



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

2022 Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
2022-01	Supporting the Recommendations of the HAB Work Group	Whidbey Island
That WACD support the recommendations of the Harmful Algae Bloom Work Group and actively pursues their implementation through the state legislature and local, state, and federal agencies.		
2022-02	Stock Water Rights	Stevens County & Okanogan
WACD will support the continuation of Livestock Task Force of Conservation Districts.		
WACD and WSCC will work collaboratively with private stakeholders, Washington Department of Ecology, Conservation Districts, the Legislature, and all other appropriate agencies to resolve the uncertainty if surface water rights are required for livestock.		
If determined some current livestock operations are non-compliant with a revised Ecology policy in the utilization of surface water, WACD will work with stake holders, Ecology, WSCC, and the legislature to ensure there is a route to comply without enforcement or financial burden.		
2022-04	Good Faith Contracts	Whitman
When the FSA makes a mistake (technical or other) on a signed contract that has been put into practice already, they cannot cancel the contract without just compensation or a comparable “fix” for the producer listed on the contract. They also must notify other agencies about the mistake so there are no surprises to any party that may be involved in any manner.		
2022-05	Streamlining Permitting Process	Stevens County
WACD and WSCC will:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the use of the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) as the standard application dispersed to all required agencies for each proposal. Agencies to determine if permit required not the applicant. • Request funding for the Governor’s Office of Regulatory Assistance. • Will not support any fees or fee increases for restoration, protection, and enhancement projects. • Propose creating specific permitting departments in agencies, separate from regulatory departments. • Promote communication between agencies and the creation of a standardized process of permit movement through required agencies. • Consider supporting improvements and additional funding for the Governor’s Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance to achieve the above goals. 		
2022-06	Cost-Share Rates on Public Lands	Okanogan
WACD resolves to work with the Washington Conservation Commission to seek cost-share rates for projects that occur on public lands that are equitable to projects on private lands.		
2022-07	Ecology Water Bank Program	Okanogan
WACD resolves to work with the Washington Legislature and Department of Ecology to extend the Water Banking Program and lift the \$2 million cap per applicant rule.		



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2022-08	Shared Conservation District Resources	Clark
<p>Resolved, that WACD shall work with WSCC staff and a group of District Managers/District Staff to engage the Association’s membership to address the need and opportunity for expanded shared resources and services for the following areas of need and service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources • Legal Counsel • Information Technology • File/Data Management and Archiving (paper and electronic) • Financial Consulting for Software, Processes, and Policies • Grant Writing • Capacity Building • Training and Education <p>Based on that work, WACD shall develop a list of next steps that shall include the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding options for the support of best practices and compliance for Districts, including: • Grants • Budget requests • The creation of a 501(c)(3) to support District training, infrastructure, education, capacity, and facilitate discounted shared resources. • Opportunities to fund a part-time position to assist with setting up resources and services that Districts could use at a discount. • A list of the most needed resources that are able to be shared. <p>WACD shall report to the membership by June 30, 2023.</p>		
2022-09	Removing population criteria and per parcel maximum annual rate	Pierce & Thurston
<p>WACD to work with conservation districts, Washington State Conservation Commission, others, and the legislature to change Chapter 89.08 RCW, dropping the population criteria in section 405(3), and removing the maximum annual rate per parcel to allow local jurisdictions to set their own maximum rates.</p>		
2022-11	Review of FSA Practice Standards	Foster Creek
<p>Request for USDA FSA and NRCS to expedite the review of existing program standards expanding practices and practice standards to include more regenerative ag practices, while ensuring the necessary training and awareness for staff, partners, and local cooperators is being provided.</p>		
2022-12	NRCS Easements and easement programming recommended areas of improvement	Skagit
<p>WACD supports NRCS & FSA considering the following improvements to ALE-ACEP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WACD will work with and seek NRCS and NACD to support expanding the cost share cap for ACEP-ALE transactions from 50% to 75% and consider certain expenses. 2. WACD will work with state FSA-NRCS and solicit NACD support to enhance partnership with FSA-NRCS addressing challenges in USDA eligibility in FSA and NRCS programs. 		



