



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING PACKET

JANUARY 2016

WASHINGTON STATE
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Kitsap Conference Center
 100 Washington Avenue
 Bremerton, WA 98337

WORK SESSION AGENDA
January 20, 2016

TIME	TAB	ITEM	LEAD	ACTION/INFO
9:00 a.m.		Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additions/Corrections to Agenda Items 	Chair, Lynn Brown	
15 minutes		Introductions/Comments	All	
9:15 a.m. 75 minutes	1	Strategic Planning Area for Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Resource Condition 	Mark Clark, Executive Director	Information Only
10:30 a.m.		BREAK – 15 minutes		
10:45 a.m. 75 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shellfish Funding Report Voluntary Stewardship Program Update Office of Farmland Preservation Easement Policy 	Ron Shultz, Policy Director	
11:30 p.m. 30 minutes		WORKING LUNCH: PLEASE RSVP TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BY JANUARY 8		
12:00 p.m.		Adjourn * Load Bus for tour at 12:30 p.m. in front of the Hampton Inn & Suites	Chair, Lynn Brown	

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 21, 2016, the WSCC will hold the regular business meeting at the Kitsap Conference Center beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The times listed above are estimated and may vary. Every effort will be made, however, to adhere to the proposed timelines. If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations, please contact the Conservation Commission at (360) 407-6200.



WASHINGTON STATE
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Kitsap Conference Center
 100 Washington Avenue
 Bremerton, WA 98337

PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA
January 21, 2016

TIME	TAB	ITEM	LEAD	ACTION/INFO
8:30 a.m.		Call to Order		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additions/Corrections to Agenda Items 	Chair Lynn Brown	
15 minutes		Introductions/Comments	All	
***** PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS *****				
8:45 a.m.	2	Consent Agenda		
5 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the WSCC December 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes (<i>pgs. 6-9</i>) 		Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Executive Director and Chair to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Legislative Fly-in, March 2016. (<i>pg. 10</i>) 		Action
8:50 a.m.		Partnership Reports		
40 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for partners at the table to provide an update on legislative activities surrounding natural resources. 	All	Info
9:30 a.m.	3	District Operations		
50 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor Mid Term Appointments (<i>pg. 12</i>) 		Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Manager Report (<i>pgs. 13-16</i>) 	Shana Joy	Info
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant CD Draft Implementation Grant Proposal (<i>pgs. 17-21</i>) 	Grant CD	Info
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Governance Update- <i>packet item only</i> (<i>pg. 22</i>) 	Supervisors /	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Professional Development Workgroup Update –<i>packet item only</i> 	Manager	
10:20 a.m.	4	Policy/Programs – items will be provided at meeting		
45 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Update 	Ron Shultz	Info
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Updates 	Ron Shultz	Info
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puget Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Update 	Ron Shultz/Shana Joy/Monte Marti, Snohomish CD	Info
11:05 a.m.		BREAK – 10 minutes		
11:15 a.m.	4	Dairy Issues		
5 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy Loan Program 	Ron Shultz	
11:20 p.m.		Presentation by Ginny Prest, Department of Agriculture		
40 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy Nutrient Management Program (DNMP) Update 		
12:00	4	Dairy (continued)		
10 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAFO Update 	Kelly Susewind	Info

12:10 p.m.
35 minutes

LUNCH: PLEASE RSVP TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BY JANUARY 8

***** PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS *****

12:45
75 minutes

4 Policy/Programs

- Governor’s Shellfish Initiative Julie Horowitz, Info
 - Results Washington Governor’s Office
- NEP Riparian Easement Program Lucy Edmondson, Info
EPA
- Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Ron Shultz Info

2:00 p.m.
10 minutes

Presentation by Perry Beale, WA Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

- WSDA Chemical Report

2:10 p.m.
45 minutes

Presentation by Brian Cochrane, Habitat and Monitoring Coordinator

- CREP Stream Layer and Performance Metrics

2:55 p.m.

