President Jeanette Dorner called the business meeting to order at 8:40 am. She asked for patience and grace as everyone navigated both online and in-person participation by the membership for the first time.

**Roll Call of Member Districts**
President Jeanette Dorner conducted the roll call of member districts. There were 56 Supervisors present and eligible to vote at the start of the meeting. Six Associate Supervisors were authorized by their respective district to vote:

- Larry Davis – Whatcom CD
- Joyce Eastwick – Underwood CD
- Don Gourlie – Pierce CD
- Eleanor Mattice – Stevens County CD
- Stu Trefry – Pierce CD
- David Vliet – Kitsap CD

**Eastern Washington Area Commissioner Election**
WSCC Policy Director Ron Shultz introduced the one declared candidate for the Eastern Area Commissioner Member representative in Larry Cochrane from Colfax and explained the timeline and process.

Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, spoke on behalf of his candidacy, his background, and his reasons for seeking another term as Eastern Washington Area Commissioner Election. Dean Longrie, Clark CD, commented on how only district supervisors are eligible to vote but a candidate does not have to be a supervisor to run.

**Parliamentarian Briefing**
WACD Staff and Appointed Parliamentarian Ryan Baye delivered an explanation on how the meeting would be conducted with both in-person and virtual speakers, a refresher of parliamentary rules for attendees, how voting would be conducted, and how folks should react when facing any technical difficulties. He ended with a reminder that each speaker could only speak twice on a motion, unless that restriction was changed by the membership. He answered a question about time limits on individual comments, the order which resolutions would be considered, and how changes to the agenda could be made.

**Approval of 2020 Business Meeting Minutes**
Secretary Amy McKay moved to approve the previous year’s meeting minutes and received a second. Vice President Mike Mumford asked if the present motion was to approve the agenda or the previous year’s minutes and received an answer from the President that the motion on the floor
was to approve the 2020 business meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was adopted.

**Adopting the Agenda**
President Jeanette Dorner explained the need to add an agenda item titled “Other Business” to the agenda after “Proposed Bylaw Amendments”. She asked for unanimous consent from the membership to adopt the agenda with the one addition. The amended agenda was adopted without objection.

**WACD Treasurer’s Report**
Treasurer Dave Fenn recapped the good standing of the association’s finances, how the Executive Office came in $3,000 under budget while the PMC generated approximately $20,000 in revenue after taxes. He highlighted the state of WACD’s investment account, the current projected sales at the Plant Materials Center, and explained the movement of funds to keep under FDIC insurance limits.

Treasurer Fenn recapped other WACD Finance Committee projects in working towards creating a new investment policy, potential consolidation of WACD’s finances into one bank, hiring a new CPA, addressing issues with the IRS regarding returned funds, and studying whether PMC sales to non-member districts could be considered related to the mission of the organization. He also spoke to a personal goal of reducing member dues next year, paid for by gains in the investment account. He ended with an update on a resolution to study the creation of a revolving bridge loan. He answered a question about WACD’s 501c6 non-profit registration and encouraged those with additional questions to please seek him out anytime.

**WACD Plant Materials Center Status Report**
Director of Nursery Operations Jim Brown reported from the nursery office in Bow. He detailed the operation of the PMC and a short history. He provided a year-to-date financial report with sales and expenses, a state of the current harvest, and the remaining work to be done in the current growing season.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD, offered his thanks to Jim and the PMC staff for their work benefiting conservation districts. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, reminisced of an earlier time when the PMC was close to going out of business and was glad to see how far the nursery has come. President Jeanette Dorner added her own appreciation.

