



**Washington Association of Conservation Districts  
Status of 2008 Resolutions**

*Updated September 14, 2009*

**Resolution No: 08-001 - Request that WACD supports the efforts of the conservation planning and district technical employee's development work group technical team in developing a standardized conservation plan format for the conservation districts of Washington State**

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Conservation Commission will support the work of the Conservation Planning & District Technical Employees Development Work Group Technical Team in developing a standardized Conservation Plan Protocol and Format for the Conservation Districts of Washington State that maintains a minimum standard for content. The goal is to develop a consistent standard format that will easily expand from a small farm plan to incorporate the various special considerations of Specialty Plans (CNMP, DNMP, Forestry, etc.), while maintaining usefulness to the producer/landowner.

**Status:** Work group formed and developed a consistent format that meets the needs of all types of conservation plans. A resolution to adopt is proposed for 2009.

**Resolution No: 08-002 - Request That WACD and the WSCC support work to increase and document the technical proficiency of district planners**

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Conservation Commission will support the work of the Conservation Planning & District Technical Employees Development Work Group in their effort to identify appropriate trainings, certifications, and other opportunities which will increase and demonstrate the proficiency of district staff.

**Status:** Work group developing certification and training program

**Resolution No: 08-003 - Request that Washington Department of Ecology develop a program to grant temporary surface water rights to irrigate conservation district sponsored riparian restoration projects**

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Conservation Commission work with the Department of Ecology to see if Ecology is willing to make modifications to existing policies, or to develop a new one, to allow temporary surface water use for riparian restoration projects. This water use could be allowed through an emergency or temporary, expiring water right, or similar mechanism. The temporary water right would allow irrigation of the riparian restoration site for a period of three years following planting. The program would be available to conservation district cooperators statewide and would apply to all conservation district sponsored riparian restoration sites regardless of funding source. Recognizing that riparian restoration projects provide a net environmental benefit, the program would also apply to surface waters closed to further consumptive appropriations through "over-riding consideration of the public interest."

**Status:** On-going conversations with Ecology



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**Resolution No: 08-004 - Dig It: The Secrets of Soil and PEDS (People on Earth Dig Soil)**

**Recommendation:**

We request WACD:

1. Recognize it is necessary to improve knowledge, exchange information, and develop and implement best practices for soil management, soil restoration, carbon sequestration, and long-term use of Washington's soil resources and
2. Recognize the important role of CDs' soil educators and soils professionals, who are well-equipped with the information and experience needed to address the issues of today and those of tomorrow in managing Washington's soil resources.

**Objectives**

1. Increase the number of CDs with public information and education programs on soil conservation.
2. Increase soil conservation educational activities and programs available for CDs to use.
3. Assist publishing, promoting, and marketing the CD concepts and activities about soil to the public on a statewide scale.

**Strategies**

- Develop and implement a successful targeted public outreach campaign around soil conservation that includes identification of key audiences, messages, and media. Reach land managers and citizens to change attitudes and behaviors toward conservation activities, planning, and practice application.
- Enhance the public education component beyond just farm planning, including educating citizens who have property with conservation needs.
- Raise community awareness of the need for food raised in a sustainable way. This includes participating in our partners' related programs.
- Increase public involvement and awareness of CDs by advertising and educational outreach.
- Increase soil education outreach to students, by using hands-on presentations and other youth conservation education opportunities.
- Build partnerships through networking with community groups and organizations and agencies involved with soil-related educational activities, programs and projects.

**Status:** Working with WSCC



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**Resolution No: 08-005 - Pesticide Container Label Change**

**Recommendation:**

1. That WACD forward the issue of pesticide container recycling and disposal on to the national level (NACD) to lobby the EPA to remove the language on pesticide containers that suggests burning plastic pesticide containers.
2. That WACD work with the Washington Department of Ecology to continue to help fund Washington's pesticide container recycling program. Ecology would cover the difference between what registrants who sell pesticides pay into the program and what it costs to run the container recycling program, should a shortfall occur.

**Status:** Forwarded resolution to NACD and conversations with Dept. of Ecology

**Resolution No: 08-006 - Public Works Project Administrative Procedures for Conservation Districts**

**Recommendation:**

Therefore, it is recommended that, WACD and WADE work with the WSCC to develop written procedures to aid conservation districts with compliance with public works laws and the administration of federal funding and provide appropriate training to conservation district employees.

**Status:** On-going

**Resolution No: 08-007 - Encouraging Timely Reimbursement from the Department of Ecology**

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Commission work with the Department of Ecology to eliminate undo delays of grant reimbursement. Ecology should be encouraged to comply with their policy to issue payments of grant funds within 30 days of receipt of properly completed invoice vouchers.

**Status:** Completed

**Resolution No: 08-009 - Increase district capacity for conducting cultural resource evaluations**

**Recommendation:**

WACD should work with the Washington State Legislature, Washington State Conservation Commission, and Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation to implement a solution that expedites the process of cultural resource evaluations and decreases the costs borne by Districts.

**Status:** Completed. Ongoing work by WSCC



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**Resolution No: 08-010 - WA State Certification of Soil and Wetland Scientists**

**Recommendation:**

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts support the efforts of the Washington Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS) for the certification of soil and wetland scientists by the Washington State Department of Licensing and send a letter of support to Tim Riebe the president of the WSPSS.

**Status:** Completed

**Resolution No: 08-011 - Open Spaces Act for Wildlife Areas / Biodiversity**

**Recommendation:**

WACD will work with other interest groups and State Agencies to develop changes to the Open Spaces legislation that will require counties to work with the local CD in determining what lands have value as wildlife habitat and biodiversity, which would then be eligible to be enrolled in open space designation and tax rates.

