



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2002 WACD Resolutions – Resolutions voted on during Wednesday’s business meeting

Number	Status	Resolution Title
02-01A	Passed	WACD Educational Fund
02-01B	Passed	Request Increased support for the Washington State Envirothon
02-02	Passed	WACD PMC Deed Transfer
02-03A	Passed	Proposed Amendment to WACD By-Laws
02-04	Passed	Training and Capacity Building
02-05	Passed	Cooperative Agreement Between USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Districts in Washington State and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts for Technical Services Contracts
02-06	Failed	Revision of Implementation Grant Procedures
02-07	Passed	WACD Annual Meeting Date
02-08	Passed	2002 Farm Bill: A Landmark for Conservation
02-09	Passed	Conservation Planning Training for Conservation Districts
02-10	Passed	Request that WACD display at the Puyallup Fair
02-11	Passed	Non-Regulatory Approach for Controlling Clopyralid
02-12	Passed	Livestock and Water Quality Task Force Recommendation
02-13	Passed	Conservation Commission Assistance for Conservation districts with 2001 General Election Debt
02-14	Passed	Stable Funding to Operate Conservation District Offices
02-15	Passed	Public Disclosure by Elected Board Members
02-16	Failed	Pollution Exclusion
02-17	Passed	Coordinated Resource Management Coordinator Funding for 2003 to 2005
02-18	Passed	Support for the Conservation Security Program
02-19	Passed	Field Border Buffers
02-20	Passed	Field Buffer Strips
02-21	Passed	Positive Agricultural Publicity
02-22	Passed	Promote / Increase Visibility of the State District Engineering Program
02-23	Passed	Legal Assistance for Conservation Districts
02-24	Passed	Private Forestry Road and Culvert Standards
02-25	Passed	Request for an Annual Report of Accomplishments of Washington State Conservation Commission activity
02-26	Passed	National MOA for Coordinated Resource Management
02-27	Passed	Request partial distribution of National Fire Plan money from State Forester to Districts
02-28	Passed	USDA Conservation Selling Label
02-29	Passed	Increased CRP Weed Control
02-30	Passed	Staffing Field Offices
02-31	Passed	Performance Measures for Technical Assistance Grant #03-45-CR-01 (CREP)
02-32	Passed	Reinstate Wildlife Food Plot Program
02-33	Passed	Input on Future NRCS Reorganization



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-01A*

Title: WACD Education Fund

Problem:

There have been several resolutions over the past several years requesting WACD to deal with the funding of various educational programs involving conservation districts.

Recommendation:

WACD establish a WACD Environmental Education Fund Assessment (Assessment). The Fund will be a unique and specific account within the WACD bookkeeping system and accounting reports. The Fund will be supported by the Assessment, the net proceeds from the WACD Annual Meeting Auction, and other contributions specifically designated for the Fund. The WACD President will identify an 11 member WACD Education Task Force with the following membership: 4 WACD representatives, 1 WADE representative, 1 representative from the two Natural Resources Youth Camps, 1 representative from each host district for the Soil Judging Contest, the Forestry Contest, and the State Envirothon Contest, and 1 Conservation Commission representative. On an annual basis, the task force will develop and present recommendations to the WACD Officers and Directors (O&D) on how to distribute the money in the Fund account. This will be at the first quarter O&D meeting. The distribution of funds can be less than the account balance within the Fund, but not greater than the account balance of the Fund.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second Margaret Tokach, Stevens Co. CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Snohomish Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-01B*

Title: Request Increased Support for the Washington State Envirothon

Problem:

The Washington State Envirothon is hosted by districts around the state on a rotating schedule. The event is very expensive to sponsor and despite donations of services and products each host district is often required to use their own grant funds to host the event each year.

Recommendation:

WACD assist the Washington State Envirothon host district by increasing assistance funds from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for expenses. This could help pay for costs incurred to host the State Envirothon Competition and send the state winner to the National Envirothon Competition. WACD must seek by ~~seeking~~ additional or new sources of funding.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin Co. CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED (Combined 02-01B, 02-01C, and 02-01D)

* Submitted by the Thurston Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-02*

Title: WACD PMC Deed Transfer

Problem:

The possibility exists that the WACD PMC deed could be transferred from Skagit Conservation District to Washington Association of Conservation Districts. This resolution would provide direction to the WACD Officers and Directors to accept such transfer.

