



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2018-10

Title: Allow Increased NRCS Attendance at Conservation District Board Meetings

Problem: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service recently updated their General Manual (Part 427, Subpart D) regarding attendance of NRCS employees at conservation district board meetings. Specifically, this amended policy requires that only district conservationists, assistant state conservationists, and area conservationists may attend regularly scheduled meetings. Further, if conservation district meetings occur beyond a NRCS employee's regularly scheduled hours they must adjust their start or end time that day to prevent them from working more than 8 hours.

This policy further erodes a relationship that has had significant strains and pressures in the past few years and threatens to undermine NRCS' best local support. Regularly scheduled conservation district meetings often have representatives of other organizations and agencies in attendance which can substantially improve the cross-agency coordination we are all striving for in an era of limited budgets and workforce. Having professional, educated, and trained technical staff from local NRCS offices at conservation district meetings, whether they are district conservationists, specialists, soil conservationists, or even technicians significantly enhances overall production of our partnership and improves understanding of our programs and policies.

Recommendation: WACD shall work with NACD to urge, in the strongest terms possible, that USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service should revise this policy to increase instead of limiting or restricting participation at these meetings.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by the North Central Area Association on 10/16/18
Assigned to the Legislative, Bylaws & District Policies Committee
Recommended DO PASS on 11/26/18
Adopted on 11/28/18