BREAK – 15 minutes

3:10 p.m.
40 minutes

5 Budget

- Governor’s Budget Update Mark Clark Info
- Agency Financial Report **(pg.25)** Mark Clark/Sarah Info
Groth
- Emergency Programs Funding
 - Fire Funding Ron Shultz Info
 - Drought/Hay Ron Shultz Info
 - Chehalis Basin Stu Trefry Info
- Soil Health Update: summary on funded projects Lynn Bahrych Info

3:50 p.m.
40 minutes

6 Commission Operations

- 2015 WACD Passed Resolutions **(pgs. 27-47)** Mark Craven/Mark Info
Clark
- WSCC Staffing Update Mark Clark Info
 - VSP Coordinator
 - Regional Manager
 - Financial Manager
 - Other staff

4:30 pm

Adjourn

Chair Lynn Brown

NEXT MEETING:

Conservation District Tour **hosted by Stevens County Conservation District** will be on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 and the **Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting** will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

The times listed above are estimated and may vary. Every effort will be made, however, to adhere to the proposed timelines. If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations, please contact the Conservation Commission at (360) 407-6200.

TAB 2

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting
Spokane, Washington
December 3, 2015

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met in regular session on December 3, 2015, in Spokane, Washington. Chairman O’Keefe called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clinton O’Keefe, Chairman
Lynn Brown, Vice-Chairman, Central Region
Dean Longrie, West Region
Larry Cochran, Eastern Region
Daryl Williams, Member
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Jim Kropf, WSU-Puyallup
Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture
Kelly Susewind, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Mark Craven, President, WA Association
of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Derek Sandison, Director, Department of Agriculture

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Ray Ledgerwood, District Operations Manager
Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager

Mike Baden, Eastern Regional Manager
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Laura Johnson, Communications & Outreach
Brian Cochran, CREP Coordinator
Sarah Groth, Financial Services

PARTNERS REPRESENTED AT THE TABLE

Dave Vogel, Executive Director, WACD
Lucy Edmondson, Environmental Protection Agency Region (EPA) 10
Mike Kuttel Jr., Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rod Hamilton, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Roylene Rides at the Door, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

GUESTS ATTENDED

Dick Ryon, King Conservation District (CD), Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD, David Malsed, Skagit CD, Monte Marti, Snohomish, CD, Kathleen Whalen, Thurston, CD, Eddie Johnson, Lincoln CD, Elsa Bowen, Lincoln CD, Doug Allen, NRCS, David Hall, Thurston CD, Mike Nordin, Pacific CD, Nan Laughton, WACD, and Allison Christianson, BPA.

CONSENT AGENDA

Additions to include executive director attendance at a Fire Meeting in Sacramento in 2016. Date yet to be announced.

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the September 17, 2015 State Conservation Commission (SCC) meeting, and the memo from Director Clark seeking approval to attend with the Chair

to the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada January 30-February 3, 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Dean Longrie to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Perry Beale. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ron Shultz, SCC policy director reported on the status of the supplemental budget as this was a supplemental budget year. The Governor's office is currently working on having the budget released by the December 17 deadline. Mr. Shultz explained supplemental budgets and how they are for any necessary changes to the current biennial budget or for emergent and unexpected issues. For natural resource programs, funding will be very limited in the toxics account due to the low price of oil. The SCC received \$1 million for the biennium from the toxics account. It remains unclear whether these funds will be impacted if the toxics funding is reduced due to low collection in the account. The SCC has requested approximately \$3.5 million for fire recovery.

FIRE/DROUGHT FUNDING UPDATE

Ron Shultz provided an update on the drought and fire funding. The SCC requested additional funding and did not receive it. The feedback received through Senator Parlette was the inability to explain where exactly the funds would go towards. She also understood it was a challenge to do. Mr. Shultz explained the challenge of getting the exact dollar figure, but can estimate from the data they have so far. Districts and the SCC will continue to work hard to get the most accurate information to report to continue to seek additional funding.

