



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2015 WACD Annual Meeting Adopted Resolutions

December 2, 2015



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2015 WACD Annual Meeting Resolutions – FINAL

Resolution	Title	Author/District	Committee Passed
2015-06	Changes in Timing, Conduct and Responsibilities for Conservation District Supervisor Elections	Thurston CD	Legislative Committee
2015-09	Long-Term Sustainable Funding	Spokane CD	Legislative Committee
2015-10	Emergency Response Funding	Okanogan CD	Legislative Committee
2015-11	Professional Engineering Program Funding	South Central Area Engineers	Legislative Committee
2015-12	District Building Capacity Needs	Snohomish CD	Legislative Committee
2015-16	Central Washington Weather Radar	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-17	Improve Forest Land Management on State and Federal Lands	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-18	Fuel Buffers along Roads	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-19	Sharing Burned Intensity Data with Non-Federal Burned Area Evaluation Teams	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-20	Preparedness for Resource Assessments after a Natural Disaster	Stevens County CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-21	Conservation of Aquatic Farm Lands and Habitat related to Burrowing Shrimp Degradation	Pacific CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-22	Recognition for Associate Supervisors	Clark CD	District Operations & Education Committee
2015-23	Increased Funding for Professional Engineer Grant	Clark CD	District Operations & Education Committee
2015-24	Cultural Resources Review Process Efficiencies	Pierce CD	District Operations & Education Committee

NOTE: Resolutions adopted retained their original assigned numbers.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-06

Title: Changes in Timing, Conduct and Responsibilities for Conservation District Supervisor Elections.

Problem:

Under current law (Chapter 89.08 RCW), and rules (Chapter 135-110 WAC) of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), conservation district supervisor elections are held at various times within the first quarter of each year, and are the responsibility of each local conservation district to conduct. Concerns have been expressed by some legislators, at least one independent group (League of Women's Voters), and by some district supervisors about:

1. The degree of voter awareness and participation in district supervisor elections;
2. The cost to a conservation district for supervisor elections;
3. Differences between conservation district supervisor elections and other elections; and,
4. The level of citizen interest in becoming a candidate for elected district supervisor.

WACD recognizes that it is critical to the public's confidence in the leadership and governance of conservation districts that elections garner as much voter and candidate participation as possible. Lack of voter awareness about conservation districts (their existence and function), together with voter confusion about election procedures and variable election dates (including the perceived overlay of other "regular" elections), can reduce the public's participation in the conservation district supervisor election process. WACD is committed to securing more involvement by the public in conservation district supervisor elections by promoting meaningful and affordable improvements in the supervisor election process and procedures.

Toward that end, WACD submitted recommendations to WSCC for action on specific alternatives in refining district supervisor elections (see *WACD Recommendations on WSCC Election Proviso Report, July 17, 2014*). These recommendations outline how we might help give people more reason to vote by changing the timing and manner in which district supervisor elections are held. WACD recognizes the need to market the district election – that is, market what it is conservation districts do, how their communities benefit, and how people can participate and make a difference.

WACD also noted the difficulty, in some cases, in enlisting local citizens to become candidates for supervisor elections. Supervisors are unpaid, and often donate long volunteer hours with extensive travel and public interaction. It is a challenge to find people, often having fulltime jobs, who are willing or able to put in the time required for these leadership positions.

Candidate and voter interest is hampered further if the public is not informed about what districts do and why voters and candidates should consider becoming involved.



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Resolution No. 2015-06 (continued)

WACC is scheduled to deliver a report to the Legislature on supervisor election reform, as required under 2014 budget proviso language. WACD understands, in order to retain credibility with taxpayers, legislators, customers and others, and to build unity among conservation districts on a reasonable path forward, that it is necessary that supervisors initiate action on conservation district supervisor election reform.