**Resolutions as Recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee**
President Jeanette Dorner offered a recap on the resolution process and how they ended up in front of the membership, introducing Natural Resources Policy Committee Chair Mike Mumford for his committee report. Mike introduced the other committee members, the time dedicated to the six resolutions assigned to their committee, and the recommendations the committee made. WACD Vice President Mike Mumford moved to adopt the committee recommendations as a slate and received and received a second. President Dorner explained the process she was following, asking if any voting member wished to pull one of the six resolutions from the slate for individual discussion, otherwise the resolution would be considered as part of a group package for adoption.
Rhon Juris, Eastern Klickitat CD, asked Resolution 2021-06 Solar Panel Position Statement be pulled from the slate. Resolutions 2021-01 through -05, as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee, was adopted on a voice vote with abstentions from the South Yakima CD Supervisors present.

Chris Porter, King CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2021-06 as recommended by the committee and received a second. WACD Vice President Mike Mumford repeated the recommendation of the committee as Do Pass as Amended. Rhon Juris, Eastern Klickitat CD, discussed how Klickitat County had more solar facilities than any other county in country except one. He felt the state association shouldn’t take a position on solar energy development and would rather leave that in the hands of local property owners and the county governments. Richard Lietz, Grant County CD, asked Rhon why Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was in charge of development and taking more habitat out for solar facilities. Rhon Juris, Eastern Klickitat CD, didn’t feel his comments addressed mitigation and that it was a separate issue than what the resolution addressed. Michael Crowder, Benton CD, agreed with Rhon’s comments and spoke of the mitigation NACD was a part of at the national level. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, shared a story he heard of the Department of Natural Resources not renewing an agricultural lease in order to replace it with a solar facility. Sue Marshall, Clark CD, spoke in support of the resolution because it just asked WACD to come to a position rather than a specific policy statement. Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD, believed acquisition of acreage by WDFW for solar facility mitigation was a private property rights issue. Larry Davis, Whatcom CD, asked who would be developing the position statement since it was to be created before the next Annual Business Meeting. Ryan Baye, WACD staff, responded that it would default to the Board as currently written. National Director Doug Rushton asked if March was too soon a deadline. WACD Vice President shared Doug’s concern that March was too soon a deadline to develop a position statement but that the board could always ask for input from the membership on a draft. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, would like to hear Ron Shultz’s thoughts on the resolution and was concerned that the background statement may imply a negative viewpoint on solar projects, which could impact how the potential position statement might be drafted. Chris Porter, King CD, believed districts have an obligation to weigh in because of the likely loss of agricultural and habitat land.

WACD Secretary Amy McKay moved to amend the resolution so that a draft position statement would come before the membership at the next Annual Business Meeting for consideration and that the sentence on “negative effects” be removed and received a second. Chris Porter, King CD, offered a friendly amendment to remove only the word “negative” and retain the remainder of the sentence – which was accepted. Richard Leitz, Grant County CD, felt the concern of mitigation acquisition was not addressed in the amendment. Marshall Stowe, Wahkiakum CD, believed WACD should let the resulting committee or task force focus on developing the position statement rather than try to wordsmith the resolution. Michael Crowder, Benton CD, offered a friendly amendment to strike “shrubsteppe” from the resolution – which was accepted. John Hopkins, Pierce CD, moved the previous question to end debate – which was adopted by unanimous consent. The motion to amend the resolution was adopted on a voice vote. Mike Tobin, North Yakima CD District Manager, acknowledged that the topic of solar facilities was definitely a private property right’s issue, but as conservationists there were concerns about interrupting critical habitat areas; he indicated he had written in the short deadline because of the practice of approving solar facilities without appropriate local comment. WACD Treasurer Dave Fenn asked why other natural resource agencies like WDFW and DNR were involved in this process – and received a response that
the Department of Fish and Wildlife was in charge of habitat mitigation in the state of Washington. WACD Secretary Amy McKay asked about the expediency of site approval, if meeting the March of 2022 deadline would even affect the projects under consideration – and received a response from Mike Tobin that the March timeline was put in place to offer a sense of urgency. WACD Vice President Mike Mumford felt it would be appropriate for WACD to express a concern over the fast-tracking of project approval, regardless of any resolution adopted by the membership. President Dorner appreciated this resolution as an example of the local concerns that can be brought forward for state attention. **The following resolution was adopted on a voice vote.**

That WACD develop a position statement to address the conversion of working lands to solar farms. And the effect of taking working lands out of production to mitigate solar farms. And to present a recommendation on the position at the Annual Business Meeting in 2022.