**Status:** On-going. Working with WSCC and Office of Farmland Preservation to bring idea to legislature.

**Resolution No: 08-012 - Recognition of Conservation Districts' Changing Clientele in WACD, NACD, and WSCC Policy and Actions.**

**Recommendation:**

WACD, NACD and WSCC fully recognize this current and emerging impact on natural resources due to the increase in small acreage and urban landowners and recognize these issues as a significant concern in their policies, actions and budget proposals.

**Status:** Completed.

**Resolution No: 08-013 - Manure and Public Health**

**Recommendation:**

WACD work with the Conservation Commission and State Department of Health to amend WAC 246-203-130 (2) to read:

*(2) In populous districts, manure must be managed according to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide practice standards and specifications in order to protect water quality.*

**Status:** Testified for Washington State Board of Health to open rule-making to change WAC. SBOH has started rulemaking and WACD will provide assistance.



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**Resolution No: 08-014 - Forest Stewardship Assistance**

**Recommendation:**

The Ferry Conservation District requests support in an effort to assist the landowner in meeting these costs, and to request additional assistance from the State of Washington to help landowners meet the costs of good forest stewardship.

**Status:** Completed.

**Resolution No: 08-015 - Separate Fish Passage Standards**

**Recommendation:** Advocate standards appropriate to the fish and hydrology that inhabit the blocked stream.

**Status:** Completed. On-going working with WSCC staff on issue.

**Resolution No: 08-016A - WACD support efforts for the allocation of an additional 50,000 acres to the State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program by the USDA in Washington State**

**Recommendation:**

WACD support efforts to secure an additional allocation of up to 50,000 SAFE acres from the USDA for all counties with CRP eligible acres in Washington State within the next year.

**Status:** Completed.

**Resolution No: 08-016B - WACD and NACD support efforts to increase the USDA State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program in The United States to one million acres**

**Recommendation:**

WACD and NACD support efforts to secure from the USDA an increase to one million SAFE acres in The United States within the next year.

**Status:** Completed

**Resolution No: 08-017 - Additional bio-fuels and feedstock crop for Washington farmers**

**Recommendation:**

WACD should encourage NACD, and any state legislation, toward removing regulation prohibiting the use of industrial hemp in agricultural production, processing or rotation crop in Washington State.

**Status:** No activity.



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**Resolution No: 08-018 - NRCS work with WACD to develop operating guidelines for the LWG process**

**Recommendation:**

NRCS work with WACD to develop operating guidelines for the LWG process.

**Status:** Completed.

**Resolution No: 08-019 - Assistance from Partners to Develop CD Administrative Protocols**

**Recommendation:**

WACD will consult and work with the above noted partners as well as the Washington Association of District Employees to develop consistent personnel and administrative policy guidelines by the end of the fiscal year. These guidelines will serve as an umbrella/tool which individual CD's can use to adapt to their specific needs.

**Status:** No activity

**Resolution No: 08-020 - Power to the People (Farmers)**

**Recommendation:**

WACD will work with WSCC to create an incentive program to convert stationary diesel engines to electric motors through a cost share incentive program that reimburses farmers for a portion of the cost of installing power lines where none exist.

**Status:** No Activity.

**Resolution No: 08-021 - Capricorn CREP – Site Preparation and Maintenance with Sheep & Goats, and other Appropriate Livestock**

**Recommendation:**

WACD will request FSA and the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) to authorize field trials to study the utilization of sheep or goats, or whatever livestock fits the circumstances as either a site preparation or maintenance tool for CREP and CRP projects with the following limitations:

1. The CREP and CRP program participant could not provide the sheep, or goats, or other livestock, or receive any remuneration whatsoever.
2. Grazing would be implemented pursuant to a conservation plan following NRCS FOTG practices to ensure protection of sensitive areas and the project's native trees and shrubs.
3. Goats, sheep, and other livestock are susceptible to infectious diseases that can be transmitted to wildlife. The herd would be examined on the farm of origin by an accredited veterinarian and approved for transport.



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4. Conservation district staff would monitor the trial closely and halt it if necessary to avoid any substantial negative impacts. They would prepare a report to FSA, NRCS, and WSCC as to its findings and recommendations.

**Status:** On-going discussion with Washington FSA.

**Resolution No: 08-022 - Change the overhead percentage received from the NRCS/  
Washington State Conservation Commission that pays the districts for TSP contract from  
10% to 25%**

**Recommendation:**

The WACD should support an action to increase the overhead payment from 10% to 25% of salaries and benefits from the NRCS/WCC TSP program to increase capacity to the districts.

**Status:** Completed.

**Resolution No: 08-023 - Support for Washington State Conservation Commission as an  
Independent Agency**

**Recommendation:**

The WACD should advocate for and support the continued independence of the WSCC as an agency of the State of Washington. The Washington State Conservation Commission would continue to provide support for Conservation Districts and act as a granting entity for Conservation Districts.

**Status:** On-going

**Resolution No: 08-025 - Using Conserved Water from the Columbia River Mainstem**

**Recommendation:**

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the WACD adopt a policy position supporting legislation specific to the mainstem Columbia River under RCW 90.90, which may be proposed, that would allow seasonal transfers of water saved by using irrigation water management and direct the WACD Executive Director and the WACD Lobbyist to provide written or oral support at any legislative hearing being conducted on legislation addressing this issue.

**Status:** Completed.