**RESOLUTION 2024-03**

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| **RESOLUTION TITLE:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signature requirements |

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| **SPONSORING CDs (or entities):** Lincoln County Conservation District |

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| **AREA:** 🞏 Northwest 🞏 Southwest 🞏 North Central 🞏 South Central ⌧ Northeast 🞏 Southeast |

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| **RESOLUTION TYPE:**  ⌧ **Policy** (setting a new or amended internal policy directive)  🞏 **Position Statement** (declaring an official WACD position)  🞏 **Recognition** (recognizing an entity for notable contributions)  🞏 **Study** (identifying research or investigation deemed necessary by WACD members) |

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| **RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY** (check any option that applies):  ⌧**WACD**  **🞏 WSCC**  **🞏 OTHER STATE AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **⌧ NRCS**  **⌧ NACD (See Page 2)**  **⌧NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_FSA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

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| **TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION** (check all boxes that apply):  🞏 **Technical change**. (Changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes no substantive change(s) to existing policy.  ⌧ **Substantive change to existing policy**. If in doubt, check the box.  🞏 **New policy**. |

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| **BACKGROUND DESCRIBING THE ISSUE/PROBLEM STATEMENT:**  Farm Service Agency (FSA) requires in their handbook procedure manual that all CRP conservation plans be signed by the local conservation district regardless of the level of involvement by the CD in the development of such plans and lack of a binding contractual agreement. Various concerns about signing these plans come up such as lack of understanding of what is included in the plans that need to be approved, lack of available CD capacity to review plans, lack of funding provided to review the plans, concerns about reticence to sign plans being portrayed as lack of support for CRP, the risk of producers not receiving contracts if CDs do not sign, and concerns about liability conferred to the district by signing the plans, among others. CD signatures, or lack thereof, should not factor into a producer receiving a contract. It is recognized that some districts may want to review and sign CRP plans and we support this. In the past districts could sign a waiver to opt out of signing conservation plans until FSA amended their handbook procedure manual. However, districts should not be required to sign another agency’s plans when they have no input, involvement or contractual obligation in the process. Nor should the lack of CD signatures negatively influence the offer of funding from FSA. |

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| **PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:**  Change the CRP handbook to allow districts to submit a signature waiver opting out of signing the CRP conservation plans. |

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| **IS THERE A WACD FINANCIAL IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY? (Funding required, staff time, etc.)**  ⌧ **NO**  🞏 **YES** (briefly explain to the best of your ability): |

**If the proposed resolution may be considered for adoption by NACD, please complete the sections below to the best of your ability. If the resolution is adopted at the state level, WACD or the NACD National Director will work with you in finalizing the resolution in NACD-acceptable format.**

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| **PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:**  If this resolution is adopted by NACD and included in the NACD Policy book it must clearly and concisely, using active verbs, state the specific action(s) expected of NACD; must be based on fact, avoiding opinions and beliefs; the statement should make sense even without the background. (THIS IS GENERALLY NOT WHERE A “WHEREAS” STATEMENT WOULD GO)  WHEREAS, FSA provides districts with the option to sign conservation plans.  THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NACD will work with FSA to amend their CRP plan signature requirement policy to allow districts to opt out of signing conservation plans. |

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| **SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE:** (What has been done to address the issue; which agencies and organizations have addressed it also.)  Sponsoring CD has actively pursued options with Washington State FSA officials with the assistance of WACD, WA Conservation Commission, and other conservation districts. |

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| **IMPACT ON EXISTING NACD POLICY (if any):** (Review NACD Policy Book for existing policies covering this issue.)  Unknown |
| IF APPROPRIATE, POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT ON NACD’s OR A FEDERAL AGENCY BUDGET:  Staff time to work with FSA officials to ensure appropriate language is used for a revised policy. |

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| MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY: (*E.*g., WACD annual meeting date) |

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| AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S): (Type name and Title)  WACD National Director (NACD board member) |