



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

2004 Resolutions

Number	Status	Resolution Title
2004-001	Failed	Revised access for Conservation Districts to Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species Data
2004-002	Passed	Standardization of GIS projection and coordinate system
2004-003	Passed	Removal of disincentives for protection of cultural resources
2004-004	Passed	Procedure for filling appointed positions at the Commission
2004-005	Failed	Cap on assessment amounts per landowner
2004-006	Failed	Amend RCW 89.08.400
2004-007	Failed	Endorsement of a Natural Resources Youth Camp
2004-008	Passed	Basic Funding Allocation
2004-009	Passed	Consolidated Health Care Benefits
2004-010	Passed	Consistency between State Auditor's Office and Field Offices
2004-011	Passed	Conservation Security Program
2004-012	Passed	Conservation Districts should be consulted prior to the termination of grazing permits on Federal Lands
2004-013	Passed	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Weed Control
2004-014	Passed	Practice Incentive payment (PIP) Loan for Continuous CRP
2004-015	Passed	Establish Washington State Law to limit fiscal liability of persons who used prescribed burning as a forest management tool
2004-016	Passed	Forestry Assistance Programs
2004-017	Passed	Support for use of Agricultural and Silvicultural offsets in Carbon trading Paradigms.
2004-018	Passed	Privacy rights for livestock producers participating in AFO/ CAFO permitting process
2004-019	Passed	Annual meeting date
2004-020	Passed	Article XII – Committees and Task Forces
2004-021	Passed	Amendment to the Articles of Association
2004-022	Passed	By-Laws Amendment
2004-023	Passed	Funding educational endeavors through WACD
2004-024	Failed	Need for Indian Tribes to coordinate with respective Conservation Districts before they perform water quality work off reservations
2004-025	Passed	Powers of the Officers and Directors of WACD
2004-026	Failed	Task Force
2004-027	Passed	Support for the WACD Plant Materials Center
2004-028	Failed	WACD dues structure timeline
2004-029	Passed	Increasing the flexibility and adaptability of EQIP
2004-030	Passed	WACD provides a template and training in forming a Conservation Association
2004-031	Passed	Improved Communication with Districts
2004-032	Passed	On Farm Energy Production task force
2004-033	Passed	Option to use Total Ecoli Method Coli/Ecoli 9223B instead of Total Fecal Coliform method 9221 B1, 2, C&1



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

2004-034	Passed	Septic System Assistance Program
2004-035	Passed	NRCS staff are spending too much time addressing administrative requirements of programs.
2004-036	Passed	Expanding seed certification procedures in Washington State to include private, independently owned seed testing laboratories.
2004-037	Passed	Maintain local working group (LWG) involvement in EQIP Implementation.
2004-038	Passed	Assessment Strategy assistance coalition/advisory group



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-001

Title: Revised access for Conservation Districts to Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitat and Species Data

Status:

Many State and Federal grant programs require knowledge of Priority Habitats and Species an official database currently maintained by WDFW in the area affected by the grant deliverables. Currently access to this information is limited to individual sites and/or species by request only.

Problem:

Grant deadlines and time constraints often prevent effective grant applications because Priority Habitats and Species information is not readily available. The current system also makes it impossible to actively research species specific habitat improvement projects in a specific sub-basin or area of concern because Priority Habitats and Species information is only given for specific requests.

Recommendation:

WACD request improved access for Conservation Districts to Priority Habitats and Species information for large area conservation planning and habitat protection and improvement purposes.

Presented by: Pend Oreille Conservation District

Recommend: DO NOT PASS

Motion: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

Second: No second – FAILED

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-002

Title: Standardization of Geographic Information System (GIS) projection and coordinate system.

Problem:

There exists no standardization of GIS projection and coordinate systems between Conservation Districts and other state and federal agencies. The majority of agencies have gone to NAD83 based coordinate systems, however, WDFW continues to hold out and use the NAD27 based systems. Other Conservation Districts and agencies continue to choose from the myriad of systems. When data is shared, layers will not align properly unless the geographic (spatial) information is translated.

Recommendation:

~~Stevens County Conservation District recommends that the WACD~~ sponsor a request to contact the Washington State Legislature to have them establish a diversified working group to set a state-wide GIS standard.

Presented by: Stevens County Conservation District

Motion: Mark Curtis, Stevens County Conservation District

Second: Bas Scholten, Whatcom Conservation District

Recommend: DO PASS

Motion: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

Second: Lynn Brown, Kittitas Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Amendment passed.

2nd Amendment

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Amendment passed.

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-003

Title: Removal of disincentives for protection of cultural resources

Problem:

The State of Washington, through the Centennial Accord and other agreements has helped create better relations between the State and Tribal Governments. Part of enhancing the state/tribal relationship is better management of cultural resources.

Conservation districts have numerous projects with private landowners that are near riparian areas and therefore near cultural resources. If during the planning or implementation of Best Management Practices, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), or other projects, there is a "hit" on possible cultural resources, an investigation of those resources is required. The average cost of cultural resource investigations range from \$1,000 - \$30,000 each. Because cultural resource investigations are not an allowable expense for many state and federal funding sources, the landowner currently bears the full cost. The costs of cultural resource investigations have discouraged landowners from participating in programs that improve riparian habitat and water quality.

