**RESOLUTION 2024 -**

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION TITLE: Develop Workgroup to Identify Ongoing Funding for CTD** |

|  |
| --- |
| **SPONSORING CDs (or entities): Underwood Conservation District** |

|  |
| --- |
| **AREA:** 🞏 Northwest 🞏 Southwest 🞏 North Central ýSouth Central 🞏 Northeast 🞏 Southeast |

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION TYPE:**  ý **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) |

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY** (check any option that applies):  ý **WACD**  **ý WSCC**  **🞏 OTHER STATE AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **🞏 NRCS**  **🞏 NACD (See Page 2)**  **ý NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER WADE and Washington State Conservation Districts** |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.  ý **New policy**. |

|  |
| --- |
| **BACKGROUND DESCRIBING THE ISSUE/PROBLEM STATEMENT:**  In recent years, Washington State’s 45 Conservation Districts have received expanded state and local conservation program funding and have been asked to play expanded roles, with higher expectations, in developing and delivering conservation services to address some of the state’s most critical natural resource challenges. In the last two years alone, significant new state funding has been allocated to CDs to address forest health, fire risk reduction, soil health, and riparian habitat, among others. This additional funding and its associated commitments means CDs are hiring and training more new staff to deliver new and expanded programs.  The Center for Technical Development (CTD) works to identify, develop, and deliver relevant training opportunities to district staff. SCC’s most recent strategic plan identifies and supports the CTD’s ongoing and expanding services to CDs. CTD’s Long-Range Plan is focused on expanding trainings and training support to meet the increased training demands and needs of CDs.  For its first decade, CTD’s work was largely planned and managed by a volunteer Leadership Team that was made up of CD staff and managers from across Washington state; in 2016 base funding from the WSCC began to support those efforts. This early approach enabled CTD to pilot valuable initiatives, including CD-specific discipline certifications for farm, dairy and riparian planners, annual training needs surveys, and provide support to CD staff accessing core NRCS-led conservation planning trainings.  While CTD has been the recipient of an NACD TA grant for several years that has supported CTD Training Coordinator staff time, that grant sunsets this year.  As the demand for various CD services and training needs for CD staff have increased and are expected to continue increasing into the foreseeable future, current funding levels from WSCC do not fully support the CTD program as currently staffed and do not support the growth that CTD and districts envision for the future. |

|  |
| --- |
| **PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:**  **WACD, in collaboration with the Center for Technical Development (CTD), WSCC, WADE, and Conservation Districts, will develop a workgroup to identify ongoing, adequate funding support for the Center for Technical Development. WACD will report the workgroup’s findings and recommendations no later than the annual conference in 2025.** |

|  |
| --- |
| **IS THERE A WACD FINANCIAL IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY? (Funding required, staff time, etc.)**  🞏 **NO**  ý **YES** (briefly explain to the best of your ability): WACD staff will expend staff time to convene and facilitate workgroup meetings and to generate a report of recommendations. |