The Wolf Recovery Panel had a meeting in September of 2015 regarding the landowner's needs in Okanogan. The current need is to find producers hay. There are several landowners who had rangeland burned throughout the Colville area. That area has no grazing for 2 years. Ecology will be providing drought funding to support the effort. The Office of Financial Management is also more comfortable using drought funding for recovery efforts. To date, the SCC staff has been working closely with Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD Manager and his team as they reach out to the local producers impacted. Ron discussed how the hay funding program would work. The impacted producer would apply and the SCC would pay by invoice to pay for the hay. Karla Heinitz, SCC staff is working with ECY staff to get this started. Director Clark hopes to have this up and running by mid-December for those landowners and producers who were impacted.

The Governor has directed agencies with the Emergency Management Division (EMD) to establish a Wildfire Council to address fires, preparation, response when fire occurs, and the recovery afterwards.

Rod Hamilton, reported the FSA has multiple programs available now for landowners and may potentially have the availability to have cost share for the fencing.

Director Clark reported part of DNR's funding went to firefighting at the time. In the budget, there was \$1.8 million set aside for Firewise 'like' activities. It was not mentioned who it would go to. Commissioner Welker has reported \$150K for Northeast efforts and \$150K for Southeast would be allocated. However, it has been reported some of the money allocated for DNR was used internally. At the WACD Annual Meeting luncheon, topic of discussion was brought up with guest speakers, Senator Warnick and

Representative Dunshee. They had mentioned possibly moving the funding to the Commission to carry out the money to where the needs are on the ground. Director Clark will continue discussions with DNR and would like to see the agencies collaborated a little more when doing joint funding requests.

DEEP FURROW DRILL PRESENTATION

Chris Herron, Franklin CD Supervisor and Dr. William Schillinger, WSU professor and research agronomist presented on the deep furrow drill that the Commission received \$350,000 from the legislature to pass through to assist with the effort of this project. Deep furrow drills were introduced in the mid-1960s and revolutionized dry land wheat farming in east-central Washington where average rainfall is less than 12 inches a year. The drills allow farmers using a winter wheat-summer fallow rotation to place seed deep into stored soil moisture. Unfortunately, those drills have a tough time working through residue, making farmers reluctant to leave heavy stubble on the ground, which can protect the soil from erosion. Mr. Herron and Dr. Schillinger, along with other many others worked hard on several proto types of a newer and better model and receiving funding to continue. They have Mr. Wood who owns a fabrication company in Spokane, Washington assisting with the current proto type. If the demonstration drill that is being worked on by Mr. Wood is successful, the next step would be to work out a cost share agreement with conservation agencies so farmers could afford a new drill.

VETS ON THE FARM

Vicki Carter, director of the Spokane Conservation District presented on a very successful program they implemented in their district with support of the community, sponsors and partners including the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Vets on the Farm provides Veterans of their community an opportunity to combine their military service and skills with an education in conservation that eventually lead to farming and agricultural based employment.

Vicki presented to the Commission members how the district started from the bottom up with so many supporters along the way to make this a community effort. The district had a tractor donated as well as some rebuilding work that needed to be done to run properly. The program has been very successful. In turn, it equips them to engage in employment with a new mission and sense of purpose.

Vicki encourages other districts to try a small pilot project and to start small. One vet, one farmer at a time. She is more than willing to guide them every step of the way. Vicki-carter@sccd.org. The web address for more information on Vets on the Farm is: <http://sccd.org/programs/vets-on-the-farms>.

COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Ray Ledgerwood, SCC district operations coordinator, reported the Conservation Commission hosted the CRM Executive Committee Meeting and Tour this year. The meeting was held on September 23 at the Swauk Teanaway Grange and the tour was sponsored by Department of Natural Resources in the afternoon of the collaborative work being done in the Teanaway Watershed. Mr. Ledgerwood walked commission members through the CRM priorities that is listed in their meeting packets and also found online at www.scc.wa.gov/meetings. Next year's 2016 CRM host will be the Department of Agriculture.

GOOD GOVERNANCE IDEA SHARING

Ray Ledgerwood gave a brief report on the Good Governance process including modification in the checklist form into a section for Good Governance elements that are included in legislation or Washington

Administrative Code and a section of "best practices" using the same elements from last year. Members were invited to send along any revisions and/or improvements in the Good Governance system. The SCC also gave a presentation on the Good Governance system in Corpus Christi Texas at the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP (TPDW)

Mr. Ledgerwood provided a briefing on the work of the Technical Professional Development Work group. They have created a website TPDW.org where you can find many resources such as their newsletter, action register, budget, accounting (time and funding), and a proficiency data-searchable database. TPDW has five training events scheduled in 2016 with NRCS in. The group has also completed their charter, DNMP certification, and Riparian Management Certification.