Recommendation:

WACD, WADE and the Conservation Commission will endorse legislation and associated budgets that are consistent with and implement the following policy: When public benefits are being achieved on privately owned land with public resources and, in the course of achieving those public benefits, the obligations for any cultural resource investigations will not fall to the private landowner; further

~~WACD FSA, WACD, WADE, the Conservation Commission and NRCS, in consultation with FSA, WADE, the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation, the tribes when necessary, and NRCS, and the State Historic Preservation Office, will create a model cultural resources program, consistent with laws, rules and further legislation, which includes procedures, plans and associated budgets for coordination of state, local, federal and/or tribal archeological expertise so that public entities that do not house such expertise can access it at no cost.~~

Presented by: Columbia Conservation District

Motion: Duane Weston, Snohomish Conservation District

Second: Bas Scholten, Whatcom Conservation District

Recommend: ***Do Pass as amended***

Motion: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

Second: Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin County Conservation District

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution #2004-004

Title: Procedure for filling appointed positions at the Commission.

Problem:

No formal notification policy to Conservation Districts by the Washington Conservation Commission of other interested participants to fill open appointment positions at Conservation Districts.

Recommendation:

The Washington Conservation Commission (WCC) should work closely with the Conservation District that has multiple interested participants to fill appointment position by notifying the CD at least 45 days before the next Conservation Commission Meeting. This will allow the CD to discuss the appointment position with all interested participants at a regular CD board meeting and make a recommendation to WSCC on whom they feel would best represent the CD.

Presented by: Upper Grant Conservation District

Motion: Dave Stadelman, Upper Grant Conservation District

Second: Sharon Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Ron Juris, Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Co Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-005

Title: Cap on assessment amounts per landowner.

Problem:

Current law does not allow a cap to be placed on the maximum amount that an individual private landowner could be liable for if a conservation district assessment was enacted. In some instances the amount assessed can be excessive for individuals who have had their property divided into smaller parcels, yet continue to utilize the land for grazing or larger farming operations. Conservation districts may want to use a cap amount when developing assessment proposals.

Recommendation:

That the District Operations Task Force review this situation and, if possible, request a change in the assessment law that would allow an option for a cap amount to be utilized.

Presented by: Chelan County Conservation District

Motion: John McLean, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Dave Stadelman, Upper Grant Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Ron Juris, E Klickitat Conservation District

Second: Dave Stadelman, Upper Grant Conservation District

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-006

Title: Amend RCW 89.08.400 (Special Assessments for natural resources conservation) to raise the maximum allowable assessment from \$5.00 (five dollars) per parcel per year to \$10.00 (ten dollars) per parcel per year for all parcels located within the District boundary.

Problem:

Currently under state law, \$5.00 per parcel is the maximum limit a conservation district can assess property within its boundaries. This law dates way back and should now reflect a more modern assessment structure. For comparison, many counties and cities currently charge Surface Water management fees in excess of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) per parcel per year. Some Districts that currently have assessments are being held back by this five -dollar per parcel maximum from accomplishing work that we can do more cost effectively than any other public entity. Partnerships with other municipalities (member cities) other special purpose districts (health and shellfish) and other governments necessitate the need for this change. In addition, smaller districts will have more incentive to try for an assessment since the new level will make it worthwhile.

Recommendation:

WACD should support legislation to amend RCW. 89.08.400 to modernize the conservation district special assessment for natural resources conservation and raise the maximum limit to ten dollars per parcel per year.

Presented by: King Conservation District

Motion: Max Prinsen, King Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Ron Juris, Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

Second: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Kelly Niemi, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz Conservation District

Amendment to send back to DO Committee failed.

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-007

Title: Endorsement of a Natural Resources Youth Camp

Problem:

Conservation Districts throughout Washington State encourage natural resource camps for youth. These camps provide unique leadership development and educational opportunities in natural resources. Unfortunately, conservation districts divide their support between two regional camps, which each experience some difficulties with finances and staffing high-quality programs. The youth of Washington would be better served if all the conservation districts limit their support to one camp. The combined resources of all conservation districts would strengthen the camp program and provide an opportunity from students across the state to share information about their own local natural resource concerns.

Recommendation:

WACD encourages all conservation districts to support one natural resources youth camp.

Presented by: Benton Conservation District

Motion: Tim Kopf, Benton Conservation District

Second: Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz Conservation District

Recommend: Do Not Pass

Motion: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Chris Heitstuman, Palouse Conservation District

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-008
REVISED COPY

Title: Basic Funding Allocation

Problem:

The Washington State legislature has authorized up to \$22,500 ~~per biennium~~ annually as basic funding for each conservation district in the state. In the past several biennium, the basic funding award has been short of the authorized level. Many conservation districts do not have the sources of stable funding sufficient to keep their offices open to the public with certainty. Basic funding levels have not been keeping up with the increasing demands placed upon districts and the annual increases in the cost of doing business.

Recommendation:

That the Washington Association of Conservation Districts seek to increase the basic funding. ~~maximum authorized amount commensurate with inflation and the cost of doing business and fund at the authorized level.~~

Presented by: Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Conservation Districts

Motion: Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Bob Allison, Warden Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-009

Title: Consolidated Health Care Benefits

Problem:

Individual districts have been responsible for the health care benefits afforded to employees. As individual districts, it may not be possible to provide group numbers in sufficient quantities to receive quality benefits at reasonable premiums. Thurston Conservation District has taken the initiative to explore health care benefits issues in order to access whether opportunities exist for districts to join together in order to receive group benefits with more competitive premiums.

Recommendation:

That the Washington Association of Conservation Districts explore group pool opportunities on behalf of Conservation District staff, Conservation Commission staff, and other appropriate entities.