Recommendation:

WACD and WACC shall explore the following combined changes in the conservation district supervisor election process and procedures, within existing law or rules, or through legislative action, and through consultation with the state auditors' association and other local partners, as appropriate:

1. Vet with all conservation districts a procedure for a statewide election day for all annual conservation district supervisor elections, exploring the costs, benefits, and logistics of such an approach, and including collateral benefits and costs in terms of marketing conservation districts and their supervisor elections to encourage voter and candidate participation, and seeking possible cost efficiencies or reductions in comparison to alternatives.
2. Facilitate a procedure whereby *county auditors* participate in district supervisor elections, including distribution and receipt of ballots, provision of ballot security, managing ballot processing and counting, and otherwise cooperating with the conservation district to provide separate, secure and impartial handling of election materials. WACD and WACC shall develop this procedure and cost estimates through consultation with the county auditor association and conservation district(s) currently using such a system.

Presented by: Thurston Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-09

Title: Long-Term Sustainable Funding

Problem:

Conservation districts in Washington are consistently facing increasing demand for services with fewer financial resources to address these needs. Several conservation districts have been able to take advantage of an assessment or rates and charges to provide financial resource to meet some local needs. However for most conservation districts local county commissioners have not supported requests to enact these fund sources.

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), like all natural resource state agencies, has faced budget cuts over the past several biennium. The most recent budget for the WSCC was a maintenance level budget with only a few specific funding increases dedicated to programs with specific funding requirements not available to all conservation districts. The state budgets in future years will continue to be constrained by other demands such as K-12 education funding. Continued reliance on state general funds for WSCC and conservation district activities will mean continued competition for limited funds.

Federal funding for natural resource programs is also facing continuing limitations and reductions. Existing fund sources traditionally relied on by districts are being modified with new planning requirements or wider buffers. These changes can limit the attractiveness of these programs for landowners, reducing landowner willingness to take advantage of these resources.

Recommendation:

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and the WSCC should actively pursue implementation of a long-term sustainable fund source for conservation district activities and WSCC programs.

The selection of the specific long-term fund source should be mutually identified by the WACD and the WSCC after broad discussions with conservation districts, stakeholders, and key policy makers including legislators.

The long-term fund source should be identified by May 2016.

When pursuing such a fund source the following criteria should be followed:

1. Allow for local conservation district variation in program implementation to meet local conservation needs.
2. Not jeopardize existing conservation district rates and charges or assessments, while still allowing conservation districts to continue to pursue rates and charges to support local conservation needs.



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Resolution No. 2015-09 (continued)

3. Provide sufficient funding to significantly increase basic funding for all conservation districts.
4. Provide sufficient funding to significantly increase funding for the WSCC to provide programs to support conservation efforts across the state.
5. Engage a variety of stakeholders to support the funding request and support the work of conservation districts and the WSCC.
6. Engage all conservation district supervisors and staff in the development of the funding proposal, and encourage all conservation districts to engage with local stakeholders to better understand the work of their local conservation district and support the funding request.

Presented by: Spokane Conservation District

Approved by the Northeast Area Association on 10/20/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-10

Title: Emergency Response Funding

Problem:

Immediately following natural disasters, local, state, federal, and tribal jurisdictions begin the long process of recovery. This work eventually turns to the evaluation of damages to natural resources and community needs for redevelopment as a means of getting local agriculture and other industries functioning.

Conservation districts in Washington State are uniquely qualified to provide important, and sometimes, critical technical and financial assistance to private landowners affected by natural disasters. Districts know the communities they serve and understand how to quickly triage situations and work with partners to bring the most important resources to bear on the greatest natural resource concerns. Districts employ highly qualified and dedicated technical professionals who are often called upon for technical advice, education, and design of critical conservation practices immediately following fires. Not all Districts have the financial capacity to provide the necessary staff time to adequately meet these needs.

There are dozens of emergency response programs for agriculture housed within federal agencies. However, these programs take considerable time to actually deliver funding and resources to those in need on the ground. Often, smaller amounts of work very early following a disaster can lead to a significantly reduced cost to recover if funded months or even years later. This includes, but is not limited to, seeding disturbed areas to prevent erosion, controlling invasive species, and providing critical business infrastructure.

Recommendation:

WACD support the creation of dedicated funding that can be used by conservation districts in Washington State to provide critical staff support and where appropriate cost-share assistance to disaster recovery operations.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by the North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-11

Title: Professional Engineering Program Funding

Problem:

The WSSC Professional Engineering Services Grants Program provides base funding to support an engineering program in each of 9 regions across Washington State to serve all 45 conservation districts. Engineering services provided include: feasibility studies, assessments, grant application writing, surveys, design, construction management, inspection, contract oversight, project management, program management, project scoping, cost estimating, and budgeting.