Recommendation:

Whereas the Washington Association of Conservation Districts has operated the Plant Materials Center since 1991; and whereas it was the intent of the parties establishing the nursery at Bow, Washington that it would be for the benefit of all Conservation Districts within the state; therefore...

Be it resolved that the Washington Association of Conservation Districts, as representative of the interests of all the Constriction Districts, will accept the deed, upon the approval of the Officers and signed by the WACD President. The deed shall have the following covenants attached to it:

1. The value being transferred is the interest held by the Skagit Conservation District:
2. The lease signed by the WACD and the Skagit Conservation District, dated December 1, 1998, outlines the responsibilities of WACD to serve the Conservation Districts:
3. If in the event that WACD can no longer maintain the property as stated in the lease agreement, dated December 1, 1998, then, by mutual consent, the deed shall revert back to the Skagit Conservation District or another Conservation District:
4. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts shall pay the costs that are associated with the deed transfer, including recording and any gift tax statement due to the state and will accept responsibility for the lawful transfer of the property to itself.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second Sharon Call, Kitsap CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the WACD Officers and Directors, amended at the NW Area Meeting



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-03A*

Title: Proposed Amendment to WACD By-Laws

Problem:

Clarity needs to be added in the WACD By-Laws for the roles and responsibilities of both the Plant Materials Center Board and WACD Officers and Directors in the operation of the Plant Materials Center.

Recommendation:

The WACD may operate conservation Plant Materials Center. The Plant Materials Center would provide plants and services to the conservation districts.

The WACD Officers and Directors shall retain authority to approve annual budgets, long range capitalization plans and other major policy decisions of the Plant Materials Center.

The Plant Materials Center will be administered by a five member administrative board, which would be appointed by the President of WACD, as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointment Expires</u>
#1	12/31/02
#2	12/31/03
#3	12/31/04
#4	12/31/05
#5	12/31/06

The Administrative Board members will serve a five-year term until they are replaced or resign. The president may appoint members to complete unexpired terms.

Duties of the Administrative Board:

- Prepare annual budget
- Complete evaluations of full time employees
- Prepare job descriptions for full time employees
- Determine salaries and benefits for full time employees
- Develop and update Policies and Procedures for daily Operations
- Approve policies, procedures and management plans as required for facility operations

Motion Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second Bob Playfair, Stevens Co. CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED (Combined w/02-03B)

* Submitted by the WACD Officers and Directors, accepted at all Area Meetings except NC



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-04*

Title: Training and Capacity Building

Problem:

Continuous training of district staff and supervisors and on-going district capacity building assistance is essential for effective and efficient conservation district program implementation. This is of particular importance since the 2002 Farm Bill makes technical assistance funds available only for certified third party planners.

Yet funding for these needs is becoming harder to locate. For example, certain grant programs are beginning to limit eligibility of training expenses for district staff and supervisors, and the Washington Conservation Commission no longer identifies training and capacity building as implementation priorities in its biennial strategic plan.

Recommendation:

That the WACD work with the Washington Conservation Commission and the Washington Association of District Employees to develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive district staff and supervisor training and district capacity building programs.

Motion Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second Nick Somero, Pacific CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Northwest Sub Area Districts



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-05*

Title: ~~Cooperative Agreements Between USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Districts in Washington State and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts for Technical Services Contracts~~

Problem:

WHEREAS, the conservation districts have a long tradition of working in partnership with the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service;

WHEREAS, the conservation districts are usually able to provide educated, skilled staff members who are familiar with NRCS project specifications and protocols;

WHEREAS, NRCS plans to seek technical assistance from organizations outside of its own agency ("Third Party Vendors" or "Technical Services Providers");

Recommendation:

That the Washington Association of Conservation Districts develop an agreement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts in Washington State that the NRCS will agree to contract with conservation districts and district staff in Washington State as their first choice for "Third Party Vendors" or "Technical Services Providers" in landowner assistance and design work.