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3. WACD will recommend NACD support development of exceptions to land eligibility requirements for NIPF.		
2022-13	Proposed Legislation Regarding CD Elections for 2023 Session	Palouse
WACD to support the WSCC action from the September 22, 2022 Commission meeting. WACD and WSCC to engage with key legislators and partners to support and sponsor HB 1652, as adopted by the House Committee on State Government and Tribal Relations in 2022, for the 2023 Legislative Session.		

2021 Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
2021-01	WACD establish workgroup to evaluate HAB problem and funding	Whidbey Island
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.		
2021-02	Request for NRCS to update the reimbursable rate for riparian practices	Skagit
WACD supports working with NACD to request NRCS re-evaluate their payment rate for riparian practices (612, 614, 490, 382, 384, 395, 643, 647, others as identified), and to adopt a new rate that recognizes the true regional cost of implementing effective riparian restoration		
2021-03	Reverse New FSA Emergency Conservation Program Rules on Fencing	Okanogan
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.		
2021-04	Support WA NRCS Approval for Cost-Share for Soil Carbon Amendment	Okanogan
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.		
2021-05	Livestock Riparian Water Rights	Stevens County
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.		
WACD shall also create a Livestock Task Force to address the issue of livestock water rights and others livestock issues as identified.		



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<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>		
2021-06	Solar Panel Position Statement	South Central Area Association
<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 a recommendation on the position at the Annual Business Meeting in 2022.</p>		
2021-07	WACD establish a sustainable funding committee	Northwest Area Association
<p>The WACD president establishes (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. WACD may be considered as a recipient of possible sources of revenue, for distribution to CDs. 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.</p>		
2021-08	Workplace Improvement: Policy Refinements	Cowlitz
<p>WACD to work with WSCC to craft template language for a grievance policy and procedure that conservation districts may choose to adopt or adapt.</p>		
2021-09	Stable Funding for CD Wildfire Risk Assessments	Okanogan
<p>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.</p>		
2021-10	Establish Area Cost Share Rates	Lincoln County
<p>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.</p>		
2021-11	Request for WACD to prioritize balanced budget	Walla Walla County
<p>That WACD prioritize maintaining funding levels of existing programs when seeking new funding.</p>		
2021-12	Require agencies to be fully transparent and clearly identifiable on all official contact/activities dealing with property owners	Columbia
<p>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.</p>		



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2021-13	WACD Support for Overtime Exemption During Harvest Periods	Franklin
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.		
2021-14	Correcting Technological caused issues from 2020 WACD meeting	North Yakima
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.		
2021-16	Supervisor Code of Conduct	North Yakima
That WSCC and the WACD Board of Directors (as defined in WACD's Bylaws) 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.		
2021-17	CD Elections	Association
That WACD adopt the four recommendations from the Joint Committee on Elections.		
2021-18	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Recommendations	Association
That WACD adopts the proposed policy statement and recommendations of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.		

2020 Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
2020-01	WACD Revolving Fund to Build CD Capacity	Whatcom
Resolved, WACD shall investigate the advisability of establishing a revolving fund to provide lines of credit to districts with demonstrated need for funds to capture grant or contract funding. It shall report back by September 1, 2021.		
2020-02	Support SCC operating and capital budget requests for FY21-23 biennium	Palouse
WACD will work closely with all conservation districts statewide, SCC and other partners, to fully support the SCC operating and capital budget requests for the FY21-23 biennium through contacts with the Governor's Office of Financial Management and Legislators.		
2020-03	Extending Electronic Training Resources	Okanogan
WACD supports the increased use of electronic and remote learning opportunities as a part of training programs for conservation districts that is provided by state conservation agencies and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.		