The current WSSC budget for each of the 9 areas provides sufficient funding to cover cost of overhead and a portion of one full time engineer's salary. Several of the engineering program regions have struggled to maintain a consistent program due to challenges associated with acquiring and retaining engineering staff due to the funding constraints, lack of technical staff resources, and high workload. The current funding levels have resulted in a high rate of turnover and excessive workload which has adversely affected both programs and projects.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that WACD work with partners to increase the Professional Engineering Services Grants Program funding. This increased support from beyond our traditional funding sources will allow the program sufficient funding to acquire resources to address back logged workload and improve support to each of the districts the program serves.

Presented by: South Central Engineering Area

Approved by the South Central Area Association on 10/14/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-12

Title: District Building Capacity Needs

Problem:

Conservation districts in Washington continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of their communities. Districts develop annual and long range plans that address the resource needs within their district. In order to implement these plans and to address the resource needs, districts have also identified physical building space needs as a potential limiting factor that needs to be addressed. Funding for these building needs is an action that these districts, WACD, the Commission, and potentially other partners need to address.

Recommendation:

WACD and the Washington State Conservation Commission shall develop an action plan to address the land acquisition and physical building space needs of conservation districts. This action plan shall be developed prior to the WACD area meetings in 2016, and potential resolutions shall be developed to implement the plans prior to the 2016 area meetings.

The WACD Board of Directors shall guide the Executive Committee in soliciting a response from all member conservation districts to assess their needs for increased building/space capacity. Districts shall bring their needs to the attention of the Board of Directors prior to development of a WCC biennial budget. The Board of Directors shall determine from this assessment the degree of member districts' interest in pursuing an action plan to secure funding from the Legislature to address this collective need as part of the WSCC – prepared biennial budget. If the Board of Directors incorporates this specific funding item into the WACD legislative/budget strategy for 2017 or beyond, WACD shall support this collective funding request in accordance with priorities set by the Board of Directors. WACD shall work with WSCC, the Governor's Office and the Legislature as directed by the Board of Directors, to support and advance a legislative budget request, including capital budget and other funding options.

If the Board of Directors does not incorporate a collective districts' building/space capacity request into the WACD legislative/budget strategy, the Board shall determine whether any individual capital request from a conservation district is consistent with or conflicts with WACD legislative/budget priorities, in directing a proper level of WACD support or response.

Presented by: Snohomish Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Approved by the Northwest Area Association on 10/6/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-16

Title: Central Washington Weather Radar

Problem:

The National Weather Service maintains weather radars at Airway Heights, Washington and Pendleton, Oregon to cover the vast majority of Eastern Washington. These radars provide weather forecasters critical information regarding weather systems, storms, and potentially hazardous conditions for the public, communities, and industry.

Unfortunately, these weather radars are far enough away from the East slopes of the Cascade Mountain range that their effectiveness is severely diminished to non-existent. During times of predicted hazardous weather, the forecasters and hydrologists of the National Weather Service must issue blanket warnings over large areas because the existing radar doesn't show them actual current conditions to know the exact location of thunder cells and other hazardous weather conditions. The result of these large area warnings is too often many people don't see hazardous weather during a warning and thus become desensitized to the warning system.

With accurate radar coverage, weather systems that could be at the least damaging to property and public infrastructure and at most hazardous to human life can be better monitored and appropriate warnings can be issued.

Weather forecast and radar technology are changing rapidly. Landowners, businesses, agencies, and the resources they manage are threatened by weather related threats that could be better forecast if the right combination of technology is utilized.

Recommendation:

WACD and NACD support the necessary funding to conduct studies to identify, design and implement the proper weather forecast system which resolves the weather radar gaps..

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Substituted and amended by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-17

Title: Improve forest land management on state and federal lands

Problem:

Forested lands and adjacent rangelands and communities across the western US are experiencing a catastrophic increase in uncharacteristically severe wildfires, insect infestations, disease epidemics, habitat loss and hydrologic effects that cause massive erosion.

