

# 2023 WACD Adopted Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
<b>2023-01</b>	Improved Cost Share for virtual fence development	Foster Creek
<p>We recommend that WACD work directly with the WSCC and any other potential stakeholders within the virtual fencing sector look at existing funding sources to assess whether other funding options are available to sustain the collar subscription throughout the three-year life of the project and beyond. Furthermore, we recommend that WACD work directly with the WSCC, through applicable programs such as WSRRI, NRI, and others, explore opportunities to directly engage virtual fence vendors to discuss better funding scenarios that could help support the adoption and understanding of this technology within Washington State.</p> <p>Additionally, work towards the inclusion of this as a designated practice should be done to expand funding availability and provide more accessible funding sources with longer design life opportunities. We support further development of this technology as an adopted standalone practice within the NRCS tech notes and as applicable within EQIP and other related producer programs.</p>		
<b>2023-02</b>	WACD supports of the use of food-grade biochar as an additive to livestock feed to reduce methane production and greenhouse gas emissions and to improve soil and animal health	San Juan Islands
<p>WACD supports the amendment of RCW 15.53.9013 and/or other relevant RCWs to allow regulated amounts and types of food quality biochar to be added to commercial livestock feed.</p>		
<b>2023-03</b>	Reducing and Recycling Plastics in Agriculture and Natural Resources	Thurston
<p>WACD and WSCC work with the Washington Departments of Agriculture and Ecology to identify current programs for reducing and recycling agricultural and related plastics and develop a plan for coordination, expansion, and publicizing of programs, along with further needs and opportunities analysis and to seek alternatives to plastics.</p>		
<b>2023-04</b>	Agricultural, forest, and rangeland mitigation	North Yakima
<p>WACD will develop a position statement for required mitigation for loss of agricultural land types and that WACD work with WSCC, WSDA, Conservation Districts and appropriate entities and partners work to develop guidance. Guidance will then be championed by WACD and our partners to become law through legislative action(s).</p>		
<b>2023-05</b>	Renewable Energy Position Statement	North Yakima
<p>WACD will develop a task force that explores the topic of hydropower as a renewable resource and develops a position statement for consideration by the membership at the 2024 WACD annual meeting.</p>		
<b>2023-06</b>	Interest-free conservation agriculture equipment loan program	Palouse
<p>WACD will develop a task force to work closely with conservation districts statewide, SCC, NACD, FSA, and other partners, to identify funding and opportunities to develop a low interest or interest-free loan program for producers to purchase major agricultural equipment that supports use of no-till, direct seed, and other farming practices that build soil health and increase the resilience of cropping systems.</p>		

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<b>2023-07</b>	Carbon Conservation Stewardship Program	Palouse
<p>WACD will work closely with conservation districts statewide, SCC, NRCS, NACD, and other partners, to identify funding and opportunities to develop a Carbon CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) and/or EQIP opportunity program which may include the following components: 1) develop a conservation plan, 2) producers turn in a record of work completed that year to sequester carbon (based off of an eligible practices list), 3) planners run models to determine amount of carbon sequestered, 4) producers receive a payment based on carbon sequestered, 5) explore payments to producers who have already implemented practices, through NRCS or other entities.</p>		
<b>2023-08</b>	Opposition to Removal or Breaching of the Four Lower Snake River Dams	Franklin
<p>WACD opposes removal or breaching of the four Lower Snake River Dams.</p>		
<b>2023-09</b>	Solar and Wind Project Coordination with Local Authorities	North Central Area Association
<p>Work with partners to encourage EFSEC not to bypass local authority when siting new solar and wind installations and ensure sufficient environmental and habitat studies can be done on the impact to shrub-steppe habitat.</p>		
<b>2023-10</b>	Improving Natural Resource Agency Management Plan Funding and Implementation.	Pacific
<p>WACD will work with state agencies and the State Legislature to identify funding needs and opportunities to complete their management plans and implementation goals for acquired lands.</p>		
<b>2023-11</b>	Creation of PMC Task Force	Grays Harbor
<p>WACD shall create a task force including conservation districts to explore ways of providing additional native plants to conservation districts.</p>		
<b>2023-12</b>	SCC SRF funding including planning and design funding	Pacific
<p>WACD and WSCC will make efforts to get project planning and design included into funding use again.</p>		
<b>2023-13</b>	Cluster Archaeologist	Thurston & North Central Area Assn
<p>WACD and WSCC work together in coordination with interested districts in assessing the need(s), logistics of hiring, housing, and supervision of cluster archaeologist(s) and advise participating CDs.</p>		
<b>2023-14</b>	Communication about Fuel Breaks in CRP	Walla Walla County
<p>WACD and NACD will work together with FSA &amp; NRCS to educate landowners/producers enrolled in CRP of the option for establishing fuel breaks (both bare ground and green strips) in high-risk areas within CRP stands.</p> <p>CRP contract holders will work with local fire district to install well placed fire breaks within their CRP acreage to help reduce the spread of wildfires.</p> <p>Landowners/producers will maintain fuel breaks through the life of the contract.</p>		
<b>2023-15</b>	Encouraging NRCS Field Office Staff Attendance at WACD Meetings	Okanogan
<p>WACD shall work with Washington State NRCS leadership to ensure field office staff at least at the Resource Conservationist and District Conservationist levels are invited and supported to participate in all future WACD Area and Annual meetings.</p>		