The meeting recessed for a 15-minute scheduled break.

**Resolutions as Recommended by the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee**

President Jeanette Dorner read the short titles of the resolutions and the committee recommendations. **WACD Past President Mark Craven moved to adopt the resolutions as recommended as a slate.** WACD Secretary Amy McKay requested Resolution 2021-13 – WACD Support for Overtime Exemption During Harvest Periods be pulled from the slate. The motion to adopt the slate was adopted on a voice vote.

President Jeanette Dorner explained the change in process for resolutions that received a Do Not Pass recommendation from previous years. **WACD Secretary Amy McKay moved to approve 2021-03 and received a second.** WACD Secretary Amy McKay supported the resolution because many local cooperators used workers during harvest periods and that WACD should support the repeal by the legislature of something that dramatically impacts those agricultural operations. Amy Morena-Sills, Pierce CD, asked for clarification on how to vote if she supported the Do Not Pass recommendation. Burr Mosby, King CD, farmed in King County using H2A workers; he expressed the opinion that with a 40-hour limit on straight pay wouldn’t allow them get anything done on their farm. David Carlton, Columbia CD, was a farmer along with every other member of their board and believed supporting any legislative action towards this goal was important to keep their farms economically viable. Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD, asked if the resolution would apply to the WACD Plant Materials Center or if WACD would support legislative proposals towards that end; he further expressed his belief that agriculture needs to remain viable. Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD, thanked Franklin CD for bringing this resolution forward and noted his background as a shellfish farmer leading to his support for keeping agriculture healthy. Burr Mosby, King CD, explained how the overtime system worked on his farm for those who might believe workers were not being paid fairly for their time or labor. President Jeanette Dorner made a request that those online ask to speak, that comments in the chat box would not being read by those in-person. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, was an agriculture lobbyist forty years ago and would never have expected WACD to be a vocal entity on this issue. April Thatcher, Clark CD was a farmer and opposed to the resolution because of the vagueness. Amy Moreno-Sills, Pierce CD, wanted clarification as to what a “yea” or “nay” vote would mean. Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative Director described how WACD would respond if the resolution was adopted. Chris Porter, King CD, believed his fellow King CD supervisor accurately described the complexity of the issue and that in the committee meeting there were many good questions raised. WACD Secretary Amy McKay described her farm’s harvest practices and her support for the resolution because she doesn’t want it make it more expensive to grow crops and lose potential CD cooperators in conservation work. Sue Marshall, Clark CD, asked how WACD takes a position on policy
legislation like this. Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative Director, described how policy positions were made by either the membership through the resolution process, the Board of Directors acting on the membership’s behalf when no clear direction was available, and the discretion available to the Executive Director. Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director, further described the governing principles as set by the board and the membership, as well as the individual conversations he has, that guide his actions. Sue Marshall, Clark CD, appreciated the clarification but it furthered her concern that there were conflicting directions and complexity to the issue that a blanket statement of support wouldn’t be the best approach. Mark Nielson, Franklin CD District Manager, explained his district’s intent by the resolution to support the work of others in bringing legislation forward. 

**Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, moved the previous question. The motion to close debate failed on a voice vote.** WACD Treasurer Dave Fenn was concerned that folks were making too much of the resolution, that the focus was limited to re-instating the old rules. Mark Nielson, Franklin CD District Manager, believed the previous remarks were well made, that the resolution specifically limits WACD’s position to re-instating the old rules only during harvest periods. Chris Porter, King CD, rose to a question of information and asked for an explanation on a vote for or against; President Dorner repeated the resolution and what the outcome of the vote would be. Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director, provided additional information to satisfy Chris Porter’s question of information. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, as a newcomer to the issue wanted to share her initial perspective after hearing the morning’s discussion. **The motion to adopt the resolution on a voice vote was inconclusive. The resolution was adopted on a roll call vote with 35 in favor and 27 opposed.**

National Director Doug Rushton reported on the two resolutions he identified as ones to send to NACD for national consideration, Resolution 2021-02 (NRCS Riparian Reimbursement Rate) and 2021-03 (Reverse New FSA Emergency Fencing Rules) and his role in getting those resolutions adopted at the NACD Annual Meeting.