Presented by: Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Conservation Districts

Motion: Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-010

Title: Consistency between State Auditor's Office and Field Offices

Problem:

The State Auditor's Office is responsible for auditing districts across the state. The regional field office staff is assigned locally to complete the audits. The problem is that each regional office interprets rules differently, thereby providing districts with inconsistent information across the state. This information can be anything from how BPA funds are reported to how district owned property is taxed.

Recommendation:

~~WACD work with WCC and the State Auditor's Office to provide consistent information to districts during state and federal audits.~~

That WACD, WCC and the Washington State Auditors office provide consistent and identifiable requirements for all audits conducted by the Washington State Auditors office.

Presented by: Asotin County Conservation District

Motion: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Second: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Sharon Call, Kitsap Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-011

Title: Conservation Security Program

Problem:

Money wasn't distributed in an equitable way due to reduced funding..

Recommendation:

Fund the Conservation Security Program at the ~~original funding level~~, full entitlement level by contacting House and Senate appropriation committees, USDA, FSA and NRCS, NACD, Farm Bureau and national and state Wheat Associations so all farmers can apply for funding in an equal manner. Eliminate watershed concepts. Give authority to local and regional entities to write CSP rules and guidelines.

Presented by: Lincoln County Conservation District

Motion: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Jim Druffel, Palouse Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane Co Conservation District

Second: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek

Amendment:

Motion: Paul Stoker, Othello Conservation District

Second: Lynn Brown, Kittitas Co Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-012

Title: Conservation Districts should be consulted prior to the termination of grazing permits on Federal Lands.

Problem:

Grazing rights on Federal Lands are being terminated without the Federal Government consulting with the local Conservation Districts prior to termination.

Recommendation:

~~Stevens County Conservation District recommends~~ That the WACD ~~contact the~~ work with Conservation Commission and Washington State Legislature to have them pass a resolution and that NACD work with the Federal Government to officially recognize the need for the Federal Government to include the local Conservation District in the decision making process when the termination of grazing permits are being debated.

Presented by: Stevens County Conservation District

Motion: Tom McKern, Stevens County Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane Co Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Larry Cochrane, Palouse Conservation District

Second: Chris Heistuman, Palouse Conservation District

Amendment Passed.

2nd Amendment:

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Second: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

2nd Amendment Passed.

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-013

Title: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Weed Control

Problem:

Noxious weeds are not being effectively controlled on a significant portion of lands enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This is caused by a number of problems, including but not limited to the property being controlled or managed by absentee land owners, disregard for the requirements imposed by the Program and the responsibilities outlined in the federal contract they signed, and reliance on local county weed boards that lack the resources to handle the problem. Because of our association with federal conservation programs and our role as providing resources to land owners, this reflects negatively on Conservation Districts and conservation efforts as a whole throughout the state.

~~Also, most noxious weeds of concern in CRP are broadleaf. Requiring legumes (broadleaf) as part of a CRP seed mix prevents effective control of most noxious weeds, adding to the overall problem.~~

Recommendation:

1. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) request a formal policy clarification from both the Farm Service Agency (FSA) State office and the State Weed Board regarding their responsibilities in enforcing the weed control requirements mandated in the federal CRP contracts.
2. Request that FSA hire the additional necessary staff to monitor and enforce the weed control requirements contained in the signed federal contracts.
- ~~3. Request that FSA remove the legume component requirement in the CRP seed mix.~~

Presented by: Palouse Conservation District

Motion: Jim Druffel, Palouse Conservation District

Second: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Chris Herron, Franklin Conservation District

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-014

Title: Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) Loan for Continuous CRP

Problem:

Landowners that enroll in the USDA CREP and Continuous CRP (CCRP) programs and install CP-22 riparian forest buffer practices have made a huge commitment to improving riparian habitats along streams in Washington State. Not only are they setting aside the riparian area and excluding livestock from the streams for 10 – 15 years, they are also incurring a heavy financial burden to install fences, off-stream water and planting trees. The USDA pays for 90% of their installation costs up to certain limits for CREP and CCRP. Fifty percent of the installation cost is paid at the time components are certified, but the remaining 40% is not paid until the entire conservation plan is implemented, which sometimes can take two to three years.

To assist landowners with this financial burden, the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) has provided a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) loan to landowners enrolled in the CREP program. This loan is a zero-interest loan that is made to landowners based on costs of component implementation. The landowner assigns their PIP payment to the Commission and Farm Service Agency pays the PIP directly to the Commission rather than the landowner. The Commission has a revolving pool of money available for PIP loans. Once a loan is paid by FSA, the money is returned to the fund for continued use. The attached table shows how the program could work for CCRP.

Landowners that enroll in the CCRP program don't have access to this PIP loan. They must carry the financial burden of practice installation until all of the components in the plan are installed. This has slowed enrollment in the CCRP program because of the cash flow crunch landowners feel with money tied up in the implementation process. Having access to the PIP loan would improve water quality and riparian habitats throughout the State through increased enrollment.

Recommendation:

1. WACD work with WSCC and the legislature to include landowners that enroll in Continuous CRP and install CP-22 riparian forest buffer practices in the Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) loan program available through the WSCC.
2. WSCC authorize staff time for the paperwork involved in the CCRP PIP Loan process to be a grant eligible expense through the implementation grant and the CREP grant.

