acre charge that property owners will see on their property tax statements starting in 2019. For a residential 20 acre parcel the annual charge would be \$7.

This stable base funding will allow us to gain additional grant monies to expand our services to more farmers, foresters and property owners.

LOOKING FORWARD

When new funding becomes available in June of 2019, the Conservation District will replace staff lost in 2018 in order to bring our technical assistance back to the level our customers deserve. New staff will have the skills to deliver the types of services we hear demand for from the community we serve.



Projects currently underway and in development will increase salmon habitat on Naylor's Creek and Jakeway Creek, convert a clear-cut to a regenerative "food forest", improve shellfish habitat in Discovery and Quilcene Bays and establish the first "working buffer" in Jefferson County on Chimacum Creek which will explore the possibility of growing food and improving fish habitat at the same time.

These projects are made possible with federal and state conservation funds which are invested in Jefferson County through our programs. Property owners benefit with financial and technical assistance in implementing conservation measures that make their operation compliant with land use regulations. Our local economy benefits when property owners hire local tradespeople to improve their operations. And the entire community benefits through improved ecosystem functions and a thriving local agriculture that expands our food security.

Because the benefits of the District's programs are enjoyed by all Jefferson County residents, we will be asking that the Port Townsend community joins the District in 2019 and lend support to our efforts.

"The function of the Jefferson County Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources – whatever their source – and focus or coordinate them to meet the needs of the local land user."

WHAT WE DO

Water Quality & Quantity: Protection, Improvement, & Monitoring

We monitor the health of our streams in order to identify and prioritize areas in need of protection, to show trends of improvement or degradation, and to educate the public about how our daily lives impact our local water. We provide technical assistance to landowners to implement projects that address water quality resource concerns and that conserve and manage storm water.



reducing negative impacts on soil and water resources through voluntary stewardship opportunities.

We assist producers in managing agricultural drainage through permitting assistance and riparian enhancement projects.

We assist landowners in building healthy pastures and soil tilth through our Soil Testing Program, Tool Share Program, and Pasture Management and Biochar Workshops. We also assist small forest owners with forest management practices and risk assessment.

Habitat Conservation and Enhancement

Our work focuses on improving riparian habitat through the removal of invasive weeds, establishment of native plant buffers, and creation of more diversity within the riparian system. We assist Jefferson County citizens in being stewards of the area's natural resources through workshops and our Annual Native Plant Sale.



Collaborative Watershed Management

Our strong local partnerships support the continued health and viability of Jefferson County's natural resources and working lands. We assist landowners and local conservation planners in making decisions regarding drainage management, reed canarygrass management, and beaver activity management in the Chimacum Creek watershed that balance wildlife habitat needs and the need to protect private property – with a focus on agricultural lands.

Support for Working Lands

The District provides Farm Planning & Agricultural Assistance to producers in order to make farms more economically sustainable,



CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION NEWS

A poll-site election for a Board Supervisor seat on the Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD) will be held on March 6, 2019, at 205 W Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington. Polls will open at 3:00 p.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Registered voters who reside within the JCCD boundary are eligible to vote.

Candidates must be registered voters residing in the JCCD, and may be required to own land or operate a farm. The candidate filing deadline is February 6, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. Election procedures are available at the JCCD. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, and must be requested on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 13, 2019.

There are five Conservation District Board Supervisors who serve three-year terms. Three of the five Supervisors are locally

elected, and the other two Supervisors are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

There are no full-term appointed Board of Supervisor positions open for 2019. Conservation District Board Supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation, and set policy and direction for the Conservation District.

To obtain election forms and/or an absentee ballot, please contact the Jefferson County Conservation District at 360-385-4105 or info@jeffersoncd.org. The JCCD office is located at 205 W. Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington, and is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Al Latham, Chair.....732-4607
Julie Boggs, Vice-Chair.....732-4335
Lige Christian..... 732-7035
Janet Aubin.....821-2226

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

John Boulton.....765-3394
Erik Kingfisher.....379-9501

DISTRICT STAFF

Al Cairns, District Manager
Glenn Gately, Fishery Biologist/Water Quality Technician
Tracy Kier, Office Manager/Financial Specialist

CONTACT US

(360) 385-4105
info@jeffersoncd.org