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Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
<b>2023-16</b>	Support Supplemental Funding to Conservation Commission	Okanogan CD
<p>WACD and member CDs work with the Washington State Legislature, Washington State Conservation Commission, and Washington State Office of Financial Management to support an additional \$5 million in Voluntary Stewardship Program Implementation funding.</p>		
<b>2023-17</b>	Support SCC supplemental budget requests	Palouse
<p>WACD will work closely with all conservation districts statewide, SCC and other partners, to fully support the SCC supplemental budget requests (including but not limited to CTA, RCPP, and SCC Staffing and Operations) through contacts with the Governor’s Office of Financial Management and Legislators.</p>		
<b>2023-18</b>	Affirming and Empowering Locally Led Voluntary Conservation	Central Klickitat
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WACD shall work with CDs and WSCC to review the SCC strategic plan and emphasize support to CD’s and locally led conservation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(continued)</p> <p>In preparation for the 2025 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.</p>		

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<b>2023-19</b>	Fire Response through creation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations	Foster Creek
<p>We recommend that work towards developing Rangeland Fire Protection Associations throughout rural areas where public working lands are plentiful, intersect with private operations, and fire response ability is low. In addition, county representatives and invested stakeholders along with the public agencies in charge of managing public working lands should convene to build area Memorandum of Agreement to line out duties of response, create systems for training, and explore options for providing necessary equipment to fight rural wildland fires. Work should also be done to denote who has operational authority over public lands that do not currently have an assigned land manager.</p>		
<b>2023-20</b>	Addressing VSP Management Issues	Okanogan
<p>WACD and member CDs shall work with partners to encourage the Conservation Commission to apply their 'policy on policies' for the VSP program, require Commission VSP staff to host two hybrid (in-person and virtual) trainings for the program each year, and implement a comprehensive review of all program policies and make recommendations to the Conservation Commission for changes to said policies to bring them in line with standard Commission grant programs by the May 2024 meeting.</p>		
<b>2023-21</b>	WACD, SCC, CD's Spring/Summer Legislative Workshops	Pacific
<p>SCC, WACD, with CD's invited, will hold at least one Legislative budget workshops between March and May annually, with additional electronic correspondence as needed. All efforts must be completed before SCC submits it's budget request to OFM.</p>		
<b>2023-22</b>	Cancelling of Farm Service Agency Contracts	Whitman
<p>When a mistake is made on a signed CRP or CREP contract, and the mistake is due to the FSA's errors and/or negligence, the FSA must fulfill the contract length or compensate the producer for the value of the contract if the contract is cancelled by the FSA or pay any costs associated with bringing it into program compliance if it is not cancelled and brought into compliance.</p>		
<b>2023-23</b>	Gaining CD Eligibility for RCO Land Acquisition Grants	Eastern Klickitat
<p>WACD shall work with CD's, RCO, and legislators to develop legislative language to change RCO's WWRP eligibility requirements to include CDs in the list of eligible grant applicants. WACD shall report back to WACD members with a strategy to accomplish the eligibility changes by April 30, 2024, with a goal to implement the change by July 1, 2025</p>		
<b>2023-24</b>	Washington State Coastal Marine Resources Committees Administration Change	Pacific
<p>WACD will work with SCC staff, the legislature, and WDFW to move the administration and advocacy for the Coastal MRC's to the SCC through a change in RCW 36.125.</p>		
<b>2023-25</b>	CREP Contract Communication and Payment Inconsistency	Columbia
<p>Request WACD work with USDA FSA to review and revise communication and payment policies, to reinforce quality and punctuality of communication and timely payments to landowners.</p>		

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\Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
<b>2023-26</b>	Conservation District and WA Dept. Ecology Alignment of Roles and Responsibilities	Mason, Stevens County, & Livestock Committee
<p>WACD will work with conservation districts and the Washington State Conservation Commission to identify the level of collaboration between Conservation Districts and the Washington Department of Ecology and encourage legislators and/or the Washington Department of Ecology to implement a potential solution to the challenges described above. The solution may be clarification of responsibilities between voluntary and regulatory approaches to water quality goals through legislative action and/or an up-to-date MOU that improves efficiency in meeting water quality objectives.</p>		
<b>2023-27</b>	Salmon Riparian Funding moved to SCC	Pacific
<p>WACD will actively work to ensure that future Salmon Riparian Funding will be allocated to the WSCC.</p>		
<b>2023-28</b>	Dropping population criteria and removing per parcel maximum annual rate under RCW <i>89.08.405(3)(a)</i>	Pierce
<p>WACD to work with conservation districts, Washington State Conservation Commission, others, and the legislature in 2024 to change Chapter 89.08 RCW, to allow local jurisdictions to set their own rate as appropriate for their local areas.</p>		