



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

**To:** WACD Members and Partners  
**From:** Tom Salzer, Executive Director  
**Date:** December 8, 2021  
**Subject:** FINAL SUMMARY: resolutions, bylaws changes, and business from the floor

## Resolutions

In October of this year, numerous resolutions were proposed by conservation districts at annual meetings of area associations. The WACD Executive Committee then assigned resolutions to the appropriate WACD committee, in this case being the Natural Resources Policy Committee and the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee.

On November 4, the two committees met to review all resolutions. On November 20, the two committees met for a final time to make recommendations on resolutions. Find those recommendations at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/business/#resolutions>

On November 30, committee chairs presented the recommendations to the WACD membership. Except for one resolution with a DO NOT PASS recommendation, other resolutions were presented as an entire slate. For each set of committee recommendations, voting members then expressed their desire to remove a few of the resolutions from the respective slate. Following that step, each slate of resolutions was approved by a majority vote.

The resolutions that were removed from the slates were then presented for motion and discussion. Voting members were asked to speak first to each resolution, and after voters had weighed in, other attendees were provided time to speak.

In the table below, NRPC means the Natural Resources Policy Committee and LBDPC means the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee.

Title	Resolution	From, Committee	Status
<b>2021-01</b> WACD establish workgroup to evaluate HAB problem and funding	WACD supports formation of a workgroup to assess the status of HABs in the state, the adequacy of current funding for monitoring HABs, the adequacy of funding for programs to address HABs statewide, and to recommend actions that conservation districts should take to reduce the frequency and duration of HABs in Washington. The committee has a one-year charter to report back to the association and the board.	NW Area: Whidbey Island CD  NRPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee

Title	Resolution	From, Committee	Status
<p><b>2021-02</b> Request for NRCS to update the reimbursable rate for riparian practices</p>	<p>WACD supports working with NACD to request NRCS re-evaluate their payment rate for riparian practices (612, 614, 490, 382, 384, 395, 643, 647, other as identified), and to adopt a new rate that recognizes the true regional cost of implementing effective riparian restoration.</p>	<p>NW Area: Skagit CD  NRPC</p>	<p>ADOPTED as amended by the Committee</p>
<p><b>2021-03</b> Reverse New FSA Emergency Conservation Program Rules on Fencing</p>	<p>WACD and NACD work with the USDA Farm Service Agency to revert the recent Emergency Conservation Program rules to pre-2021 rules, particularly in regards to full replacement of fencing, making public lands eligible for practice installation, and giving local county committees their jurisdiction to adapt the program as needed.</p>	<p>NC Area: Okanogan CD  NRPC</p>	<p>ADOPTED as recommended by the Committee</p>
<p><b>2021-04</b> Support WA NRCS Approval for Cost-Share for Soil Carbon Amendment</p>	<p>WACD work with Washington State NRCS and others as appropriate to get the Soil Carbon Amendment (808) added to the necessary list of cost-share eligible practices in Washington State.</p>	<p>NC Area: Okanogan CD  NRPC</p>	<p>ADOPTED as recommended by the Committee</p>
<p><b>2021-05</b> Livestock Riparian Water Rights</p>	<p>WACD to comment on the draft changes to Dept of Ecology Policy 1025 in the form that the policy changes is significantly negatively impact the potential of voluntary water quality and riparian habitat protections. And put into jeopardy livestock grazing operations which do not have documented water rights. And comment that current alternatives such as drilling wells and hauling water in many cases is not feasible.</p> <p>WACD shall also create a Livestock Task Force to address the issue of livestock water rights and others livestock issues as identified.</p> <p>WACD and WSCC to track progress of changes and keep all Conservation Districts informed and coordinate efforts to ensure livestock have water rights from historical use and or carrying capacity of pasture and range with surface water.</p>	<p>NE Area: Stevens County CD  NRPC</p>	<p>ADOPTED as amended by the Committee</p>
<p><b>2021-06</b> Solar Panel Position Statement</p>	<p>That WACD develop a position statement to address the conversion of working lands to solar farms. And the effect of taking working lands out of production to mitigate solar farms. And to present</p>	<p>SC Area  NRPC</p>	<p>ADOPTED as amended by the Committee with</p>

Title	Resolution	From, Committee	Status
	a recommendation on the position at the Annual Business Meeting in 2022.		additional amendments from the floor
<b>2021-07B</b> WACD establish a sustainable funding committee	See discussion below this table and in the <b>Bylaws changes</b> section of this memo	NW Area LBDPC	
<b>2021-08</b> Workplace Policy Improvements	WACD to work with WSCC to craft template language for a grievance policy and procedure that conservation districts may choose to adopt or adapt.	SW Area: Cowlitz CD LBDPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee
<b>2021-09</b> Stable Funding for CD Wildfire Risk Assessments	WACD shall make it a policy priority to communicate the need for fire preparedness funding that goes directly to conservation districts via the Conservation Commission. WACD shall work with the Conservation Commission, Washington State Governor's Office, Washington State Legislature, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and others as appropriate, to get dedicated funding and ensure the funding appropriation remains in each budget cycle thereafter.	NC Area: Okanogan CD LBDPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee
<b>2021-10</b> Establish Area Cost Share Rates	WACD work with member districts and WSCC to develop landowner equipment use/rental rates more appropriate to local areas. Rates will be reviewed and renewed every two years and submitted to the WSCC. WACD will work with WSCC to ensure these area rates are eligible for cost-share reimbursement rates.	NE Area: Lincoln County CD LBDPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee
<b>2021-11</b> Prioritize Status Quo Budget	That WACD prioritize maintaining funding levels of existing programs when seeking new funding.	SE Area: Walla Walla County CD LBDPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee
<b>2021-12</b> Transparent and Identifiable Agency Visits	WACD to work with other agencies to be fully transparent on all official contact/activities with property owners through prior notification and acceptance of proposed dealings. Additionally, to be properly identified through vehicle, clothing, and other means necessary.	SE Area: Columbia CD LBDPC	ADOPTED as recommended by the Committee