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2020-04	Rural Broadband Internet Access	South Central Area
<p>WACD supports increased rural broadband internet and cell phone access, infrastructure, and affordability for all working lands and residents.</p>		
2020-05	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement & Work Plan Development	Pierce & Clark
<p>WACD will convene a committee to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy recommendation by September 2021. This recommendation will be provided to all Conservation Districts for consideration at their Area Meetings with action by the WACD at its annual meeting.</p> <p>The Task Force will also provide information, suggested resources, and guidance for districts that are interested in developing their own diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.</p>		
2020-06	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement	King
<p>WACD will create a DEI Committee that will consider the following actions and develop any recommendations by September 2021 to all Conservation Districts for consideration at their Area Meetings for possible action by the WACD at its annual meeting.to include but not limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commission and WACD help conservation districts to work with underrepresented communities in their service area to understand what natural resource concerns are important to them and to find ways to incorporate those natural resources concerns into the conservation district’s book of business. 2. To encourage conservation districts to prioritize equity in the services they offer and in employment decisions. 3. That the Commission and WACD organize annual diversity, equity, and inclusion seminars that are made available to all Conservation District Supervisors and Managers. 4. That WACD and the Commission work with districts to make elections more public and to ensure that communities of color are engaged around elections. 5. That the commission recruits and retains a diversity, equity, and inclusion officer that will work with the election’s officer to promote engagement of communities of color across the state and address the disparity gap around services and elections. 6. That WACD asks conservation districts and the Washington State Conservation Commission to take actions to encourage more diversity in conservation district supervisor positions both elected and appointed. 		
2020-09	WACD Member Services Review	Pierce
<p>WACD to engage the Association’s membership to understand the possible need for more shared services resources or different services resources from the Association and then research ways of providing important support to conservation districts.</p>		



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2020-10	Conservation District Election Improvements	King
WACD is committed to working with the Legislature and Washington State Conservation Commission on election issues.		

2019 Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
2019-02	Grazing CRP as a Mid-Management Practice	Whitman
To rejuvenate CRP stands and reduce fuel loads, proscribed grazing should be added as an eligible mid-contract maintenance practice.		
2019-03	Loss of Crop Protection Products	Palouse
NACD supports retaining crop protection products until suitable replacements are found coupled with education on the benefits of these products.		
2019-04	Identifying on-farm renewable energy development/use & soil health practice adoption as high priority goals.	Whatcom and Spokane
The Washington Association of Conservation Districts supports increased adoption of soil health systems as well as the development and use of renewable energy sources by farmers and other landowners within the State of Washington. The WACD Board, Executive Director and Lobbyist shall participate in discussions likely to lead to legislation or WSCC funding packages to ensure that conservation districts are integral to the delivery of technical and financial assistance, on a voluntary basis, implement soil health practices; and develop and use on-farm renewable energy sources.		
2019-05	Support legislation to restrict out of basin water transfers.	Okanogan
WACD shall support legislation, rulemaking, and agency policy that restricts, inhibits, or denies the transfer of water rights outside of the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) in which they are originally located.		
2019-06	Support legislation to authorize rangeland fire protection districts.	Okanogan
WACD shall support legislation that authorizes and supports the creation of rangeland fire protection districts in Washington State.		
2019-07	Community Forest Bill	Central Klickitat
WACD supports the Community Forest bill to include conservation district eligibility and working lands philosophy, its passage and implementation by the WA Legislature that will foster equity and inclusion in community forest funding opportunities. The resulting program shall be developed to foster local leadership and management in rural communities.		
2019-08	Improving Association & District Governance Processes	Whatcom, King, and Spokane
The WACD Board shall identify an effective model of governance and work to implement it completely. Further, WACD shall advocate to the WSCC that it supports all districts interested in		