Mr. Ledgerwood gave credit to the Technical Professional Development Workgroup for their hard work.

LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Mr. Shultz briefed the Commission members on the All Districts Meeting on Long Term Sustainable Funding on September 21 2015 with Commission staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and identify options for long term sustainable funding of conservation district activities and the Conservation Commission. The districts in attendance developed a list of four options that are included in the meeting packet with further detail. The four options were: A) Increase Authority of Districts to Raise Awareness Level B) Statewide Per Parcel C) Dedicated Sales Tax and, D) Funding to Match any Local Dollars.

Ron also provided next steps and a process for moving forward identified by the conservation districts at the all districts meeting:

1. Evaluation and discussion of long-term funding options with each conservation district board.
2. Evaluation and discussion of long-term funding options with the Conservation Commission (to be done at the same time as #1).
3. Discussion at Area Meetings of the options and possible resolutions regarding preferred option(s).
4. Discussion at WACD Annual Meeting and possible action on resolutions regarding preferred options.

Motion by Commissioner Craven for Commission staff to reach out to conservation districts, stakeholders, state agencies, and state and local elected officials to gather feedback and input on potential long-term funding options. Commission staff are to report progress and results at the Commission January and March Commission regular meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Bahrych. Motion passed.

COMMISSION OPERATIONS

Motion by Commissioner Bahrych to elect Lynn Brown as Chair and Jim Kropf as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission. Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion passed.

Chair O'Keefe adjourned at 2:38 p.m.



Washington State
Conservation Commission

January 21, 2016

To: Conservation Commission Members

FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approval to attend the 2016 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Spring Fly In, March 14-15, 2016 in Washington DC

Summary/Action Request: Seeking approval for the Executive Director and Chair to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts Spring Fly-In (March 14-15, 2016) in Washington, D.C.

Staff contact: Mark Clark, Executive Director mclark@scc.wa.gov (360) 407-6201
Lori Gonzalez, Assistant, lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov (360) 407-7417

TAB 3

January 21, 2016

TO: Conservation Commission Members
 Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Lori Gonzalez

SUBJECT: Conservation District Appointed Supervisor Applications

Summary/Action Request: The Conservation Commission has received via the new on line application submittal system, three applications for ‘mid-term’ appointments to the Asotin County, Cowlitz, and Mason Conservation Districts. Mid-term appointments can be approved by the Conservation Commission if there is a vacancy on the board during mid-cycle of a full 3-year term.

Applications were sent to all commission members prior to the meeting for review. The three applications were also sent to the appropriate WACD elected area commission representatives for the west, and east side of the state (Commissioners Longrie and Cochran) for their thorough review and interview of the candidates. At the regular business meeting on January 21, 2016, they will provide their final recommendation for consideration.

Applications were also reviewed by the Departments of Agriculture and Ecology.

Below is are the applicant names and the conservation district they would like to serve below:

Conservation District	Applicant	Area Commission Member
Asotin County	Mr. Jason Schlee	Larry Cochran
Cowlitz	Ms. Lynn Simpson	Dean Longrie
Mason	Mr. Myron Ougendal	Dean Longrie

Staff contact:

Lori Gonzalez, Assistant, lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov (360) 407-7417

January 2016 Commission Meeting

District Operations Staff Report (November 2015 to January 2016)

Conservation District Assistance

Topics included:

1. Supervisor election & form issues
2. district operations
3. rates & charges
4. grants & vouchering issues
5. fire recovery
6. budgeting & funding issues
7. long range planning sessions
8. LRP draft for public comment
9. shared leave policy
10. contracting, engineering
11. community outreach
12. administrative capacity building
13. board development
14. supervisor development
15. new supervisor orientation
16. non-shellfish & shellfish grants
17. Voluntary Stewardship Program
18. composite rates
19. State Auditor FIT tool
20. donations to CDs
21. NACD
22. grant applications
23. policy development
24. email questions
25. Chehalis Basin Flood Authority
26. CD audits, logistics, & audit exit conference
27. mapping
28. engineering
29. personnel management
30. personnel policy development
31. new employee advertisements
32. employee performance evaluation material and guidance
33. 75th anniversary celebration
34. public records
35. recording public meetings
36. team building workshop
37. L&I coverage questions
38. project funding
39. cultural resource surveys
40. potential SCC-sponsored work study program for cultural resources
41. inter-agency relations
42. landowner dispute

On Going Services

- Cultural Resources Assistance
- District Operations Issues Resolved
- Orientation & Open Government Training of new Supervisors & employees
- Good Governance District Assistance
- District Capacity Building Assistance
- CPDS & Project Development
- Sharing of Examples, Templates, Information
- Fire Recovery Assistance
- CRM Facilitation

See Listing on page 5 for summary of Regional Managers in-person assistance and follow-up with Conservation Districts

Coordinated Resource Management:

Ray Ledgerwood facilitated the monthly net meeting of the CRM Task Group to discuss current CRM activities, workload, potential CRMs. Ray also participated in a conference call with Representative Derek Kilmer’s staff, Roylene Rides at the Door and Sherre Copeland regarding providing facilitation services for the Olympic Peninsula Forest Collaborative. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

Local Work Groups:

A busy reporting period with Local Work Group meetings. Stu Trefry planned and facilitated the 11.17.15 Southwest LWG team meeting including prioritizing the natural resource issues, priority practices, hold-downs, funding pools, estimated acres of treatment. Shana Joy prepared and facilitated the Puget Sound Teams LWG meeting, and provided assistance for the NW LWG meeting, and Mike Baden facilitated the Palouse LWG and Northeast LWG meetings. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood or any RM](#)

Voluntary Stewardship Program:

Stu Trefry with Ron Shultz attended a meeting between the Pacific CD, Pacific County Commissioners and planning staff to go over requirements and process for VSP. Stu also participated in the meeting for Counties and CDs on VSP in SW WA. Mike Baden participated in the similar VSP in Moses Lake. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#)

WACD Annual Meeting:

A busy week at the WACD Annual Meeting. Stu Trefry coordinated the presentation of the Supervisor Leadership Development Work Group, met with the managers of Lewis County, Grays Harbor, and Thurston CDs on Chehalis Basin Flood issues, attended the meeting of the Tribal Issues Task Force. Bill Eller coordinated the emergency management and fire recovery session and provided assistance throughout the meeting. Ray Ledgerwood facilitated discussion and feedback at the Supervisor Leadership Development Work Group session. Mike Baden, Shana Joy and Ray Ledgerwood provided assistance to WACD and met with district board members and staff throughout the event. Mike Baden also provided assistance to the WACD NE Area Director regarding replacement process and notification of districts for NE Area Director opening. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood or any RM](#)

Supervisor Leadership Development

Stu Trefry facilitated and coordinated a net meeting between the Supervisor Leadership Development Work Group; worked to develop the schedule and elements of the WADE Supervisor Track; continued to develop supervisor development modules for the WSCC website and assisted the WACD Tribal Outreach Task force on a letter to WACD asking to become a recognized committee. Stu also worked by email with the Supervisor Leadership Development Work Group on their presentation at the WACD annual meeting that he coordinated. For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

Ecology Watershed Assessments:

Ray Ledgerwood participated in net-meetings to plan three public meetings sponsored by Ecology’s Agriculture Stakeholder Group at the end of January. A decision was made by Ecology leaders to cancel this round of meetings and concentrate on existing work to be done with land owners that had received letters in past years instead of doing more watershed assessments in the upcoming year. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

Cultural Resources:

Larry Brewer provided cultural resource assistance this period with the following: Foster Creek CD for EZ1 review and also on process and on funding for CR work (referred) and on having Cascadia do the CR work; Whatcom CD on CR process and tribal contacting; Island Co CD on tribal contacts and on EZ1; Underwood CD on landowners, tribal consultation, topo maps and CR field surveys and the UDP; Palouse CD to discuss a current project with some tribal concerns; Skagit CD –EZ1 reviews; Mason CD on discussed a non-ground disturbing project, tribal contacts, and reviewed and commented on 6 EZ1 forms; Pierce CD on exemption use; Whitman District on a project which needed to follow federal protocol; Skagit CD on the possible need for a field survey; Adams CD on an EZ1 review, assistance with the CR process, Unanticipated Discovery Plan, and topo maps; Mason CD on Archeologist Consultants; Pierce CD on the “0505 Complied statement”; Foster Creek CD on riparian cultural resources.

Larry also provided other cultural resources services: continued emails and contacts for the DNR training participants; participated in 0505 agency meetings; developed response to WACD Resolution from Pierce CD; completed the NRCS “Cultural Resources Training Series Part 1” course in AgLearn; Submitted CR articles for the TPDW newsletters; reviewed the WSCC guidance on CR expenses; started working on next phase of Cultural Resource exemptions for Districts; continued work on developing a regional CR training agenda. For more information contact [Larry Brewer](#)

Chehalis Basin Flood Authority:

Stu Trefry coordinated a meeting between the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority and Grays Harbor CD and as well as a meeting between the 4 Chehalis Basin CDs and the staff of the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority. Stu also participated in the December meeting of the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority and coordinated with the four conservation districts in the Chehalis Basin on current biennium funding. For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

Wildfire Recovery:

Bill Eller & Mike Baden attended the Washington Wildfire Workshop put on by FEMA and USACE in Wenatchee. Once the President declared a disaster for the 2015 wildfires, FEMA and USACE were able to fund this workshop to try to gather ideas on how better to reduce previously identified post-fire threats, how to improve efforts for next time through better burn severity assessments and a better assessment process, and how to support funding streams through the burned severity assessments. Results of this process should be integrated with the Governor’s state effort. Bill Eller assisted Commission staff with FEMA PA 2015 wildfire reimbursement direction for the Commission. Bill also attended, with staff from Okanogan CD, a meeting and tour with NRCS’ Emergency Watershed Protection Program’s chief Fred Reaves, National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager, on the Central Washington wildfires. The meeting was held in Okanogan County on November 19-20th. Mike Baden assisted with various fire related tasks with districts. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#) or [Mike Baden](#).

Supervisor Elections:

Bill Eller drafted an election resolution and GovDelivery notice for those CDs who didn’t have one for elections and provided assistance with three districts having election issues. Bill also worked on election and appointment issues with Clallam, Okanogan, Snohomish, King, and Underwood CD’s regarding a variety of issues (absentee ballots, due notice, publication content, and deadlines). Bill also prepared a Q&A on CD election absentee ballots for GovDelivery (absentee ballots must be made available upon request by CDs) and researched whether public officers can hold multiple elected offices in Washington State (the answer is, it depends) for WACD leadership. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#).

CPDS & WSCC Cost Share:

Shana Joy coordinated and participated in a CPDS & SCC Cost-share training for Thurston CD staff. For more information contact [Shana Joy](#)

Rates & Charges:

Mike Baden completed work and distributed the rates and charges questionnaire for districts to indicate interest in pursuing rates and charges funding in their county. For more information contact [Mike Baden](#).

Area Conservationists and Regional Managers:

Regional Managers and NRCS Area Conservationists met in Spokane to work on task order process for NRCS/WSCC funded work; update on technical training for district and NRCS employees; fire assessment, ECP and MOA between NRCS and WSCC on fire recovery activities and funding; leased space issues; and RCPP activities. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

NRCS-WSCC Task Orders:

Regional managers and financial staff participated in net meetings on the new NRCS task order process and task order approval with districts under a new multi-year Contribution Agreement signed by Mark Clark and Roylene Rides at the Door. WSCC and NRCS staff have worked on improving and streamlining the task order application and reporting process. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

NRCS Strategic Planning:

Ray Ledgerwood facilitated a two-day strategic planning work session for the NRCS State Leadership Team. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

National Partnering:

Stu Trefry participated on the monthly teleconference of the NASCA policy committee and represented NASCA on the monthly teleconference of the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group and listened in to their monthly webinar which featured NACD November 16-20. Ray Ledgerwood completed the duties as chair of the training and certification action team of the National Conservation Planning Partnership work. For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

In-Person & Follow-up Work with Districts:

Regional Managers provided in-person assistance this reporting period with Wahkiakum, Clark, Pacific, Okanogan, Foster Creek, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Asotin County, Franklin, Central Klickitat, Skagit, Mason, Ferry, Cascadia, Palouse, Spokane, South Douglas, Stevens County, Pend Oreille, and Snohomish Conservation Districts.

Regional Managers provided follow-up assistance with Clark, Pend Oreille, Asotin County, Whitman, Palouse, Okanogan, Cascadia, Grant County, North Yakima, Spokane County, Ferry, Skagit, Adams, Mason, Pierce, Foster Creek, South Douglas, Underwood, Walla Walla, San Juan Islands, Grays Harbor, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Whidbey Island, Lewis, Spokane, Pine Creek Snohomish, Pacific, Lewis County, Underwood, Stevens County, Okanogan, Kittitas County, Benton, Eastern Klickitat, Thurston, Clallam, Snohomish, King, Lincoln County, and Jefferson Conservation Districts.



Proposal for Implementation Grant Future Funding

I. Summary

The merger of Moses Lake, Warden, and Upper Grant Conservation Districts has resulted in the successful formation of the Grant County Conservation District on September 20, 2012. The Washington State Conservation Commission agreed to maintain funding levels to minimize financial impact and allow time to build capacity. The newly formed Grant County Conservation District has successfully implemented the merger and is in the process of planning and implementing programs on a county wide basis.

II. Current Programs

The Grant County Conservation District is reaching out to and working with local groups and agencies on a variety of programs:

- Coordinators of the annual Othello Sandhill Crane Festival
- Work with WSU Master Gardner's on the annual Eco-Gardening Symposium
- Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, Salmon in the Classroom, Trout in the Classroom, Kids Coloring Contest
- Equipment rental - Direct Seed Drill
- Irrigation Water Management Cost Share Program with Grant County Public Utility District
- Nutrient management through new and updated Dairy Plans
- Resource management planning through RMS Farm Planning
- Cost share assistance
- Assist and help with complaints from other agencies
- Vacant lot and circle corner weed control
- Native plantings for beneficial insects and wildlife with Pheasants 4Ever and Grant County Weed District
- On-farm energy audits
- Shoreline restoration
- Water conservation on lawns/landscaping
- Assist other agencies with staffing needs
- Interlocal agreements with other Conservation Districts
- Grant County agriculture burn permits
- Continue to work with NRCS on Resource Map Inventory and TSP agreements
- Continue to work with agencies on juvenile fish habitat

III. Implementation Grant

The GCCD was able to implement many cost share projects on the ground and create new educational outreach and technical assistance with the increased funding through the WSCC. In the last two years, through the Implementation grant, GCCD expended \$112,750.41 on 25 projects. In the current fiscal year, we have 8 projects totaling \$41,342.50 started and seeking more projects up to \$8,600. The following projects benefited and will benefit from the funding:

- Farmstead energy improvements, Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) installed
- Drip irrigation, field improvements, brush management
- Irrigation water management (IWM), sprinkler packages
- Heavy use area protection (concrete slab)
- Fencing, pipeline, heavy use area protection
- Pipeline, sediment control, IWM
- Power fence, pasture and hay management
- Waste transfer (concrete push wall)
- (2) Fencing, pasture management
- Pasture seeding/establishment
- (2) Cross fencing
- Waste treatment
- Heavy use area protection, waste utilization
- Floating manure transfer pump
- Tree planting, trickle irrigation
- IWM
- Water trough, fencing
- Waste transfer (scraper and gate valves)
- Concrete slab for pesticide mixing containment/storage
- Field windbreak
- Pasture maintenance, planned grazing system, power fence
- Pollinator plants (Ephrata Community Gardens)
- Waste transfer improvements

IV. Goals/Objectives

The GCCD is working towards Rates and Charges to help subsidize future funding not only for current staff and activities but also to hire qualified/specialized staff for future projects.