The underlying causes of these hazards are ecologically and socially complex, and include past management practices, failure to recognize the natural role of fire as a management tool, persistent drought, legal challenges, and lack of adequate funding for federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale fuel reduction and restoration prescriptions.

As of October 2, 2015 the National Fire Information Center reported that over 9 million acres of land have been consumed by fire in the United States this year with several large fires still burning (<https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm>). According to the same source we have lost over 6 million acres to fire in each of the last 10 years on average. Based upon record maintained by the center that date back to 1960, there have only been 7 years in which 8 million acres or more have been consumed by fire. All of these have happened since the 2004 fire year.

Forest lands have changed drastically in the past 100 years, but the effects have been especially acute in the last 25 years. During this time when historic fuel loading has fed explosive and increasingly severe fires, more people and associated infrastructure have moved into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) adjacent to public lands. In spite of this dangerous trend, funding for prescriptive forest management activities on federal lands to restore forest resilience and mitigate risk to adjacent lands, including fuels reduction and prescribed fire, have been drastically cut back.

The lack of adequate restoration funding has also resulted in a significant bottleneck to innovative planning and management tools in which some National Forests have invested (such as the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Restoration Strategy http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340103.pdf). Such tools would enable the federal agencies to implement prescriptions designed to make the forest more resilient to warmer, dryer weather and fire conditions anticipated in the future, balance natural resource protection and management goals, and provide social and economic benefits for local communities and industries.

Lawsuits have also been a barrier, slowing the planning and implementation of fuels reduction projects, reducing effectiveness and adding to the overall cost. In recent years, multi-stakeholder collaborative efforts underway on several national forests across the west are showing promise as a means to overcome litigious gridlock. These efforts, many of which include participation by local Conservation Districts, are playing a critical role in building consensus around the ecological, economic and social interests associated with landscape-scale forest projects.



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Resolution No. 2015-17 (continued)

Recommendation:

WACD and NACD support and continue to support the following:

Federal:

1. Legislation that includes provision for the use of off-budget funding sources (similar to FEMA funding for natural disasters) when USDA or USDI wildfire suppression expenses exceed 70% of the 10 year average;
2. Congressional authorization of at least \$500 million for increased prescribed burning;
3. Congressional authorization of \$1 billion for accelerated forest thinning;
4. Coordinated capacity funding of \$50 million for collaborative efforts to engage forest land managers on a local and regional scale; and
5. Full executive branch support through policy and funding requests to implement locally developed prescriptive management plans for federal, state, tribal, and private forest lands.

State:

1. Legislative authorization of at least \$25 million for increased fuels management on state and private lands including prescribed thinning and burning;
2. Legislative authorization for funding to support and increase collaborative capacity building to engage stakeholders, conduct field trips and build social agreement on projects from planning through implementation and monitoring. Since the range of capacity building needs varies among existing and anticipated collaboratives, establishing a competitive Request for Proposal process that could award up to \$200,000 per collaborative for the next biennium would augment the local and regional investments already committed.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Substituted and amended by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-18

Title: Fuel Buffers along Roads

Problem:

During wildland fire fighting activities, incident commanders and on the ground firefighters look for appropriate and safe places to fight fires. These are often areas of more open timber, natural and human created fuel breaks, and areas with good egress routes if the fire can't be contained.

Recent large fires in Washington State have moved very rapidly across landscapes which have threatened to cutoff primary evacuation routes for residents of the Wildland Urban Interface. It is not uncommon for residents in these rural areas to have only one route of egress which, if cutoff due to fire, puts them at significant risk.

Roads in rural areas could be used as defensive fire control locations if the fuels along them are appropriately treated and controlled.

Recommendation:

WACD support the evaluation and implementation of programs and services that develop wildfire fuel breaks along roads and other rights of way for the purposes of containing wildfire and providing critical ingress and egress routes for residents and emergency service alike.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by the North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-19

Title: Sharing Burned Intensity Data with Non-Federal Burned Area Evaluation Teams

Problem:

The USDA Forest Service developed the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team process in the 1930s and 1940s to identify priority conservation measures following wildfires. The process used has improved over the years largely due to lessons learned from previous wildfire recovery efforts and increasing availability of technology.