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improving district governance and additionally provide continuing education to supervisors and managers in its implementation to attain and maintain a high level of competency and performance.		
2019-11	Improve Hydraulic Permit Approval Statue	King, Okanogan, and Mason
Resolved, WACD shall work with WDFW, WSCC, conservation districts, and legislators to support the passage of this bill as a top priority of the Association.		
2019-12	Support CD funding for implementing Community Resiliency Programs	Okanogan and Skagit
WACD shall work with the Governor and the Washington State Legislature to support funding to conservation districts for implementing community resiliency programs, fire fuels reduction, forest health, and fire recovery work that is carried out in partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources and other partners.		
2019-13	Addressing State Policy on Water Quantity and Availability	Cowlitz
WACD and WSCC to designate a person to track the implementation of R.C.W. 90.94 and communicate to all 45 Washington State Conservation Districts the status in each W.R.I.A. to the Conservation District or multiple Conservation Districts in that watershed. This needs a coordinated approach to this statewide issue, which can be different by watershed.		
2019-14	WSCC Criteria for Allegations Against Supervisors	Thurston
WACD work with WSCC to draft a policy for consideration by the WSCC establishing criteria and process to timely address allegations brought to WSCC about supervisors, both spurious and non-spurious, in order to address them quickly and equitably.		
2019-15	Sustainable funding for State Conservation Commission	Thurston
WACD shall work with WSCC and the Long-term Sustainable Funding Committee to recommend a sustainable funding option for the Conservation Commission and the Legislature to support CD services, such as revenue from a dedicated fee or direct authority for Rates and Charges.		
2019-19	Local Work Group Emphasis in WA Conservation	Central Klickitat
WACD supports working with NRCS and local leadership on local workgroups in implementing conservation programs.		
2019-22	CD Eligibility for RCO Grants	Eastern Klickitat
WACD shall work with RCO and legislators to implement policy revisions to allow CDs to compete more fully in RCO grant categories.		
2019-23	Conservation District Status as Government Entities	Eastern Klickitat
WACD will work to clarify in RCW and WAC that CDs are recognized as tax exempt local units of Washington state government.		
2019-24	Community Project Funding	Underwood
WACD supports SCC Commission to help create a modified NRI or capital funding stream that allows Districts to act as the contractual recipient and spend funds for specific projects involving multiple landowners in a single area with a common purpose regardless of district priority.		



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2019-26	RCW 89.08.405 3(a) Maximum Annual per Parcel Rate	Benton and Franklin
<p>WACD shall explore Changing RCW 89.08.405 sub 3(a) in the following manner:</p> <p>RCW 89.08.405</p> <p>(3)(a) The system of rates and charges may include an annual per acre amount, an annual per parcel amount, or an annual per parcel amount plus an annual per acre amount. If included in the system of rates and charges, the maximum annual per acre rate or charge shall not exceed ten cents per acre. The maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed fifteen dollars.</p>		

2018 Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
2018-03	Feasibility study to simplify annual WACD dues calculations and rankings	Lewis
<p>To simplify dues assessment, WACD should study the feasibility of making the dues structure more accurate and equitable. The study would be completed in time to report to the membership by the 2019 WACD meeting.</p>		
2018-04	Addressing State Policy on Water Quantity and Availability	Cowlitz
<p>WACD and WSCC to each designate a person to track the implementation of this R.C.W. and communicate to all 45 Washington State Conservation Districts the status in each W.R.I.A to the Conservation district or multiple Conservation Districts in that watershed. This needs a coordinated approach to this statewide issue, which can be different by watershed.</p>		
2018-05	Fully staff local Natural Resource Conservation Services offices	South Douglas
<p>WACD shall work with State NRCS to urge them to fully staff local offices for technical support for Conservation Districts to complete natural resource programs.</p>		
2018-05	Fully staff local Natural Resource Conservation Services offices	South Douglas
<p>WACD shall work with State NRCS to urge them to fully staff local offices for technical support for Conservation Districts to complete natural resource programs.</p>		
2018-06	Allow Local Foods to be Purchased for Public Meeting Refreshments	Okanogan
<p>WACD shall work with the Washington State Conservation Commission, other agencies as they deem appropriate, and the Governor's office to make this support of locally grown agriculture possible.</p>		
2018-07	Allow Dike Maintenance without Emergency Declaration	Okanogan
<p>WACD shall work with the Washington State Conservation Commission and the necessary regulatory agencies to ensure private landowners may conduct normal annual maintenance of existing dikes without the need of an emergency declaration.</p>		