Presented by: Asotin County Conservation District

Motion: Bas Scholten, Whatcom Conservation District

Second: Duane Weston, Snohomish Conservation District

Recommend: **Do Pass with addendum**

Motion: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

Second: Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin Conservation District

PASSED WITH ADDEDUM.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

**Resolution No: 2004-014
Addendum**

FOR THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – Loans (05-4-003)

The appropriation in this section is subject to the following conditions and limitations: The Conservation Assistance Revolving Account appropriation is provided solely for loans under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Appropriation:

Conservation Assistance Revolving Account—State	\$500,000
Prior Biennia (Expenditures)	\$0
Future Biennia (Projected Costs)	\$0
TOTAL	\$500,000

PART 4

MISCELLANEOUS

New section. **Sec. 901.** A new section is added to chapter 89.08 RCW to read as follows:

- (1) The Conservation Assistance Revolving Account is created in the custody of the State Treasurer. The account shall be administered by the Conservation Commission. Moneys from the account may only be spent after appropriation. Moneys placed in the account shall include principal and interest from the repayment of any loans granted under this section, and any other moneys appropriated to the account by the legislature. Expenditures from the account may be used to make loans to landowners for projects enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- (2) In order to aid the financing of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects, the Conservation Commission, through the conservation districts, may make interest-free loans to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program enrollees from the Conservation Assistance Revolving Account. The Conservation Commission may require such terms and conditions as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Loans to landowners shall be for costs associated with the installation of conservation improvements eligible for and secured by federal Farm Service Agency practice incentive payment reimbursement. Loans under this program promote critical habitat protection and restoration by bridging the financing gap between project implementation and federal funding. The Conservation Commission shall give loan preferences to those projects expected to generate the greatest environmental benefits and that occur in basins with critical or depressed salmonid stocks. Money received from landowners in loan repayments made under this section shall be paid into the Conservation Assistance Revolving Account for uses consistent with this section.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-015

Title: Establish Washington State Law to limit ~~fiscal~~ civil liability of persons who use prescribed burning as a ~~forest~~ management tool.

Problem:

Natural vegetative communities require periodic (3-12 years in Eastern Washington) fires for maintenance of their ecological integrity. Because of public concerns, especially for liability, wildfires can no longer be allowed to perform this mandatory function. Prescribed burning is essential to manage these plant and animal communities.

“Wildfires, fed by dry underbrush and high winds, have destroyed hundreds of homes in Washington State over the past decade. As development continues, the danger increases each year. Over the past few fire seasons we have seen an increase in urban wildland interface fires due to the fact that more and more people are moving out into the forests. The magnitude of damage done by fires is difficult to grasp. Since 2001, there have been 22 state fire mobilizations resulting in approximately 235,000 acres being burned at a cost of nearly \$7 million.”¹

While the increased risk of catastrophic wildland fire is often blamed on long-term drought or expansion of the wildland-urban interface in the Western United States, the underlying cause is the buildup of forest fuel and changes in vegetation composition over the last century. Unnaturally dense stands competing for limited water and nutrients are at increased risk of unnaturally intense wildland fires and insect or disease epidemics.²

Recommendation:

WACD work with the appropriate agencies and the Washington State legislature to develop the necessary language in Washington State law to protect permitted land managers from civil liability when prescribed burning is used as a management tool.

Present By: Okanogan Conservation District

Motion: *Albert Roberts, Okanogan Conservation District*

Second: *John Boulton, Jefferson Conservation District*

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: *Kelly Niemi, Cowlitz Conservation District*

Second: *Duane Weston, Snohomish Conservation District*

¹ Washington State Patrol’s Media Relations Officer Greg Pressel; Story “Wildfire Season Draws Near; Guard Prepares” by SGT Charles Ames—Posted at http://www.washingtonguard.com/fo-Fire_Prep_04.html, May, 2004.

² *Increased Risk of Catastrophic Fire*, The Healthy Forests Initiative and Healthy Forests Restoration Act, Interim Field Guide; US Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service & US Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management; FS-799, February 2004.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Amendment:

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Dean Longrie, Clark Conservation District

Amendment Passed.

2nd Amendment

Motion: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Conservation District

Amendment Passed.

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-016

Title: Forestry Assistance Programs

Problem:

Of the forest land base in Washington State about 16 million acres is forested. Of this forested land base about half (8 million acres) is in private ownership. Of the private ownership, about half (4 million acres) is managed by about 96,000 non industrial or family forest owners. These forestlands make critical contributions to the public values enjoyed by the state's citizens including salmon and wildlife habitat, water quality and flood control, biodiversity, aesthetics and contributions to rural communities' economy and culture. Family forests are facing a multitude of challenges for those owners interested in long-term stewardship of their forests. Keeping abreast of natural resource issues such as water quality, fish and wildlife, forest health, as well as the associated management opportunities can be overwhelming. An understanding of silvicultural treatments available to reduce the risk of wildland fires is becoming increasingly important as people continue to encroach into the wildland interface and as demands for recreational opportunities increase. Increasing regulatory complexity has been shown to have a disproportionate impact on the family forest. The increasing demands on the family forest are resulting in increasing fragmentation and loss of family forest acreage. The ability to provide both technical and regulatory assistance to the family forest owner is difficult to begin with due to their large numbers and diverse interests. Resource agencies ability to provide service to this group has become increasingly hampered due to loss of funding to committed staffing levels.

Recommendation:

That the Washington Association of Conservation Districts encourage cooperation amongst resource agencies and interest groups to restore the ability of resource agencies to educate family forest owners as to resource concerns and opportunities and to provide technical assistance to landowner to improve management for societies benefits.