The meeting recessed for an hour-long scheduled lunch break.

**Adopting the Recommendations of the Joint Committee on Elections**

Committee Chair Mark Craven spoke to the pleasure of serving on the committee, the group’s work over the last year, and presented the four recommendations unanimously agreed upon by the committee. **WACD Past President Mark Craven moved to adopt the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Elections and received a second.** Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs’ District Manager, served on the committee and was pleasantly surprised the committee was able to find consensus but was proud of the result. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, asked how much prep work had been done on the topic with key legislators. Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director, had spoken with several legislators and presented the recommendations at a committee hearing, with a favorable reaction to the proposals thus far. Stephen Cunningham, Central Klickitat CD, was concerned that supervisors at his district elected to other public offices would have to resign one position to not hold two elected positions. Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative Director, asked if the previous speaker had the same concern knowing that the district would make the decision whether or not to switch their election process to Title 29A. Stephen Cunningham, Central Klickitat CD, felt it would still be a concern in preventing a district from switching to the other process. Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director, clarified that the restriction was on appearing on the same ballot and that other elected officials in the state held multiple elected positions. Chris Porter, King CD, wanted to highlight the shift of supervisor term of service in case others supervisors in elected positions would be affected by the shift from three year terms to four year terms. Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, asked if CDs
shifting their election process to the general election ballot would have to comply with public disclosure requirements. Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director, described how the recommendations were structured to continue to exempt CDs but the final decision would be up to the legislature. David Vliet, Kitsap CD, wasn’t familiar with the reasoning for recommending a shift from three years to four for supervisor terms. WACD Past President Mark Craven described the financial savings for CDs that went onto the general election ballot to not have to run an election every year. A resolution to adopt the four recommendations of the Joint Committee on Elections was adopted on a voice vote.

WACD Proposed Bylaw Changes
Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative Director, described how the five proposed bylaw changes came to be presented at the Annual Business meeting and a short description of each proposal. WACD Past President Mark Craven moved to adopt the five proposed changes as a unanimous slate and received a second. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, asked the proposal on WACD Officer Term of Service be pulled from the slate. President Jeanette Dorner answered a question of information on the reason for seeking virtual participation at the business meeting to be enshrined in the bylaws. Lisa Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD, asked the resolution to establish a Sustainable Funding Committee be pulled from the slate. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, rose to a question of information, if now would be the appropriate time to raise a suggestion of incorporating emergency rules into WACD’s policy book – President Jeanette Dorner asked she wait until the topic of “Other Business” was presented. The proposed name change for Rock Lake CD, including representation of non-dues paying member-districts, and enshrining virtual participation at the Annual Business Meeting into the bylaws were adopted on a voice vote.

Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD, moved to adopt the resolution creating a permanent committee on sustainable funding and received a second. Larry Davis, Whatcom CD, asked why WACD’s Finance Committee could not take this on as part of their responsibilities. President Jeanette Dorner, after deference from WACD Treasurer Dave Fenn, believed the Finance Committee should remain an internally-oriented group focused on WACD’s finances. Mike Nordin, Pacific & Grays Harbor CD District Manager, wasn’t personally opposed to the committee’s creation but didn’t see its purpose. WACD VP Mike Mumford, felt the purpose of the new committee was to explore new sources of funding beyond state or county funding. Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD District Manager, wanted to formalize the committee to continue the efforts of an earlier group that looked at many potential funding mechanisms to support districts. The motion to create a new Sustainable Funding Committee was adopted on a voice vote.

