



**Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Status of 2010 Resolutions**

Updated August 2, 2011

Resolution No: 10-01 - Assessment Constitutionality Language Improvement

Recommendation: That WACD leadership and legislative liaison personnel will work to have improved conservation district assessment language adopted by the legislature.

Status: ON-GOING - Provided testimony in the Supreme Court case involving the Mason CD. Awaiting Supreme Court decision in the Mason CD case to frame next steps...

Resolution No: 10-03 - Recognition of Hydropower as a Renewable Resource in Washington State

Recommendation: WACD shall support the Washington State legislature's amendment to Initiative 937 to include hydropower as a renewable resource in Washington State.

Status: COMPLETED - Testified in favor of resolution during the 2011 Legislative session.

Resolution No: 10-04 - Recognizing Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Standards and Specifications as AKART

Recommendation: WACD work with the Washington State legislature to enact an amendment to RCW 90.48.010 that would read: "In the case of agricultural conservation planning and implementation, the State recognizes NRCS Standards and Specifications as AKART."

Status: ON-GOING - On-going conversations with State Agencies

Resolution No: 10-05 - Grazing as a Management Option

Recommendation: WACD should support legislative action to change policy to allow dormant-season grazing as a management option for grassland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) without payment reduction for lands that are properly managed.



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Status: COMPLETED - Carried the resolution to NACD and the resolution failed at the National level.

Resolution No: 10-06 - CSP and the 2012 Farm Bill

Recommendation: WACD and NACD work to include the following in the '12 Farm Bill.

1. The CSP program returns to the idea of "Rewarding the best" and
2. States and LWGs have a section included in the ranking application that pertains to local and state issues.

Status: COMPLETED - Carried the resolution to NACD and the resolution passed at the National level.

Resolution No: 10-07 - Restore NRCS Funding to Drainage Maintenance

Recommendation: That WACD work with NRCS to revisit their priorities and to restore funding to farmers for drainage maintenance expenses. Secondly, that WACD work with all interested government entities to establish affordable best management practices for drainage maintenance, which integrates the needs of habitat into the agricultural landscape.

Status: ON-GOING - On-going discussions with WA NRCS to look at opportunities to fund these kind of projects in their programs.

**Resolution No: 10-08 - Capricorn CREP – Site Preparation with Sheep & Goats
(Reviving WACD Resolution No: 08-021)**

Recommendation: WACD's representative will introduce and support a resolution before NACD to remove the limitation on grazing of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program when:

1. The grazing would be implemented for research purposes to assess this as an alternate method of site preparation and pursuant to a conservation plan following NRCS FOTG practices to ensure protection of sensitive areas and the project's native trees and shrubs.
2. The CREP program participant could not provide the sheep or goatherd or receive any remuneration whatsoever.



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3. The goats and sheep are examined for infectious diseases on the farm of origin by an accredited veterinarian and approved for transport because none are evident.
4. Researchers would monitor the grazing closely and halt it if necessary to avoid any substantial negative impacts. They would prepare a report to FSA and NRCS as to their findings and recommendations.

Status: COMPLETED - Carried the resolution to NACD and the resolution passed at the National level.

Resolution No: 10-09 - Power to the People (Farmers) - (Reviving WACD Resolution 2008-020)

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.

Introduce and support a resolution before NACD to make this practice eligible for cost share assistance through the NRCS EQIP Program.

Status: COMPLETED - Carried the resolution to NACD and the resolution passed at the National level. Met with NRCS HQ staff to promote the change in policy to allow for funding.

Resolution No: 10-10 - Support of NRCS Cultural Resource *Washington Bulletin WA 190-10-3*

Recommendation: That WACD appreciate and support *NRCS Washington Bulletin WA 190-10-3* and recommend each individual conservation district board do likewise. That WACD encourage the NRCS State Conservationist to continue streamlining the cultural resource process with emphasis on forestry and wildlife practices.

Status: COMPLETED - Support and appreciation verbally given to WA NRCS staff, and continued participation on efficiency updates to cultural resource activities supported.



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Resolution No: 10-11 - Building Relationships with Washington Natural Resource and Regulatory Agencies

Recommendation: WACD should continue to support the recent work of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) to bring regulatory and agricultural experts together to build better knowledge and improve the potential to work together. In addition, WACD should urge the WSCC to identify and develop by September 2011 long-term opportunities to build and expand the regulatory and agricultural understanding and needed partnerships to more effectively address common environmental resource problems.

Status: ON-GOING - Met with Agency directors to express opportunities for better collaboration on issues. On-going conversations to occur...

Resolution No: 10-12 - Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Cost Share Ratios for Instream and Riparian Area Enhancement Practices

Recommendation: The WSCC return to the cost share ratios identified in the 2004 version of the Washington State Conservation Commission Procedure Manual, and that the return to these cost share ratios is implemented in the upcoming biennium.

Status: NO ACTIVITY

Resolution No: 10-13 - Keep the Washington State Conservation Commission Independent

Recommendation: WACD should work with legislators and the governor to keep the WSCC independent from other state agencies.