Presented by: Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Conservation Districts

Motion: Chan Noerenberg, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Kelly Niemi, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Duane Weston, Snohomish Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-017

Title: Support for Use of Agricultural and Silvicultural Offsets in Carbon Trading Paradigms

Problem:

Washington Association of Conservation Districts urges NACD to support and promote the following issue.

The issue of global climate change and carbon sequestration continues to grow each year as industry expands worldwide and emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise. The role of agriculture and Silvicultural are increasingly being recognized as playing important roles in providing "sinks" to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in soil organic matter and biomass. In addition to stored or captured carbon, the reduction of emissions with management systems should also be recognized and supported. Conservation districts support the continuing development and expansion of a system of carbon credits that would be exchangeable with industry to offset carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon trading paradigms are already accepted and understood by many and are, in fact, underway in the U.S. and other countries a practical ways to reduce total atmospheric carbon without placing undue burdens on industry until more practical and affordable technology becomes available to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Recommendation:

~~Conservation districts~~ WACD support the use of agricultural and silvicultural offsets as integral components in carbon trading paradigms and oppose efforts to restrict, limit or create barriers to such efforts.

~~If adopted, this resolution would add to policy found on page 38, 7.R, new six.~~

Presented by: Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

Motion: Kelly Niemi, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Albert Roberts, Okanogan Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Kelly Niemi, Cowlitz Conservation District

Second: Clark Miller, Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-018

Title: Privacy rights for livestock producers participating in the Animal Feeding Operations/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) permitting process

Problem:

The livestock producing industries are constantly faced with regulations and barriers that stand between producers and profits. It is essential that Farm Plans and Confidential Business Information (CBI) remain private to allow producers to maintain their competitive advantage as well as their privacy.

Farm Plans and CBI contain information that is not intended to be viewed by the public, information which includes herd sizes as well as facility capacities. By maintaining the privacy of Farm Plans and CBI, it will be much easier to get the livestock producer's support and active participation in the AFO/CAFO permitting process.

Recommendation:

~~WACD should support legislative action to ensure livestock producer confidentiality in their farm planning efforts, and to oppose any effort to undermine the privacy of our cooperators.~~

~~WACD should request that the Washington Conservation Commission support legislative and regulatory clarification that farm plans, producer confidential information, and cooperator case files be kept confidential.~~

Amended: Have WACD and Conservation Commission work with appropriate state agencies to clarify and define process of CBI and to include it in the permit application materials.

~~WACD shall request during this process it is communicated that ALL producer information remain confidential.~~

Presented by: Benton Conservation District

Motion: Lynn Brown, Kittitas County Conservation District

Second: Roger Short, Jefferson County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Bobbi Lindemulder, King Conservation District

Second: Lynn Brown, Kittitas Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Nicole Berg, Benton Conservation District

Second: Chris Heitstuman, Palouse Conservation District

Amendment withdrawn.

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-019

Title: Annual Meeting start day

Problem:

There has been a noticeable decrease in attendance during the Monday morning sessions at our annual convention. This is most likely a result of having the annual meeting begin on the Monday following Thanksgiving. Many people who would like to attend are prevented from doing so due to family obligations and difficult, busy holiday travel. People are forced to use Monday mornings as a travel period instead of attending the opening ceremonies and morning meetings.

Recommendation:

Change the days of the annual convention so that the opening ceremonies begin on the Tuesday morning following Thanksgiving. This will allow attendee's to use Monday as a travel day.

Presented by: Spokane County Conservation District

Motion: Margaret Tokach, Stevens County Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Betty Norton, Skagit Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-020

Title: Article XII-Committees and Task Forces

Problem:

Resolution No. 03-02 was improperly forwarded from committee to the body at the WACD Convention in December of 2003. Current by-laws already outline procedures for task force and committee formation. There has not been consistency within the by-laws dealing with unnecessary changes. A motion was made by a non-voting member contrary to by-law procedures to forward the resolution.

Recommendation:

Article XII to be modified and read as follows:

Section 1- The President of the Association shall have the authority to establish short-term task forces as deemed necessary and establish their type, function, and durations as identified in the Association's operating procedures.

Section 2- The officers and directors of the Association shall have the authority to establish committees they deem necessary and establish their type, function, and duration as identified in the Association's operating procedures.

Original Format

Sec. 1 The officers and directors of the Association shall have the authority to establish task forces and committees they deem necessary. The purpose of these task forces and committees shall be to discuss pertinent issues facing the Association and recommend appropriate actions to the officers and directors.

Sec. 2 The President shall name the Chair, members and time limits (as appreciated) for all task forces and committees established under Sec. 1.

Presented by: Lincoln County Conservation District

Motion: Ollie Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Conservation District

Recommend: **Do Pass**

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-021

Title: Articles of Association Amendment

Problem:

The last paragraph of Article V of the Articles of the Association has specific dates which are now outdated. Also, the President now has authority under Article XII, Section 1 of the By-Laws to establish a task force.

Recommendation:

Delete the last paragraph of Article V of the Articles of the Association.

Presented by: Spokane County Conservation District

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Tom Hargreaves, Spokane County Conservation District

Recommend: ***Do Pass***

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Dean Longrie, Clark Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-022

Title: By-Laws Amendment

Problem:

The last paragraph of Article II, Section 1 of the By-Laws has specific dates which are now outdated. Also, the President now has authority under Article XII, Section 1 of the By-Laws to establish a task force.

