

May 12, 2010



Dear PCSGA Members and Friends,

It is with mixed feelings that I announce my retirement as the executive director of PCSGA, effective July 1 of this year. Mixed, because I have loved this job like no other. I have quite literally breathed, slept, dreamed and eaten this job for over 12 years since it was offered to me on December 24, 1997. The work we do here at PCSGA, and especially the people I have been blessed to work with – and that I count among many of my dearest friends – are forever a part of me. And of course, as a shellfish farmer in my own right now, I have cast my lot with all of you.

And mixed, because, as much as I will miss the excitement and camaraderie the job has brought, I am looking forward to a more relaxed lifestyle and the opportunity to work on my own farm more, and to pursue my passion for music. As many of you know, in the past few years I have become increasingly involved in writing and performing music, and eagerly anticipate devoting much more time to that.

I've worked out a transition plan with the PCSGA Board of Directors that I think will make my departure, and the entrance of a new director, as seamless as possible. While I'll be stepping down as the executive director, I will stay on – at least temporarily – to manage the Oyster Seed project we've received funding from Congress to implement, and to work with staff to put our annual conference together. I will also be accessible to the new ED if questions or issues arise that the Board or staff are unable to assist with.

Attached to this letter is the Executive Director job announcement that the board will be distributing. If you know of any potential candidates please share this announcement with them. A more complete job description will be available on our website at www.pcsga.org.

Juliana, my executive assistant here in Pt Townsend, will continue as well through the annual conference, but we will be closing down the office here after that and Juliana will be seeking other employment opportunities. She has been a huge – if somewhat hidden – asset to PCSGA over the past four years and I can't say enough about her loyalty and commitment to the mission of PCSGA.

Connie will remain as the cornerstone of PCSGA, working in the Olympia office, where the new ED will be posted.

It has been a pleasure working with and serving you over these past few years and I look forward to continuing to see and work with you as a fellow farmer over the coming years.

All the best to all of you!

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Robin".

Robin Downey