That the Washington Association of Conservation Districts support the development of agreements ~~with individual~~ between NRCS and conservation districts to provide assistance in farm bill program implementation.

Motion: Paul Nee, Pierce CD. Second Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Cowlitz Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-06*

Title: Revision of Implementation Grant Procedures

Problem:

There appears to be no way for districts to collect an administration fee of 25% for the application and follow up on the implementation grants applied to protect the natural resources base.

Recommendation:

~~Lincoln County Conservation District~~ WACD recommends a basic administrative fee should be awarded to the Implementation grants to cover the districts application and Implementation follow-up.

Motion: Monte Marti, Thurston CD. Second Paul Nee, Pierce CD
RECOMMEND DO NOT PASS

* Submitted by the Lincoln County Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-07*

Title: WACD Annual Meeting Date

Problem:

A resolution was passed last year to have WACD form a committee to research alternative meeting dates. As of 10/10/02, the committee has not met and therefore has not upheld the intent of the resolution.

Recommendation:

WACD actively pursue the resolution and come up with a list of options by ~~March 31, 2003~~ July 1, 2003 and distribute to all conservation districts.

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish CD. Second George Mahoney, Clark CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDMENT

* Submitted by the Spokane County Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-08*

Title: 2002 Farm Bill - A Landmark for Conservation

Problem:

Whereas, the 2002 Farm Bill increases funding for current conservation programs and creates a new conservation incentives program. It provides for technical assistance to deliver these programs to assist producers in becoming better stewards of their land.

Whereas, the 2002 Farm Bill enhances the mission of the Conservation Districts by increasing incentive-based initiatives to encourage voluntary protection of natural resources and to enhance sustainable and profitable agriculture.

Recommendation:

Therefore, Districts, WACD and NACD and ~~WACD~~ should extend their appreciation to the House of Representatives, Senate and President Bush for the passage of conservation programs within the 2002 Farm Bill.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second John McLean, Foster Creek CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Foster Creek Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-09*

Title: Conservation Planning Training For Conservation Districts

Problem:

Current and planned NRCS staffing at the field office level is inadequate to meet the huge demand for conservation program planning that will result from passage of the new Farm Bill. The Conservation Districts are best positioned to assist with management of this increased workload. However, despite repeated request, many Districts have not had the formal training or certification required by NRCS to meet the coming challenge. In order for the new Farm Bill programs to translate to conservation on the ground in a timely manner and the needs of our cooperators to be better served, Districts need the necessary training as soon as possible.

Recommendation:

Therefore, Districts, WACD and NACD should extend their appreciation to the House of Representatives, Senate and President Bush for the passage of conservation programs within the 2002 Farm Bill.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second John McLean, Foster Creek CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Palouse Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-10*

Title: Request that WACD display at the Puyallup Fair

Problem:

Conservation Districts provide an important service to the people of Western Washington. Yet, most people are not aware of how Districts can help them be wise stewards of the land. Displays at the Puyallup Fair are seen by over a million people each year.

Recommendation:

WACD explore the possibility of having a booth or preparing a display for the Puyallup Fair beginning in 2003.

Motion: Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second Margaret Tokach. Stevens Co. CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Thurston Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-11*

Title: Non-regulatory Approach for Controlling Clopyralid

Problem:

Clopyralid is an herbicide found to be effective in controlling noxious invasive weeds such as the knapweed, yellow star and Canadian thistles for wheat growers and timothy hay producers. It is also used in lawn and turf, forestry and right-of-way applications.

The composting of animal manure and bedding are central to protecting and improving water quality, fish & wildlife habitat, and soil fertility. Clopyralid residues have been found in lawn clippings and animal bedding recycled in many compost facilities and farms in this state. Compost contaminated with Clopyralid at levels as low as 3 parts per billion has been shown to damage plants in the legume, nightshade and composite families. A few of the vulnerable crops include peas, beans, lentils, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, petunias, asters, daisies, chrysanthemums and artichokes.

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has initiated both rules and non-regulatory approaches in an effort to help the compost industry and farmers produce compost that is below damaging levels of clopyralid residues for sensitive plants.

