



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**RESOLUTION SHORT TITLE:** WACD establish a sustainable funding committee

**SPONSOR CD:** Palouse Conservation District

**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
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

WA State Conservation Districts do not have a stable and consistent funding source to meet local needs (outlined in Chapter 89.08 RCW). Reliance on competitive grant funding and highly variable state funding allocated by the legislature has hindered the ability of CDs to grow to meet increasing community needs and offer consistent programs and services to landowners and operators. Current flexible funding sources, such as Rates and Charges, have become politicized and inaccessible in some communities, and in addition have shifted the ability to prioritize community needs from CD Boards to local County government officials through the approval process. Current statute limits revenue based on arbitrary population thresholds, rather than community need/support or equitable distribution of available resources.

Competitive grant application development and management, along with Rates and Charges applications/renewals, take a considerable amount of CD resources and capacity that should be directed to on the ground conservation and serving community members.

WACD needs to establish and support a sustainable funding committee to review and develop identified and new opportunities for consistent and stable funding for CDs statewide.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:** The WACD president establish (under Part X, §1 of the WACD by-laws) a permanent committee to review and develop identified and new opportunities for consistent and stable funding for CDs statewide. The sustainable funding committee will report progress and recommendations to the WACD board quarterly or as actions require. A progress report to the



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membership will be made at least annually. (*Consider adding WACD as recipient of possible sources of revenue for distribution to CDs.*)

**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.

**IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?**

- NO.** None anticipated.
- YES** (briefly explain):