



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

**To:** WACD Member Conservation Districts

**From:** Tom Salzer, Executive Director

**Date:** September 27, 2023

**Subject:** Legal services program for members

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## **Announcing a new legal services program for members**

WACD is pleased to announce an additional benefit for member districts in good standing. These are conservation districts who are current on annual dues to WACD.

Beginning immediately, a member district may request a free consultation with WACD's General Counsel. WACD will cover the consultation cost for up to one hour a year (July 1 through June 30) for each member in good standing, subject to available funds. The WACD budget for this service in the current fiscal year is \$10,000. Additionally, member districts in good standing will be able to access WACD's General Counsel at a reduced rate should the need to engage a long-term legal counsel be required.

This benefit was approved by the WACD Board of Directors with the adoption of the current budget. A letter of engagement establishing Seth Woolson of CSD Attorneys at Law in Bellingham, Washington as WACD's General Counsel was approved at the Board's September meeting.

## **Why are we now offering this service?**

Access to legal services was identified as the number one priority by the Shared Resources Work Group, originating out of WACD Resolution 2022-08 (Shared Conservation District Resources). Based on that initial recommendation of the Work Group, and with the intention of providing this new service early in FY 2024, WACD contacted several of our member districts with long-standing legal retainers. Spokane CD has worked with CSD Attorney's at Law for many years, so we felt comfortable this firm would be familiar with the laws and regulations that pertain to conservation districts.

## How to request a consultation

Please contact any WACD Executive Office staff to request a consultation with WACD's General Counsel. Staff will share your contact information with counsel who will reach out directly to you.

## Cover your bases before requesting a consultation

WACD suggests that for most issues, you should first discuss it (if appropriate) with your Washington State Conservation Commission Regional Manager, and consider guidance that may be available from your insurance company and from the Municipal Research and Services Center. At the very least, these steps will help you get the most out of your first hour with CSD Law office staff.

## Questions?

If you have questions about this program, please ask WACD Executive Office staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Salzer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line above the first few letters.

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director