The WSDA Pesticide Management Division Permanent Rule on Clopyralid use in Washington State makes Clopyralid use prohibited on turf and lawns with the only exemption granted for golf courses which do not send grass clippings, leaves or other vegetation to composting facilities which provide product to the public.

There are no restrictions placed on agricultural use of Clopyralid other than being classified as "state restricted use" on cereal grains and grasses used for hay. WSDA has chosen to focus on a "voluntary education" approach for agricultural use and acceptable levels for on-farm compost.

Clopyralid has been shown to linger in soils for up to 14 months after application. A grain or hay producer who rents land that had clopyralid applied the previous year may still produce a contaminated product. Animals that eat grain or hay contaminated with clopyralid excrete the clopyralid in their urine.

Unlike other herbicides and pesticides that breakdown through the composting process, clopyralid is not broken down causing clopyralid-contaminated compost to damage organic cash crops. All animal wastes and bedding in the state are being denied access to composting facilities and organic farms. Denied access to recycling centers means that these manures and bedding are being stockpiled. The herbicide is extremely mobile in water, ramifications to aquatic species is yet unknown and tertiary treatment facilities are ineffective in removing it. This produces a huge water quality issue for Conservation Districts, environmental health districts and the State to address and severely impacts the idea of sustainable farming.

This problem will not resolve itself through neglect. It has major implications for both waste management and soil fertility programs in agriculture. The City of Spokane had to pay \$950,000 to Nortee NorCal, a composting firm hired to run their facility as a direct result of clopyralid contaminated

* Submitted by the Kitsap Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

compost. Both ~~Nortee-NorCal~~, and the City of Spokane have abandoned their multimillion-dollar composting facility as a direct consequence of clopyralid contamination.

Tagging hay, straw and grain that has been grown in clopyralid-treated fields will allow end-users to be properly informed and allow the market to function properly. For instance, many Western Washington livestock owners have become unable to dispose of manure due to Clopyralid contamination. Land applications and composting of manure and bedding is an essential Best Management Practice promoted by the State and local governments to comply with the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. This notification process would allow livestock owners to purchase Clopyralid-free hay, straw and grain so the animal wastes and bedding could safely be land applied and composted again. This recommended notification process would also allow organic and sustainable farming, a growing Washington State industry, to avoid further damage, crop losses and loss of certification due to Clopyralid contamination.

Recommendation:

~~That WACD work with others to urge WSDA to require~~ encouraged ~~that all hay, straw and grain sold to US markets from fields where Clopyralid has been applied within the previous two years must be tagged with a written notification, and agricultural producers must be required to disclose that it is treated and that it may not be legally composted if it has been fed to livestock or used for livestock bedding. Brokers and vendors of these products should be required~~ encouraged ~~(to the extent of the WSDA's authority and educated by the WSDA) to disclose the same information upon resale.~~

WACD will work with others to help WSDA find a way for preventing Clopyralid contaminated animal bedding and manure from entering compost facilities. The WACD will cooperate with the public and producers by promoting outreach education programs to diminish the risks associated with Clopyralid contamination. WSDA needs to respond to the WACD Best Management Practices of manure land application and composting for on-farm waste management.

Motion Paul Stoker, Othello CD. Second Paul Nee, Pierce CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-12*

Title: Livestock and Water Quality Task Force Recommendation

Problem:

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts formulated a Task Force to generate recommendations to the Washington Association of Conservation Districts Officers and Directors. The recommendations were to specifically address issues relating to domestic livestock and their impacts upon water quality.

The Committee has developed a set of recommendations that include producer self-assessment tools, information and education programs, technical and financial assistance, local decision making, and priority to maintain producer viability.

The Task Force strongly recommended not funding the program if funds have to come from existing Commission grants. In addition, the Task Force recommended that if minimal funding is located that a fully funded program be established for one geographic area of Washington to demonstrate program effectiveness and establish an environmental benefit.

Recommendation:

The Washington Conservation Commission works in tandem with WACD representatives to develop and promote a program to assist livestock owners and producers ~~as a high priority~~. That WACD adopt the Livestock and Water Quality Task Force recommendations.