Recommendation:

Delete the last paragraph of Article II, Section 1 of the By-Laws

Presented by: Spokane County Conservation District

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Tom Hargreaves, Spokane County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-023

Title: Funding educational endeavors through WACD

Problem:

District can not give scholarships for educational endeavors, i.e. youth camp

Recommendation:

~~Lincoln County Conservation District recommends WACD setup an educational committee~~
task force to facilitate district funds to these investigate ways to support educational endeavors.

Presented by: Lincoln County Conservation District

Motion: Ollie Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Second: Mark Moore, Kittitas County Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Amendment passed.

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Dean Longrie, Clark Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-024

Title: Need for Indian Tribes to coordinate with respective Conservation Districts before they perform water quality work off reservations.

Problem:

Indian Tribe Technicians are performing water quality work off reservation without formal coordination with the appropriate Conservation District or the individual landowners.

Recommendation:

Stevens County Conservation District recommends that the WACD contact the Washington State Legislature to have them pass a resolution to officially recognize the need for the Indian Tribes when working off reservation to work with the private landowners through their respective Conservation District.

Presented by: Stevens County Conservation District

Motion: Margaret Tokach, Stevens County Conservation District

Second: Ollie Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Margaret Tokach, Stevens County Conservation District

Second: Ollie Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Recommend: Do Not Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Tom McKern, Stevens County Conservation District

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-025

Title: Powers of the Officers and Directors of WACD

Problem:

Officers and Directors of the WACD overstepped or exceeded their powers under WACD By-laws.

Recommendation:

Officers and Directors must follow WACD by-laws. By-laws are referenced below;

Articles & By-Laws of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

Article III Meeting of Members, Section 9 pg. 6 Roberts Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this Association except as otherwise provided in the Articles or By-Laws of the Association.

Article III Meeting of Members, Section 6 pg. 5 Each voting member present at Association meetings shall be entitled to one vote. However, there shall be no more than five (5) votes cast by voting members from any one conservation district, it shall be up to that district to decide who shall cast their five (5) votes. If there are more than five voting members present from any conservation district, it shall be up to that district to decide how their five (5) votes shall be cast. Only persons representing conservation district whose dues are current shall be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Association.

Article XIV Amendments, Section 1 pg. 9 Articles and By-Laws of this Association may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members present at any annual meeting of the Association.

Presented by: Lincoln County Conservation District

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Lynn Brown, Kittitas Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-026

Title: Task Force

Problem:

Districts forward resolutions to the Area and State meetings with the intention of them being acted upon by WACD once the voting members at the State conference pass them. A passing vote indicates that the general membership mandates that WACD and/or other appropriate entities or individuals undertake action items within the resolution. Many of the resolutions passed during the Convention never receive attention by WACD other than referral to a task force or committee and some never are heard of again. At the task force level, they have been shoved aside in favor of some other issue or subject that the task force has unilaterally decided is a priority.

Recommendation:

Any resolution passed by the general membership at the WACD Annual Conference shall be directed to the appropriate task force with the direction that members of the task force shall take action on those resolutions before undertaking any other issue or subject.

Presented by: Spokane County Conservation District

Motion: Tom Hargreaves, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Not Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Jerry Scheele, Spokane County Conservation District

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-027

Title: Support for the WACD Plant Materials Center

Problem:

The WACD Plant Materials Center is striving to better meet the needs of the conservation districts and natural resources of Washington State. To that end, a committee was formed, and a strategic plan has been developed. To be successful, however, the Plant Material Center needs the support of all of Washington's conservation districts in the implementation of the proposed strategic plan.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved, that the Washington Association of Conservation Districts membership supports the implementation of the WACD Plant Materials Center Strategic Plan.

Presented by: Skagit Conservation District

Motion: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Second: Margaret Tokach, Stevens County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Kelly Niemi, Cowlitz Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-028

Title: WACD Dues Structure Timeline.

Problem:

The WACD dues structure timeline for re-consideration has expired, and WACD and Conservation Districts have desire to overhaul the WACD dues structure. In the event of no acceptable dues structure is being presented at the 2004 WACD Annual Meeting, then the present form of dues payment be kept in force.

Recommendation:

The District Operations Task Force shall be instructed to modify the dues structure in such a way as to be acceptable by Conservation Districts.

Presented by: Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

Motion: Mark Moore, Kittitas County Conservation District

Second: Margaret Tokach, Stevens County Conservation District

Recommend: Do Not Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: No second – FAILED

MOTION FAILED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-029

Title: Increasing the Flexibility and Adaptability of EQIP

Problem:

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) currently does not allow for any variation in cost share rates or hold-downs within a specific local work group area. This has resulted in “compromising” on the rates for practices in order to try to accommodate all situations. Instead of appeasing some or all of the involved parties, this action has resulted in dissatisfaction by all parties involved in the local work group. In addition it does not protect public funds by ensuring that the financial assistance is an incentive for all participants and that it encourages implementation of conservation. Instead, this policy allows the cost share payments to be a windfall for some, while not providing enough assistance for others. This is the case in the Big Bend Local Work Group, where the hold-down on a center pivot sprinkler system could successfully be as low as \$15,000 to \$20,000 in Grant County, while Kittitas County must have a hold-down exceeding \$40,000 to provide enough incentive to implement a center pivot sprinkler system. This is due to a variety of economic and geographic differences between the two areas. The Big Bend Local Work group reluctantly agreed to compromise on a hold-down of \$35,000 for center pivot sprinkler systems, knowing that it would decrease the number of contracts and acres to which conservation was applied by as much as 50% in Grant County and that it still may not be enough to provide incentive to Kittitas County growers.