Title	Resolution	From, Committee	Status
<b>2021-13</b> WACD Support for Overtime Exemption During Harvest Periods	That WACD support any legislative proposals that reinstate the agricultural work exemptions from overtime standards from both the federal fair labor standards act and the state minimum wage act during periods of harvest.	SC Area: Franklin CD  LBDPC	ADOPTED on a roll call vote
<b>2021-14</b> Correcting Technological caused issues from 2020 WACD meeting	WACD recognizes the use of technology and in-person meetings and how either can be exclusionary. WACD values its members and makes reasonable effort to ensure members input is heard.	SC Area: North Yakima CD  LBDPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee
<b>2021-15</b> Adherence to WACD By-Laws	See discussion below this table	SC Area: North Yakima CD  LBDPC	Did not advance out of Committee
<b>2021-16</b> Supervisor Code of Conduct	That WSCC and the WACD Board of Directors (as defined in WACD's By-Laws) initiate discussions around the need for a Code of Conduct for Conservation District Supervisors. If those discussions warrant a review and/or development of further action items then the WSCC shall lead the effort. The WACD Board of Directors will task the President to form any temporary task force as deemed necessary by the WSCC.	SC Area: North Yakima CD  LBDPC	ADOPTED as amended by the Committee

**Resolution 2021-07B WACD establish a sustainable funding committee**

Resolution 2021-07B is titled **WACD establish a sustainable funding committee**. The text of the resolution is:

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

Six very similar resolutions were advanced from area association meetings. The Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee selected R 2021-07B as best representing the six resolutions and advanced only R 2021-07B with a DO PASS recommendation. (Technically, this also means that the Committee made DO NOT PASS recommendations for R 2021-07A, 07C,

07D, 07E, and 07F.) R 2021-07B was passed by voice vote, achieving more than the required two-thirds vote with no nay votes and no abstentions.

### **2021-15 Adherence to WACD By-Laws**

Resolution 2021-15 is titled **Adherence to WACD By-Laws**. The text of the resolution is:

First, WACD shall re-adopt the WACD by-laws as written and approved by the WACD body prior to the WACD 2020 Annual meeting. Second, WACD hold the WACD Board, WACD Officers and WACD Executive Director accountable to carry out our By-Laws at all times.

R 2021-15 did not receive a recommendation from the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee after a motion to recommend "Do Pass" did not receive a second. As per WACD's Articles and Bylaws, the resolution was transmitted to the WACD Board of Directors where a positive recommendation was necessary for the resolution to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting. The WACD Board of Directors considered the resolution and chose not to recommend the resolution. Thus, the resolution was not considered in the package of resolutions presented at the 2021 annual business meeting.

### **Adopting recommendations for election changes**

The recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Elections were presented for approval by voting members. The motion to adopt was passed on a voice vote. In summary, the recommendations are:

1. Conduct elections every other year.
2. Extend supervisor terms (both appointed and elected) from three-year terms to four-year terms.
3. Conduct district elections during one "Conservation Month".
4. Allow conservation districts the option to go on the general election ballot.

### **Bylaws changes**

Five proposed changes to WACD's bylaws were presented and ultimately, all five were adopted:

1. Resolution 2021-07B WACD establish a sustainable funding committee
2. Rock Lake CD Name Change
3. WACD Officer Term of Service
4. Representation of non-dues paying WACD Member-Districts
5. Participation at Annual Business Meetings

As with the recommendations of the Natural Resources Policy Committee and the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee, a motion was made to adopt the five changes as a slate. Subsequently, a request was made to remove two items from the slate: Resolution 2021-07B and WACD Officer Term of Service. The remaining bylaws changes (Rock Lake CD Name Change,

Representation of non-dues paying WACD Member-Districts, and Participation at Annual Business Meetings) were adopted as a slate with the required two-thirds majority (no votes were cast against the slate and no voters abstained).

Resolution 2021-07B was adopted by voice vote.

The proposed change in WACD officer term length from two one-year terms to two two-year terms for the President and Vice President was adopted on a voice vote. It becomes effective at the election of officers during the 2022 annual business meeting.

### **Business brought from the floor**

A resolution was brought forward to reconsider the Board of Director's Vote to adopt the recommendations of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The motion to Reconsider was adopted, followed by substantial discussion by the membership on the committee's recommended policy statement and proposed three-year plan. A motion to refer the matter back to the Special Committee failed on a voice vote, and the proposed recommendations were adopted via a voice vote.