Amendment Strike

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish CD. Second Sharon Call, Kitsap CD

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED

* Submitted by the Okanogan Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-13*

**Title: Conservation Commission Assistance for Conservation Districts with 2001
General Election Debt**

Problem:

Title 29 required Conservation District supervisors to run on the general election ballot. Many districts incurred tremendous debt due to a forced, costly general election. In most cases, there is no resource available for districts to pay the debt. This financial burden is currently not an allowable expense in majority of district grant funding sources.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Conservation Commission to find a solution to outstanding general election debt.

Motion Paul Stokes, Othello CD. Second Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Clark Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-14*

Title: Stable Funding to Operate Conservation District Offices

Problem:

WHEREAS, many conservation districts do not have sources of stable funding sufficient to keep their offices open to the public with certainty;

WHEREAS, economic profiles provided by districts during the election debacle in 2001 illustrated the dire financial conditions of many districts;

WHEREAS, a primary district objective is to provide technical advice and services to private landowners engaged in agriculture and forestry, and to other landowning agencies, but is only able to do this when technically staff because of unrestricted grants;

WHEREAS, the Washington Conservation Commission has stated that support of natural resources conservation and conservation districts are the focal points of the WCC Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, \$9,000 per year in basic funding is inadequate for staffing day-to-day office operations;

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts:

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts supports stable, permanent and sufficient funding for all conservation districts in the State of Washington

It is the responsibility of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and the Washington Conservation Commission to seek adequate public and private sources of stable funding to operate all district offices.

Motion Paul Stoker, Othello CD. Second George Mahoney, Clark CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Cowlitz Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-15*

Title: Public Disclosure by Elected Board Members

Problem:

Board members have had an exemption to public disclosure. New election requirements may require public disclosure of elected board members.

Recommendation:

~~Lincoln County Conservation District~~ WACD supports the position that elected board members continue to be exempt from public disclosure, under the 89.08 style election process.

Motion: Len Engle, Whidbey Island CD. Second Dave Stadelman, Upper Grant CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED

* Submitted by the Lincoln County Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-16*

Title: Pollution Exclusion

Problem:

The current WGEP insurance available to Conservation Districts contains an exclusion of coverage for any damages related to pollutants under Section C. Exclusions (6) Pollutants. While the policy does not cover earth movement events, any lawsuit including the term "pollution" such as "non-point source pollution" may be subject to the pollution exclusion and therefore leave insured districts with exposed risk.

Recommendation:

WACD request WGEP (Washington Governmental Entity Pool) to research the cost to implement the proposed exclusion language:

"Practices, including those associated with non-point source pollution, of Conservation District Professionals while acting within the course and scope of their responsibilities as authorized by local codes, statues, regulations or ordinances directly attributable to and caused solely by error, negligence, or mistake of those Conservation District Professionals. Liabilities for which Conservation District Professionals are jointly and severally liable caused by parties other than Conservation District Professionals are not included in this exception."

Motion Paul Stokes, Othello CD. Second Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD.
RECOMMEND DO NOT PASS

* Submitted by the Spokane County Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-17*

Title: Coordinated Resource Management Coordinator Funding for 2003 to 2005

Problem:

The Washington Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Task Group, with the support and assistance of the WACD and numerous individual conservation districts, secured funding in the amount of \$200,000 for the establishment of a statewide CRM Coordinator position in the 2001 legislative session.

The position is now filled and operating and the funding covers the current biennium (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2003). WACD has resolutions in place that puts the association on record as a strong advocate and supporter of CRM.

Recommendation:

That WACD would support renewal funding for the CRM Coordinator position for the next biennium (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005) and make the renewed funding a matter of high priority in its legislative agenda for the 2003 legislative session.

Amendment For Training:

Motion: Norm McClure, Okanogan CD. Second Bob Playfair, Stevens Co. CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Okanogan Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-18*

Title: Support for the Conservation Security Program

Problem:

Though authorized in the Farm Bill, a nationwide fully funded CSP is in question. The House Appropriations Committee funded CSP as a pilot project only in Iowa. The Senate does support a nationwide CSP at this time, but elections could change both the senate and the house leadership.