Recommendation:

Therefore it be resolved that Washington State Conservation Leadership work with and encourage NRCS to implement changes to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that recognize significant differences related to project implementation within a local work group area and that allow for the flexibility and adaptability to implement situation or area specific cost share rates and hold-downs.

Presented by: Kittitas County Conservation District

Motion: Mark Moore, Kittitas County Conservation District

Second: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Mark Moore, Kittitas County Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-030

Title: WACD provides a template and training in forming a Conservation Association

Problem:

Due to the funding problems that most Districts face, it would be beneficial for each District to create another possibility. If each District had a Conservation Association with non-profit 501(c)3 status, then new funding sources and opportunities become available.

Non-profit status allows Conservation Associations to apply for grants that are unavailable to Districts. Conservation Associations can do projects on their own as well as support the District by covering expenses that are not grant eligible. The Conservation Association can create fundraisers such as an annual plant sale and put money in places that the District could not, such as Natural Resource Youth Camp Scholarships.

Recommendation:

WACD should research the requirements of forming a Conservation Association (501 (c) 3 or other), and create a template for Districts to follow if they choose to form a Conservation Association. A Track could be developed for WADE Training to teach the Districts the proper procedures for forming a Conservation Association.

Presented by: Benton Conservation District

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Amendment Passed

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-031

Title: Improved Communication with Districts

Problem:

The current atmosphere of the Commission and WACD is one of cooperation and communication. The Commission and WACD are working together in a legislative and policy development effort that includes standing committees staffed by Commission and district staff and district supervisors. These committees are developing policy positions and legislative decision packets that will guide districts and the Commission for the next biennium. These policies and packets are then approved by the Commission and WACD O&D. The problem is that not all district staff and supervisors have had a chance to review policy positions and decision packets and provide input.

Recommendation:

1. WACD ~~standing committees open their membership to~~ encourage all district staff and supervisors ~~that wish~~ to participate on standing committees.
2. WACD standing committees provide every district with the opportunity to review decisions during their development and prior to approval by WACD O&D and Commission.
3. WACD ~~work with~~ recommend that the Commission ~~to~~ provide meeting agendas to all districts prior to Commission meetings and ~~draft~~ final meeting minutes for review to better help districts participate at the Commission level.
4. WACD work with WADE to provide meeting minutes and agendas for district staff review.
5. All of the above information is posted, for review by all, at the WCC website in a timely manner.

Presented by: Asotin County Conservation District

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Second: Paul Stoker, Othello Conservation District

Second Amendment:

Motion: Margaret Tokach, Stevens County Conservation District

Second: Oliver Call, Kitsap Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin County Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No. 2004-032

Title: On-Farm Energy Production Task Force

Problem:

With increasing fuel and energy prices, having the option of including on-farm energy production may make the difference between having a viable farming operation or having to sell the farm. Farmers need to know that those options are available and viable. There is a need for accurate information and technical assistance for the farmers interested in producing energy as one of their options.

Recommendation:

WACD form an On-Farm Energy Production task force to provide ~~farmers~~ Conservation Districts with accurate, up to date information and technical assistance on energy production options like alternative fuel feedstocks, wind power, solar power, biomass systems and geo-thermal power.

Presented by: Spokane County Conservation District

Motion: Tom Hargreaves, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: Brett Bishop, Mason Conservation District

Second: Chris Herron, Benton Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-033

Title: Option to use Total Ecoli method Coli/Ecoli 9223B instead of Total Fecal Coliform method 9221 B1, 2, C&E1 (American Public Health Association's publication, Standards Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 18th, 19th, or 20th Edition).

Problem:

Recent technical advancements in water quality monitoring (bio-assessments) has made testing of ambient/recreational/fresh water less expensive, faster, and more effective than current standards.

Surface Water Quality Standards for monitoring through the Department of Ecology accepts only Total Fecal Coliform method 9221 B1, 2, C&E1 (*American Public Health Association's publication, Standards Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 18th, 19th, or 20th Edition*). The materials for this test include multiple test tubes, water baths, membranes, etc. and needs 70 minutes of processing time. Results are determined in 72 hours.

Another available test is the Total Coli/Ecoli method 9223B (*American Public Health Association's publication, Standards Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 18th, 19th, or 20th Edition*). The materials for this test include a blister tray and needs 5 minutes of processing time. Results are determined in 24 hours.

Using Coli/Ecoli method 9223B for bio-assessments testing (for fresh water) would reduce the costs for projects requiring bio-assessment monitoring by at least a third, often more compared to fecal coliform. Also, using Ecoli test can lead to specific microbial source tracking to determine if the contamination is from septic tanks, sewers, livestock, etc. Adopting Ecoli tests as an alternative at the state level would greatly ease the necessary work to locate failing septic tanks in basins throughout the state.

Recommendation:

WACD ~~to~~ and Washington Conservation Commission work with the Department of Ecology to include Coli/Ecoli method 9223B from the American Public Health Association's publication, Standards Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 18th, 19th, or 20th Edition as an alternative and acceptable method for ambient/recreational/fresh water testing for bio-assessments.

Presented by: Clark Conservation District

Motion: Dvija Bertish, Clark Conservation District

Second: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Recommend: **Do Pass as Amended**

Motion: Brett Bishop, Mason Conservation District

Second: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Resolution No: 2004-034

Title: Septic System Assistance Program

Problem:

Conservation districts have traditionally focused on assisting agricultural landowners with Best Management Practices in an effort to minimize agricultural wastes entering our water bodies. However, one of the largest violators of water quality standards are failed/failing septic systems, which contribute pollutants to our water bodies.