One of the most important pieces of technology used by BAER Teams is Burned Area Reflectance Class (BARC) imagery. BARC images are created from a computer comparing a satellite image of the burned area before the fire and after the fire which shows the approximate amount of vegetation lost due to the fire.

Burned Area Reflectance Class imagery is currently only available to federal agencies except following a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Presidential Disaster Declarations are not always declared for smaller wildfires and thus this resource will not be available to local and state wildfire recovery agencies and organizations.

Recommendation:

WACD and NACD support necessary policy changes to allow for the transmittal of critically important technology available to federal agencies to non-federal entities working to perform timely post wildfire evaluation and restoration activities.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-20

Title: Preparedness for Resource Assessments after a Natural Disaster

Problem:

There is a lack of planning, coordination and assistance for resource assessments after a natural disaster, in particular wildfire for state and private lands. Federal agencies have a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program and protocol to assess damages and identify future threats to life, safety and structures. This process also helps with long-term recovery planning.

Specific to Stevens County, the Carpenter Road Fire burned over 60 thousand acres; approximately 50% private ground. The federal and tribal ground was assessed immediately and with no consideration of the private and state lands. A last minute state team was able to assess the private and state grounds. Three separate analyses of the Carpenter Road Fire were made with no cooperation or comparison of results between teams. This cannot be the most efficient use of funds with the best possible results.

Another problem arising from the disaster is timeliness to receive required permits for riparian restoration projects and salvage logging.

Recommendation:

WACD and Conservation Commission work to develop a state natural resource assessment program with stable funding and standard protocols to evaluate state and private ground immediately after a disaster.

WACD and Conservation Commission will ~~try to~~ develop a working relationship with federal agencies to ensure that the entire disaster area is evaluated instead of separating out federal, state and private ownerships.

WACD and Conservation Commission will work to develop this assessment team so it will provide information required by the permitting agency to expedite issuance of permits after a disaster.

WACD and Conservation Commission should invite large corporate landowners to participate in the development and funding of this natural resource disaster assessment program.

Presented by: Stevens County Conservation District

Approved by the Northeast Area Association on 10/20/15

Passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-21

Title: Conservation of Aquatic Farm Lands and Habitat related to Burrowing Shrimp Degradation

Problem:

In the early 1950s 2 species of burrowing shrimp began to expand out of their historic population centers along the west coast of Washington State eliminating habitat stability relied upon by many commercial and noncommercial aquatic species including native shellfish, crab, fish, fauna, etc. This population expansion was first noticed by shellfish growers in Willapa Bay who were losing shellfish crops. From 1963 until 2013 shellfish farmers were permitted through multiple levels of state and federal permitting to control shrimp on a limited amount of commercial shellfish lands with an effective tool that had been proven safe through multiple EISs and years of research. This closely monitored IPM program acted to protect the ability of these farmlands to not only support shellfish beds, but also acted to protect the integrity of these lands for many other species that rely on substrate stability. Currently the permit allowing the only known tool effective at controlling shrimp is not available. The result is the ongoing loss of historic farmlands, and the loss of thousands of acres of habitat.

For over 50 years the shellfish farmers in Willapa and later Grays Harbor have acted out of an economic requirement to control these destructive pests on a small amount of their total farms lands. Permitting restrictions in regard to acre amounts have resulted in farmers losing large portions of historically farmed lands to these pests. The net benefit to the public has been to stabilize these lands so that other species reliant on them had a safe haven as shrimp populations continued to cycle. Now for the first time in 53 years, shellfish farmers have no tool for use to control shrimp populations.

Because other state and federal land managers have not made any significant effort to participate in managing this species, thousands of acres of once productive general habitat areas have been lost. Without an effective control tool it is estimated that between 60% and 80% of the once protected farm lands may be lost. This will result in many farms become non-viable in terms of supporting their overall operational seed and harvest needs for multiple shellfish crops. It will also result in the loss of what is recognized as prime general habitat for many commercial and non-commercial species.