Recommendation:

That WACD strongly supports a nationwide Conservation Security Program as a CCC entitlement. WACD urges districts to organize a local effort to contact their member of Congress and inform them of our support of CSP. Report your contacts by email to the Government Affairs staff of NACD for tracking and control nationally.

Motion Paul Stoker, Othello CD. Second Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-19*

Title: Field Border Buffers

Problem:

WACD is in process to have Field Border Buffers placed on the continuous CRP program.

Recommendation:

WACD continues to work towards having the Field Border Buffers placed on the continuous CRP sign-up program.

Motion: Paul Stoker, Othello CD. Second Jerry Peterson, Whitman CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Presented by the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-20*

Title: Field Buffer Strips

Problem:

Currently Grass Buffer Strips (practice code 741) is an interim practice, which is offered through the continuous CRP sign-up due for reviews in 2003. The practice is beneficial to water quality, wildlife habitat, and reducing soil erosion. This practice also is an excellent alternative to whole farm standard CRP bids, which has been economically detrimental to rural towns across the county.

Recommendation:

WACD work with NACD and appropriate USDA officials to have practice code 741 (Grass Buffer Strips) made a permanent practice in the continuous CRP program.

Motion: Paul Stoker, Othello CD. Second Clark Miller, Palouse-Rock Lake CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Presented by the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-21*

Title: Positive Agricultural Publicity

Problem:

Most of the publicity surrounding Agriculture in America depicts a negative tone. For example: high chemical use, genetically altered seeds, poor air and water quality contributor, etc. The general public is unaware of the good farming practices that are in place and are being used by producers; and the measures being taken to ensure the continuation of farming as a viable option.

Recommendation:

NACD, with National NRCS assistance, create a series of educational short films/videos that depict the value of the way food is being produced under approved conservation programs. Approved conservation programs will be determined by guidance of NRCS standards (similar to CORE 4 methodology). The short films/videos will be used at appropriate conventions, educational seminars, and be able to be used as short informational commercials for TV or radio spots. NACD will pursue funding from Congress and not take away from any funding programs already in place for the Agricultural Community.

Motion Paul Stoker, Othello CD. Second Jerry Peterson, Whitman CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Whitman Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-22*

Title: Promote/Increase Visibility of the State District Engineering Program

Problem:

There are groups and individuals (i.e. the Washington State legislature, conservation district boards and district employees whose district don't house one of the engineers or have a light engineering workload, etc.) that need to know about the accomplishments and the services available through the Washington State Conservation Commission District Engineering program. There is not a central resource available to them to refer to when it comes to making fiscal decisions about the engineering program (in the case of the legislature) or what talents and capabilities are available within this program. In light of the new agreement that all of the District Professional engineers are available to provide assistance statewide, a need for districts to know what engineering talent is available to them outside of their own cluster engineer is necessary. A resource for the Commission to educate the legislature and others on the talent and diversity within the Commissions District Engineering program is vital to the programs continuation and longevity.

Recommendation:

That Washington Conservation Commission put in place by 1/15/03 a committee/task force (consisting of commission employees, District Engineers, and other interested individuals) whose responsibility it would be to gather the information for, assemble and have ready for distribution, a Conservation District Professional Engineering Services Portfolio by February 14, 2003. The task force should also review the option of contracting for professional engineering from private firms. This portfolio would resemble what a private Architectural & Engineering firm uses to promote itself to prospective clients. The portfolio would detail the accomplishments of the program since its inception. It should contain, but not be limited to, a professional resume on each of the District Professional Engineers (i.e. a list of all of the District Professional engineers by name, location, educational background, work experience, areas of specialization, etc.), a section giving descriptions and examples (complete with pictures) of projects that have been constructed, where they are located, etc. This would give the WCC an informational/educational tool to use when requesting funding for the PE Services program from the state legislature as well as providing districts throughout the state a resource base to use when engineering services are needed that cannot be fully provided by the cluster engineer.

Motion: Oliver Call, Kitsap CD. Second Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED

* Submitted by the South Yakima Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-23*

Title: Legal Assistance for Conservation Districts

Problem:

Conservation districts need legal advice for various reasons, i.e. drafting contracts, hiring a contractor, and implementing construction projects. Majority of the districts do not have funds to hire an attorney and obtaining legal assistance is not an allowable expense in some funding sources. Districts are subject to legal action but are not able to obtain legal advice.

