



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TITLE: Affirming and Empowering Locally Led Voluntary Conservation

SPONSORING ENTITY/IES CD(s): Central Klickitat

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY _____
- NRCS
- NACD (See Page 2)
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

BACKGROUND DESCRIBING THE ISSUE/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The WSCC-CD relationship has deteriorated over the last 3 years. As the WSCC has grown, new programs and staff are serving a wider variety of entities, and the prior close WSCC-CD coordination and collaboration has diminished. WSCC is not prioritizing its fundamental, statutory, role of providing support to CDs in some SCC program areas. CD's have experienced reduced support from WSCC leadership and staff. The conservation family must do whatever is needed to empower locally led decision making and the traditionally strong conservation family that has brought SCC and CD's success in grassroots conservation. WSCC isn't consistently engaging CD input on changes that have significant impact to CD operations and landowners. WSCC programs are increasingly engaging more outside partner entities, but programs and staff need to keep CDs at the forefront and continue the long established relationship, service and support that has brought both WSCC and CD's success in conservation of natural resources. WSCC's strategic plan lacks prioritization of SCC's support of CD's. It is critical that this historic foundation is maintained not just in statute but in the day-to-day operations of the conservation family.



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PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD shall start the following work immediately after statewide adoption of this resolution and annually present the results for discussion at the WACD annual meeting:

WACD shall work with CDs and WSCC to prioritize support of CDs as the primary local entity through which WSCC's voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs are built and implemented.

WACD shall work with CDs and WSCC to ensure CDs are engaged early on in contract language changes, program and policy development or updates and budget development. WACD shall support WSCC to update the policy on policies to include CD review of not just policy changes but also changes to contracts and guidelines given those have a direct impact on CD operations.

WACD shall assist WSCC to prioritize the re-establishment of an agency-wide culture in support of locally-led conservation that is implemented by conservation districts. WACD shall work with WSCC to provide clear direction for WSCC staff to strive to provide the highest level of customer service and support for CD's boards and staff for the implementation of locally led conservation.

WACD shall work with CDs and WSCC to review the SCC strategic plan and emphasize support to CD's and locally led conservation.

WACD shall work with WSCC Commissioners to provide direction to the new Executive Director to emphasize and prioritize SCC program and staff support of CD's boards and staff for the implementation of locally led conservation.

WACD shall organize a yearly in-person meeting/town hall between CDs and SCC members.

WACD shall organize at least yearly an in-person meeting/town hall between CDs and SCC staff.

In preparation for the 2024 legislative session and strengthening the SCC and CD relationship, WACD shall convene a panel of CDs, including this resolution sponsor, to review RCW 89.08 and identify opportunities to update RCW 89.08 to strength CD's locally led mantra and emphasize SCC's role to support local CDs boards leadership. This work shall not be used to open RCW 89.08 for legislative changes but to prepare to make improvements IF other legislation is presented that will open RCW 89.08 for other edits.

IS THERE A WACD FINANCIAL IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY? (Funding required, staff time, etc.)

NO

YES (briefly explain):

This will require WACD and WSCC staff time to implement changes in policy and organizational culture.



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If the proposed resolution is to be adopted by NACD complete the sections below to the best of your ability. If the resolution is adopted at the state level, please reach out to the NACD National Director for assistance in finalizing this form.

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)

SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE: (What has been done to address the issue; which agencies and organizations have addressed it also.)

Sponsor has had conversations with SCC staff and other conservation districts. It's a difficult issue to address and the solution will take time and engagement by leaders across the conservation family.

IMPACT ON EXISTING NACD POLICY (if any): (Review NACD Policy Book for existing policies covering this issue.)

IF APPROPRIATE, POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT ON NACD'S OR A FEDERAL AGENCY BUDGET:
(E.g., travel, training, equipment, etc.)

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

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S): (Type name and Title)

WACD National Director (NACD board member)