WACD Past President Mark Craven moved to adopt the bylaws change related to President and Vice President term of service and received a second. Chris Porter, King CD, was surprised when he first learned WACD elected its President and Vice-President for only one year at a time. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, believed having a multiple-year term for President and Vice President removed the ability to refresh support for WACD’s leadership each year. WACD Vice President Mike Mumford was originally opposed to the proposal but after seeing the dearth of WACD officer candidates in recent years now supported it. Renee Hadley, Walla Walla County CD District Manager, shared as past president for WADE with a two-year term that she spent the first year just learning about the position and asked for the body to support two-year terms. The motion to adopt two-year terms for the WACD President and Vice President was adopted on a voice vote.
Other Business
Lisa Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD, presented a petition for the membership to reconsider a vote of the WACD Board of Directors to adopt the recommendations of the DEI Special Committee. Liza Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD, moved the membership reconsider the adoption of the DEI Committee’s recommendations by the Board of Directors and received a second. Marshall Stowe, Wahkiakum CD, was opposed to the recommendations at the Board of Directors meeting and was still opposed to the recommendations now. Larry Davis, Whatcom CD, rose to a point of information seeking clarity about the motion on the floor. Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, recapped the close vote at the board meeting and how many unanswered questions there still were. Sue Marshall, Clark CD, was on the DEI Special Committee and supported the recommendations. President Jeanette Dorner asked staff to better describe the motion in front of the membership than she could; WACD Legislative Director Ryan Baye described the Board of Director’s vote in November to adopt the committee’s recommendations and the petition presented for the Association to overrule that vote. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, moved the previous question. There was not unanimous consent to end debate, the motion appeared to pass on a voice vote. A roll call vote was requested by a voting member, but then withdrawn. The motion to reconsider the vote of the Board of Directors to adopt the recommendations of the DEI committee was adopted on a voice vote.

Chris Porter, King CD, moved to adopt the recommendations of the DEI committee and received a second. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, supported both the policy statement and the work plan presented by the committee because they didn’t commit districts to any particular course of action, but he was concerned about WACD’s capacity to deliver on the work plan. Barbara Bailey, Underwood CD, supported the committee’s recommendations because it would generate resources for districts that want them without committing districts that didn’t. Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD, had never seen an issue in his time as a supervisor that warranted these policies. Lisa Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD, highlighted inconsistencies in the work plan that lead her to oppose adopting the policy recommendations. Marie Perez, Underwood CD, spoke in support of the recommendations with her concerns that not adopting them would be deleterious to the association given increasingly common governmental and societal pressures on organizations to provide support for DEI issues.

Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, moved to refer the recommendations back to the DEI Committee for additional work and received a second. Michael Crowder, Benton CD, rose to a point of information asking how the two resolutions adopted last year were addressed by the committee – receiving an answer that both resolutions created the committee that presented this work. He then proceeded to speak in support of the need for a DEI policy statement. Amy Moreno-Sills, Pierce CD, opposed the motion to send the resolution back to the committee and further kicking the can down the road to add to districts’ cultural awareness with resources for those districts that wanted additional tools. WACD Vice President Mike Mumford, rose to a point of information asking what would happen to the recommendations if they were sent back to the committee for additional work. Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, as the maker of the motion believed the committee should be requested to deliver a white paper within six months and the membership consider the recommendations again at the 2022 Annual Business Meeting. Marshall Stowe, Wahkiakum CD, believed additional instructions were necessary for the committee if the motion to refer was adopted to explicitly define who would be served and how they would be impacted by the recommendations. Jeff Schibel offered a friendly amendment to the motion to refer back to the DEI Committee to specify that the committee would bring a report back to the 2022 Annual Business Meeting with an initial report/white paper before July 1st of 2022 including a definition of “underserved” audiences and how conservation districts are to address this issue, which was accepted. John Hopkins, Pierce CD, learned after years in politics that you can kill a proposal
by sending it back to committee and was opposed to the motion. Sue Marshall, Clark CD, was opposed to the motion and believed adding additional information by the committee would only lead to additional concerns from those against adopting the policy statement and action plan. Bill Knutsen, King CD, opposed the motion on the floor because it believed it would only delay adoption of an action plan by a year. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, believed there was a need for the recommendations but was open to the special committee to continue their work. WACD Secretary Amy McKay, was concerned about putting additional responsibilities on WACD staff, the lack of definition for some terms used, and the pledge to increase diversity on local district boards when some districts struggle even fill to fill all five supervisor positions. WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer spoke to his and Ryan’s responsibilities when staffing a committee and was not concerned about capacity if the resolution was sent back to the committee. Barbara Bailey, Underwood CD, spoke to the need of her district for the resources in the recommendations and the detrimental impact of volunteering for future committees if the membership voted to refer the matter back to the DEI committee. Fred Berman, Whatcom CD, was opposed to the motion on the floor and didn’t understand the opposition if the recommendations didn’t commit any conservation district to a course of action. Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD, was opposed to sending this back to the committee and believed a useful definition of “underserved communities” was everyone in our communities we haven’t served yet. John Keatley, Cowlitz CD, supported the motion and was concerned that a letter written by his board and another district in 2020 asking what specific problems exist that need to be addressed has not been answered either by WACD or in this recommendation. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs’ District Manager, had never attended a previous WACD Annual Meeting when staff didn’t have the same speaking rights as supervisors. He further explained his disagreement with the idea that there was consensus on the committee’s recommendation and felt this process had been halted before they were done. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, supported the committee’s recommendations with the three-year timeline giving WACD plenty of opportunity to adjust the proposed workplan. Marshall Stowe, Wahkiakum CD, still supported the motion to refer and was frustrated that the committee’s recommendations seemingly focused on race rather economic disparities. Chris Porter, King CD, felt excluded by the idea that racial problems no longer existed, strongly disagreed with the characterization that there wasn’t consensus among the committee members, and couldn’t believe there wasn’t understanding about what “underserved communities” were. Chris Porter, King CD, moved the previous question. The motion to end debate was adopted on a voice vote. The motion to refer the recommendations back to the DEI Special Committee failed on a voice vote. Marshall Stowe, Wahkiakum CD, remained opposed to the committee’s recommendation (an online disruption made President Jeanette Dorner remind everyone participating online to mute their microphones) and stood against the recommendations because they furthered racial divisions. Mike Tobin, North Yakima District Manager, believed the committee did not have consensus on what was included in the final recommendation and that the outcome did not meet the expectations he and his district had for this resolution process. Bill Blake, Skagit CD, thanked the committee members for their work and for everyone participating in the conversation; he continued with how he saw Skagit CD making use of the resources provided for in the action plan. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, moved the previous question. The motion to end debate was adopted on a voice vote. The motion to adopt the DEI committee’s recommendations was adopted by a voice vote.

President Jeanette Dorner thanked everyone for their comments during the debate, that it was obvious additional conversations still needed to occur. She offered her perspective on the committee’s final product and that there was still a long way to go.
**Officer Elections**

Past President Mark Craven presented the candidates who had declared for the five positions:

- President - Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD
- Vice President – Amy McKay, Whitman CD
- Secretary – Barbara Bailey, Underwood CD
- Treasurer – Dave Fenn, Lewis CD
- National Director – Doug Rushton, Thurston CD

Past President Mark Craven moved to elect the officers as a slate and received a second. President Dorner asked if there any additional nominations for any of the officer positions. The motion to elect the five WACD officers was adopted on a voice vote.

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director, asked (and received) permission to bring forward an issue for potential action by the chair before the meeting adjourned. Cindy Reed, North Yakima CD, asked for civility and decorum during future meetings and wanted to bring to everyone’s awareness that a previous speaker was interrupted during debate on the DEI recommendations with curse words heard by those participating online and urged WACD leadership to reach out to the parties involved. President Jeanette Dorner agreed with the need for respectful behavior and would ensure that person was contacted.

Past President Mark Craven took a moment to recognize outgoing President Jeanette Dorner before the meeting was adjourned.