RCW 89.08.070 General duties of commission. Paragraph (10)., to assist conservation districts in obtaining legal services from state and local legal offices.

RCW 89.08.210 Powers and duties of supervisors. 1st paragraph. “ It may call upon the attorney general for legal services, . . . ”

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Conservation Commission to provide the districts with access to legal advice. This could be according to district engineering cluster, district regions, or individual district.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second by George Mahoney, Clark CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Thurston Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-24*

Title: Private Forestry Road and Culvert Standards

Problem:

WHEREAS, conservation districts have the opportunity to provide a primary link in cost share for road maintenance and abandonment projects;

WHEREAS, technical standards for forest roads and culverts are specified under the Washington State Forest Practices Act and the Hydraulics Practices Act;

WHEREAS, all projects coordinated by conservation districts must also meet NRCS standards;

WHEREAAS, there may be confusion, additional costs and project delays by requiring additional standards;

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts:

WACD work with the NRCS to adopt Washington State Forest Practices Act and Hydraulics Practices Act standards as adequate for private forest road projects.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second Bob Playfair, Stevens Co. CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Cowlitz Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-25*

Title: Request for an Annual Report of Accomplishments of Washington State Conservation Commission activity

Problem:

The Washington State Conservation Commission collects an Annual Report of accomplishments from each Washington Conservation District per RCW 89.08. This information is not collated or reported in any way. It is available upon request but is generally unused by the Commission or others to demonstrate the effectiveness of the State's 48 Conservation Districts.

Recommendation:

This information in addition to a report of the Commission's annual activities should be published in a report format and distributed to the 48 Washington Districts, Washington Association of Conservation Districts, Washington State Governor, and Washington State Legislators.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second George Mahoney, Clark CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Okanogan Conservation District Board of Supervisors



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-26*

Title: National MOA for Coordinated Resource Management

Problem:

The national Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) was first signed between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Department of the Interior in about 1979 and was last revised to include the CREES in about 1987.

Updating of the MOA (with the possible addition of new participants such as the Department of Commerce and the National Marine Fisheries Service) is long overdue. An update would also serve to bring CRM to the attention of the current national administration leadership - U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, CREES and the appropriate legislative committee chairs, etc.

Recommendation:

The WACD request WACD leadership and the NACD CRM Committee initiate a dialogue with the Society of Range Management, Soil and Water Conservation Society and others appropriate entities to review the possibility of an MOA revision, and if found favorable to lead and move forward with the revision as soon as practicably possible.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second Bob Playfair, Stevens Co. CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Okanogan Conservation District Board of Supervisors



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-27*

Title: Request partial distribution of National Fire Plan money from State Forester to Districts.

Problem:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has received money from the Federal Government for reducing the risk of wild land fire on their property. This money will pay department staff to develop plans for fuels reduction adjacent to homes and other structures in addition to providing cost-share to landowners for the removal of the fuels in accordance with the plan. Most of these funds have not been applied due to a lack of landowner interest to work with the Department of Natural Resources due to RMAPs issues.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Washington Department of Natural Resources to get some of these funds available to Districts through a competitive grant application process for providing the same program from the local level.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second Bob Playfair, Stevens Co. CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Okanogan Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-28*

Title: USDA Conservation Selling Label

Problem:

USDA Conservation Programs are (or have) developed a poor reputation due to the participants being treated "equal" (or receiving the same amount in payments) even though the level of conservation being applied is different. Conservation methods are in many forms and should be advertised as such, not placed under a generic label of "conservation".

Recommendation:

NACD work with USDA to create a selling label, i.e. *Good Stewardship* (similar to CORE 4 or Food Alliance), that the general public would be able to purchase products under. By purchasing under this label, the public would then be assured that the product was produced at NRCS' highest standard of conservation; the producer would receive a higher loan level if they participated in this certified program. All participants would begin at a base rate that would increase as the number of conservation methods increased, such as tillage operations (1-pass, 2-pass, etc.), burn / no burn, etc.

