

WACD POLICY # 2012-003
ELECTED COMMISSION MEMBERS POLICY

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (hereinafter referred to as “the Association”) bodily elects representatives to serve on the Washington State Conservation Commission in accordance with RCW 89.08.030 and Association bylaws. Under state law, these (three) commission members are elected by district supervisors at their annual statewide meeting, and represent eastern, central and western Washington as determined by supervisors. State law requires that at least two of the three be landowners or operators of a farm. They serve a three-year term. The law specifies that unexpired terms be filled by the “regional vice-president” of the Association “who is serving that part of the state where the vacancy occurs, such term to continue only until district supervisors can fill the unexpired term by electing the commission member.”

Bylaws Article V, Sections 1 and 2 specify that a commission member is elected by a majority vote of eligible voters annually for a three-year term, and that he shall reside in that section of the state he represents.

Although there is no requirement in state law that a commission member elected at the annual meeting must be a conservation district supervisor, supervisors can elect (or not elect) a candidate based on qualifications, including a candidate’s status as a supervisor.

The Association declares that election preference shall be given to candidates who are conservation district supervisors at the time of their candidacy, and instructs the Nominating Committee to underscore, in its report to the general assembly, the supervisor status of all candidates for elected commission member.

The Association declares that the elected commission members represent the interests and priorities of the conservation districts in the regions they represent. They are elected by and accountable to the body of membership of the Association to represent the interests of their respective regions of the state. The Association instructs the Nominating Committee, in its report to the general assembly, to report a candidate’s willingness to acknowledge and affirm this obligation.

As there is no such position in the Association as “regional vice-president”, unexpired terms of elected commission members shall be filled by appointment by the President of a conservation district supervisor who resides in the region represented. Such appointment shall be for the period of the unfilled term of the vacated member, until supervisors can elect a new commission member to a full term at the next regularly scheduled election for that position at the Association Annual Meeting.

The Association Executive Committee and elected commission members shall consult on matters of interest relating to eastern, central and western regions of conservation districts represented by the elected commission members. Elected commission members shall consult with applicable Area Directors on matters before the commission that affect conservation districts within the regions the members represent, and shall report to the Board of Directors the status of such matters of significant impact. The Executive Committee shall assist elected commission members in communicating with conservation district supervisors and Area Directors in the regions they represent.