Status: COMPLETED - Worked aggressively to this outcome during the 2011 Legislative Session and secured with partners the independence of the WSCC into the future.

Resolution No: 10-14 - Maintain the Independence of the Washington State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts

Recommendation: The WSCC should remain an independent state agency and the conservation districts should remain independent of any regulatory agency.



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Status: COMPLETED - Worked aggressively to these outcomes during the 2011 Legislative Session and secured with partners the independence of the WSCC, and non-regulatory position of districts, into the future.

Resolution No: 10-18 - Developing an Organization Flow Chart for WACD

Recommendation: That WACD Officers and Directors develop and adopt an organizational chart in 2011.

Status: COMPLETED

Resolution No: 10-19 - Amending WACD By-laws to Authorize Hiring of Employees by WACD

Recommendation: WACD Officers and Directors conduct a thorough review of the By-laws to be presented by May 2011.

Status: ON-GOING

Resolution No: 10-22- Tying Dues to Maintaining a WACD Annual and Long Range Plan of Work

Recommendation: The WACD Officers and Directors shall establish a task force that examines district dues structure, options for use of PMC funds within WACD and the use of annual and long range plans in the process and present to the 2011 annual meeting recommendations for any changes in the By-laws pertaining to this part of them.

Status: ON-GOING

Resolution No: 10-24 - Opposing Ecology's "Water Smart Washington" Proposed Legislation

Recommendation: That WACD actively oppose the proposed "Water Smart Washington" legislation in its entirety.



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Status: COMPLETED

Resolution No: 10-25 - BMP's

Recommendation: The Lincoln County Conservation District, Washington Association of Conservation Districts, Washington State Conservation Commission, and NRCS will work with all agricultural organizations to educate the DOE and work to adopt local BMP's, farm management plans, and NRCS technical guidelines that will result in the protection of the natural resources and water quality.

Status: ON-GOING

Resolution No: 10-26 - Potential Legislation

Recommendation: The Lincoln County Conservation District, Washington Association of Conservation Districts, and Washington State Conservation Commission work with the State legislature and agricultural organizations to explore rewriting, under the auspices of the applicable RCW, the Washington Administrative Code and/or RCW, propose new legislation that improves the non-point potential visual citation process, and improve the working relationship with landowners and managers of our natural resources.

Status: ON-GOING

Resolution No: 10-27 - Memorandum of Agreement

Recommendation: Lincoln County Conservation District requests that WACD and the Washington State Conservation Commission continue to support an MOA between the DOE and local conservation districts.

Status: ON-GOING

Resolution No: 10-28 - Conservation Districts' Representation on the Washington State Department of Ecology's Water Quality Financial Assistance Council

Recommendation: That WACD and the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) work together to ensure that conservation districts are fully represented on



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this **Water Quality Financial Assistance Council**. There should be at least one representative from a non-assessment conservation district to represent conservation districts that depend upon these grants for their existence and as a major source of implementation funding for their landowners on non-point source and agriculture water quality issues. WACD and WSCC will attempt to develop a funding source to ensure that conservation district representatives can attend the meetings and have productive input.

Status: COMPLETED

Resolution No: 10-29 - Moving the Irrigation Efficiencies Program from Ecology to the WSCC and Expanding the Program

Recommendation: In order to improve program effectiveness and efficiency and increase the focus and emphasis of the program, WACD shall work with DOE and the WSCC to move the IEGP from the DOE to the WSCC. Also, work to expand the scope of the IEGP to include all irrigation efficiency opportunities throughout the state.

Status: COMPLETED – During the 2011 Legislative Session the idea was approached and support was very challenging because of the budget situation. With a lot of engagement from partners and districts, a small amount of funding was restored to the program for the 11-13 biennium.

Resolution No: 10-30 - Opposing Water Right Fees

Recommendation: That WACD actively oppose an increase in water right application fees and oppose instituting an annual water management services fee.

Status: COMPLETED

Resolution No: 10-31 - Water for Rural Road Maintenance

Recommendation: WACD work with the Washington Department of Ecology and the Washington Association of Counties to develop a solution that will allow rural unimproved roads to undergo reasonable maintenance.

Status: NO ACTIVITY



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Resolution No: 10-32 - Referral of Cooperators Farming Adjacent to Lakes or Streams to Conservation District Prior to Regulatory Action Being Taken

Recommendation: WACD, NACD, and the WSCC work with state and federal regulatory agencies to enact agreements that would refer any landowner and/or land manager that is under scrutiny for ineffective buffering of sensitive lakes and/or streams adjacent to their operations first to their local conservation district for consultation prior to any regulatory action being taken.

Status: ON-GOING – MOA discussions and other conversations with State agencies.

Resolution No: 10-34 - Funding For Lands Acquisition by Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

Recommendation: WACD Support the removal of uncommitted and unspent funds of this biennium for WWRP or any other state funds and appropriate no funds for the next biennium for acquisition of private farm and forestlands.

Status: COMPLETED