Amendment To Strike

Motion: Jerry Peterson, Whitman CD. Second Richard Zones, South Douglas CD.

RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Whitman Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-29*

Title: Increased CRP Weed Control

Problem:

The spread of weeds from CRP stands is currently a problem. Post-establishment control of weeds is restricted due to wildlife concerns. This limits the landowner's ability to control weeds after the stand is established. The best way for landowners to limit the spread of weeds in CRP stands is good establishment of cover in the first couple of years.

However, cost-share on weed control (spray and/ or mowing) for establishment of CRP stands is currently limited to 12 months after seeding. This inflexibility in the program can lead to ill-timed control efforts, which may lead to unwanted spread of weeds.

Recommendation:

The Palouse Conservation District proposes that WACD work with state and federal Farm Service Agency (FSA) officials to increase the availability of cost-share for weed control to landowners from 12 months to 24 months after seeding of CRP stands.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second Jim Druffell, Palouse CD.
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Palouse Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-30*

Title: Staffing Field Offices

Problem:

Under the June 13, 2002 NRCS reorganization plan, area and state offices of NRCS will be staffed with people from the field office level in many cases. With the 2002 farm bill there will be an overwhelming need for field office people to do the necessary work to complete the needed farm plans and provide technical support. The area and state offices will be providing support to the field offices but not necessarily working on the farm plans or providing technical support.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the NRCS state office to ensure that the field offices are given priority over the area and state office for filling staffing needs.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second Jerry Peterson, Whitman CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 02-31*

Title: Performance Measures for Technical Assistance Grant #03-45-CR-01 (CREP)

Status:

The terms and conditions of this grant include the following: "This contract will provide a contract award of 60% of the determined eligible funding on July 1, 2002. Upon completion and review of the performance measures ... an amount up to the remaining 40% of the earlier announced award, may be made after January 5, 2003." The performance measure is then defined by the number of contracts secured.

Problem:

The performance measure is based solely on number of contracts and does not consider acres or stream miles of habitat created. Under the current performance measure, five contracts that comprise approximately 400 contiguous acres are of less value than 10 one-acre projects sprinkled across the watershed. The creation of ~~fish-habitat~~ riparian habitat is the goal of CREP, not number of contracts.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Conservation Commission. That the performance measure be expanded to consider number of acres, stream miles, and number of contracts secured. A combination of these performance measures would be a better tool for evaluating the success of the program. The amount and quality of ~~fish-habitat~~ riparian habitat created should be considered along with number of contracts.

If a district meets the current performance measure, then that district should not be penalized under an amended performance measure that includes acres and/ or stream miles of habitat created.

Motion: Monte Marti, Snohomish CD. Second George Mahoney, Clark CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED

* Submitted by the Walla Walla Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-32*

Title: Reinstate Wildlife Food Plot Program

Problem:

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife does not currently have a wildlife food plot program. This program was considered very successful in the past by both wildlife officials and farmers alike for providing much needed habitat for birds and other wildlife in areas where such habitat was limited. Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game currently offers a food plot program for its landowners/farmers. Many Washington landowners/farmers have expressed that they would like to see a similar program offered in Washington, perhaps even modeled after Idaho's program.

Recommendation:

~~The Palouse Conservation District proposes~~ That WACD work with WA Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) officials to reinstate the Wildlife Food Plot Program in Washington.

Motion: Paul Nee, Pierce CD. Second Jerry Peterson, Whitman CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED

* Submitted by the Palouse Conservation District



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No: 02-33*

Title: Input on Future NRCS Reorganizations

Problem:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in order to gain efficiency, has reorganized 3 times in the last 6 years (once every 2 years). In the latest reorganization, some Conservation Districts were split from most of the geo-political and project boundaries with which they were previously associated. The latest effort was not based on resource concerns but rather on NRCS staffing considerations.

Recommendation:

Recognizing that future reorganizations will undoubtedly occur, it is recommended that WACD strongly encourage NRCS to seek input from WACD and local Conservation Districts prior to developing a reorganization plan.

Motion: Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD. Second Chris Herron, Franklin CD
RECOMMEND DO PASS

* Submitted by the Franklin Conservation District