Recommendation:

WACD work with WSCC to advocate that all public land managers adhere to pest species statute in controlling pest species on public lands, while recognizing the overall destructive nature of these species to public resources, agricultural lands, commercial species nursery areas, fish habitat, etc. Advocate that state and federal agencies do not allow public lands under their management to harbor pest species as defined in applicable agricultural definition relevant to pest species. WACD and WSCC support shellfish farmer



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-21 (continued)

efforts to expedite permitting necessary to sustain aquatic farm lands with minimal monitoring or other non-critical permit requirements. Request Conservation Commission to meet with Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, Washington Departments of Ecology, Natural Resources and Agriculture to discuss issues related to invasive species on state owned lands.

Presented by: Pacific Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Amended and passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Amended and passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-22

Title: Recognition for Associate Supervisors

Problem:

We show our appreciation to our Board Members at the WACD Annual Meeting and recognize them with pins for their years of service. However, Associate Supervisors do not get recognition from WACD or fellow districts for their time and volunteer efforts.

Our Associate Supervisors work tirelessly for our District. They come to board meetings, participate in our activities, and provide support alongside our board members. Some have helped our District for many years. Associate Supervisors may not be able to vote at a board meeting, but they are just as involved in our discussions and activities as our Board Members. We appreciate the input, effort, and support everyone provides, regardless of their title. Associate Supervisors work hard for our district and they should be recognized in the same way as Board Members for their dedication and years of service completed.

Recommendation:

WACD recognize Associate Supervisors for their years of service the same way they recognize Board Members at the Annual Meeting.

Presented by: Clark Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Passed by District Operations and Education Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-23

Title: Increased Funding for Professional Engineer Grant

Problem:

A knowledgeable and competent Professional Engineer is vital for habitat restoration projects and structural BMPs. Unfortunately, the current Engineering grant funds are inadequate for maintaining a quality Professional Engineer and the support system for the position. Our Engineering Area districts have been struggling to find and keep an engineer able to do the work because of the low salary. Those interested in the position usually do not have the experience or knowledge needed or only stay a short time until they find something else that pays more. Districts need to offer a competitive salary and support to attract and retain a quality natural resource engineer.

Recommendation:

WACD work with WSCC to prioritize the Professional Engineer grant and increase funding for the program in 2017-2019 biennium.

Presented by: Clark Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Amended and passed by District Operations and Education Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-24

Title: Cultural Resources Review Process Efficiencies

Problem:

Conservation Districts value cultural resources and actively work to preserve local heritage in our work with private landowners. Much of the work Conservation Districts do in the community rely on grant funding from various different agencies. Various funding agencies have different processes and policies for cultural resource considerations. As of May 2015 nine different agencies have lists of practices exempt from doing a cultural resources review from Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) review. It is likely additional agencies will seek exemption lists. These lists vary vastly and some of the lists are quite extensive. For example; several agencies are exempted from review if work is taking place in a previously disturbed area and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is exempted from review for postholes. However, the State Conservation Commission's (WSCC) exemption list does not include these same exemptions. This lack of consistency puts undo stress on smaller organizations, like Conservation Districts, who relies on a variety of funding yet lack the resources to have a designated cultural resource department to sift through different policies and exemptions.

Valuing cultural resources is a high priority, therefore finding efficient and cost-effective ways to ensure cultural resources are not disturbed and are protected is key to compliance while continuing to deliver conservation on the ground.

Recommendation:

With the goal of respecting cultural resources, while efficiently implementing conservation practices on the ground in a cost-effective way, we suggest:

- A. The Conservation Commission and WACD continue to work on behalf of Districts to propose consistency in exempted activities between all appropriate agencies, including consulting with the DAHP, to have a single list of exempted activities with common definitions to bring more efficiency and consistency to the process so that the organizations implementing projects on the ground may have more clarity.
- B. Conservation Commission should allow staff time spent by conservation district staff managing cultural resources review be eligible expenses for grant reimbursement.

Districts should cooperate within districts, WSCC and cooperators to find the most cost effective and time efficient ways.



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Resolution No. 2015-24 (*continued*)

Presented by: Pierce Conservation District

Approved by the Northwest Area Association on 10/6/15

Amended and passed by District Operations and Education Committee on 12/1/15

Amended and passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15