Septic system maintenance has been an educational component of district workshops around the state, but there is no program that assists landowners in actually making the repairs and developing a maintenance plan. Similar to the Dairy Waste Grant that assisted producers with cost-share for waste management, a Septic System Assistance Program would assist with failed/failing septic systems and create a schedule for continued maintenance for the landowner. Districts would partner with the regulatory agency to provide technical assistance to landowners, while the districts would be able to provide the needed funding incentive to fix the problems.

In the case of Septics, there are numerous private sector firms that construct septic systems. Similar to energy efficiency programs through utilities, a Septic System Assistance Program could provide a financial incentive to septic system owners to repair their facilities either through a list of certified firms or through the local Conservation District.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Conservation Commission, State Department of Health and state legislators to develop research a cost-share program to be administered through the Commission and Conservation Districts for the repair of septic systems or cost share for abatement of existing failed septic systems and conversion to sanitary septic system where appropriate.

Presented by: Clark Conservation District

Motion: *Dvija Bertish, Clark Conservation District*

Second: *Tom Hargreaves, Spokane County Conservation District*

Recommend: Do Pass as amended

Motion: *Brett Bishop, Mason Conservation District*

Second: *Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District*

Amendment:

Motion: *Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District*

Second: *Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District*

Amendment Passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

2nd Amendment

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Second: Steve Keirn, Clark Conservation District

2nd Amendment Passed.

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

New Resolution No: 2004-035

Title: NRCS staff are spending too much time addressing administrative requirements of programs.

Problem:

The recent increase in program administration by NRCS has created a tremendous and burdensome workload for NRCS staff at the field office level. Technical staff is spending more time processing contracts, following paper and electronic project files, and tracking payment request. This additional workload did not come with additional staff. Therefore existing staff that have vast experience and knowledge in varied technical fields of natural resources are not able to provide either the quality or the quantity of technical assistance that is needed.

This transfer of work has resulted in a fundamental shift from the purpose for which the agency was originally created. That mission was to provide technical assistance to producers and resource users that address conservation needs with consideration for local priorities and conditions. This focus on site specific planning and implementation is becoming clouded by the supposed ease of electronic contract and payment processing.

Recommendation:

WACD work with NACD ~~to increase funding and/or staff to seek changes~~ at the field office level that will allow technical staff to focus more time on natural resource issues, conservation planning and Best Management Practice implementation.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Motion: Tom Doran, Okanogan Conservation District

Second: Jeff Rock, South Douglas Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Wade Troutman, Foster Creek Conservation District

Second: Lynn Brown, Kittitas County Conservation District

Amendment Passed.

PASSED AS AMENDED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

New Resolution No: 2004-036

Title: Expanding seed certification procedures in Washington State to include private, independently owned seed testing laboratories.

Problem:

The Washington Seed Industry is a multi-million dollar industry needing the ability to market Washington certified seed as efficient, effectively and economically as possible. The Washington State seed testing lab routinely gets back logged each year preventing quick turnaround time needed on results of seed being tested.

There are private, independently owned seed laboratories available in both Washington and Oregon State that are capable and available to test Washington Certified Seed. Idaho and California states currently allow their industry to send certified samples to private seed laboratories. A private, independently owned seed testing laboratory in the Tri-Cities is currently testing Idaho certified seed and is recognized as an outsourced seed testing lab for Oregon State University Seed Services.

Recommendation:

Interested parties in the Washington State Seed industry (WACD) request that the Washington State Crop Improvement Board and the Washington State Department of Agriculture recognize private, independently owned seed laboratories in Washington State employing a registered seed technologist (RST) in good standing with the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists, thereby availing the Washington State Seed industry to choose a seed testing lab based on turnaround time and price when testing certified seed.

All certificates or reports of analysis issued must be signed by the RST and will be acceptable for certification of seed provided the seed meets certification standards.

Presented by: Franklin Conservation District

Motion: Chris Herron, Franklin Conservation District

Second: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

New Resolution No: 2004-037

Title: Maintain local working group (LWG) involvement in EQIP implementation

Problem:

National NRCS is proposing the use of a national EQIP template for ranking EQIP applications, thereby removing the input of the LWG.

Recommendation:

WACD request that Washington State NRCS and NACD support the current EQIP application process which is working and functioning properly; allowing for the full involvement of LWG.

Sponsored by: Spokane County Conservation District

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Chris Herron, Franklin Conservation District

Recommend: Do Pass

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane County Conservation District

Second: Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Conservation District

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

New Resolution No: 2004-038

Title: Assessment Strategy Assistance Coalition/Advisory Group

Problem:

Districts who seek to implement an assessment would be able to use the coalition/advisory group to provide technical assistance as well as local efforts of support to achieve the District's goal.

Recommendation:

That WACD, WADE and Conservation Commission create a coalition/advisory group to assist those Districts who wish to enact an assessment in their District.

Motion: Max Prinsen, King Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Amendment:

Motion: Doug Rushton, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Amendment Passed.

MOTION PASSED.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2004 Resolutions

Rehash # 04-028

Recommendation:

The District Operations Task Force shall be instructed to present recommendations and modifications to the Officers and Directors ~~modify~~ regarding the dues structure in such a way as to be acceptable and equitable by Conservation Districts.

The recommendation will be presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston Conservation District

Second: Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

Amendment

Motion: Max Prinsen, King Conservation District

Second: Paul Nee, Pierce Conservation District

Amendment Passed.

MOTION FAILED.