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2018-08	Amend the method for determining EQIP funding levels for each area	Okanogan
WACD shall work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to evaluate and amend the allocation formula for EQIP in Washington State with input from each local work group and adjust said formula as appropriate.		
2018-09	Supporting Funding for the Fire Adapted Communities, Forest / Rangeland Health Program	Okanogan, Skagit, and Underwood
WACD shall support state budget legislation that proposes to effectively fund Conservation Districts, through the Conservation Commission, to implement the program as outlined in the Washington State Conservation Commission Fire Adapted Communities, Forest / Rangeland Health budget decision package.		
WACD work with the Conservation Commission and partners to advance this position with the Governor during his budget development, and with the Legislature in the 2019 legislative		
2018-10	Allow Increased NRCS Attendance at Conservation District Board Meetings	Okanogan
WACD shall work with NACD to urge, in the strongest terms possible, that USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service should revise this policy to increase instead of limiting or restricting participation at these meetings.		
2018-11	Allow Programmatic Funding in Commission's Natural Resource Investment	Okanogan
WACD shall work with the Conservation Commission and interested Washington conservation districts to develop criteria for programmatic applications for the Commission's Natural Resource Investment funds.		
2018-13	Support for Regional Conservation Planning Training	Grant County
WACD work with the SCC/Center for Technical Development, WADE, NCDEA, and neighboring states to urge NACD to support flexibility for holding additional conservation planning boot camps, or similar, training sessions on a state level scale each year. These boot camps/trainings would utilize NRCS-provided curriculum and trainers for quality, consistent training while still allowing for specific regional needs to be addressed. Training event coordination and logistical coordination would be supplied by state level partners.		
2018-14	Support for Regional Conservation Planning Training	Palouse
WACD work with the WA Conservation Commission, other interested parties, WA Conservation Districts, WADE, NCDEA, neighboring states, and state conservation agencies to urge NACD to support flexibility for holding additional conservation planning boot camps, or similar, training sessions on a regional scale each year. These boot camps/trainings would utilize NRCS-provided curriculum and trainers for quality, consistent training while still allowing for specific regional needs to be addressed. Training event coordination and logistical coordination would be supplied by regional partners.		



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2018-15	Conservation Practices on Prevented Planting Acres	Palouse
<p>WACD and WSCC to support the development of a Washington growers collaborative effort to address the needs of Washington growers to effectively and efficiently enhance the implementation of conservation practices on prevented planting acres in an effort to protect future soil productivity and past conservation investments to improve soil health and water quality by minimizing soil erosion on prevented planting acres. WACD to work with NACD and RMA at a national level to enhance the implementation of conservation practices on prevented planting acres.</p>		
2018-16	Funding allocation to conservation districts	Palouse
<p>WACD to work with WSCC and other interested parties to develop objective allocation criteria for all operating and capital funding available to conservation districts. Consideration should be given to developing funding/grant application processes to include publishing allocation and ranking criteria at the time the request for proposals is announced.</p>		
2018-17	Conservation Impacts of Straw Removal and Transportation	Palouse
<p>WACD to work with WSCC, WSU, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and other interested parties to research and disseminate information on potential natural resources conservation issues related to agricultural biomass removal and transportation.</p>		
2018-18	CRP Soil Rental Rates and Soil Productivity Factors	Asotin County
<p>Work with NACD and FSA at a national level to review the methods used to determine Soil Rental Rates. Develop alternative methods that more accurately reflect soil value and considers the environmental benefits provided by the CRP programs.</p>		