- Work with the community and Grant County Commissioners on Rates and Charges
- Lead agency for Grant County Commissioners on Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)
- Assist with the implementation of the VSP – take lead on coordinating and directing state and federal conservation programs to address critical areas identified in the VSP plan
- Monarch in the Classroom
- Greenhouse for sustainable food in the local school districts
- Low water use landscaping in communities
- Facilitate the creation of Farmed Smart for irrigated agriculture and assist with GAP certification
- Work with vineyard and orchard producers with irrigation water management, nutrient management and pesticide management and handling
- Community projects and education
- Create a Blue Herron Festival
- Coordinate and facilitate efforts to explore the creation of composting facilities for dairy and feedlots
- Work with farmers on adoption of practices that promote soil health
- More outreach needs to be done to work with other agencies
- Research and have field day for blowing dust along I90 near George
- Training for staff
- Work with rural communities on local issues such as mosquito and runoff that is impairing natural drainage
- Work with producers on new innovative farm practices and have field days
- Seek grants for funding of projects
- Appointed voting member of Grant County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

V. Procedures/Scope of Work/Budget

The GCCD has 4 full-time staff members and 2 part-time staff members and 7 volunteers. The full-time staff members include District Manager, Administrative Assistant, Resource Technician, and Education and Outreach Coordinator. Part-time staff includes Liaison and Wildlife and Native Technician. GCCD is working with Grant County Commissioners and staff on VSP. GCCD will take the lead and form the work groups and work with the group to come up with a plan for the Ag critical areas. While working on the relationship with the Grant County Commissioners, staff is needed to continue to educate and outreach efforts to the public, continue coordination for non-profit agencies, work on complaints for other agencies and counties, complete farm plans to address natural resource issues, seek cost share assistance that benefits water and soil, and to continue working on all the new programs the district is implementing.

GCCD is researching options and developing a strategy to initiate Rates and Charges in Grant County. It has taken three years to establish the framework for community outreach and education developed around assisting producers and working with other agencies and counties in an effort to demonstrate our ability to provide solid technical assistance to our constituents. GCCD was able to achieve these goals when the three districts combined the funding received through the Washington Conservation Stare Commission remained the same. GCCD received \$179,825 per year ending June 30, 2016. GCCD is seeking future funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission to not only help continue with current programs and projects but to help the district expand to meet the conservation needs of the larger community we are now serving.

The following is the budget GCCD came up with in order to continue the good works and the future work needed to be done.

Budget	Description of Work
\$ 150,000	Continue current programs and assistance, seek Rates and Charges, hire a consultant, work on new projects and goals, and continue to work with other agencies, continue with small project cost share assistance through the Implementation Grant, and keep current staff.
\$ 130,000	Continue with current programs and assistance, seek Rates and Charges, hire a consultant, and continue to work with other agencies, work on new projects and goals, and scale down one staff.
\$ 114,000	Continue with current programs and assistance, seek Rates and Charges, hire a consultant and eliminate one to two staff members.



January 21, 2016

TO: Conservation Commission Members

FROM: Ray Ledgerwood – Regional Manager Coordinator

SUBJECT: Good Governance 2016

Background Summary: Recommendation to the Commission from Regional Managers to continue present Good Governance policy and checklist for one more year (2016) while developing an improved checklist of Good Governance Requirements and Best Practices for use in 2017. Introduction of new policy and checklist at June meeting of Commission Members.

Action Requested: No Action Required

Staff Contact: Ray Ledgerwood – Regional Manager Coordinator

TAB 4

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Packet items will be provided at meeting.

TAB 5

**Conservation Commission Agency Operations Budget
(Including Commissioners Expenses)
Biennium to date as of 1/7/2016**

Fund 001- General Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u>Biennium to date Allotment</u>	<u>Biennium to date Expenditures</u>	<u>Biennium to date Variance</u>
Salaries and Wages	563,406	555,506	7,900
Employee Benefits	206,964	208,410	(1,446)
Goods and Other Services	166,392	125,958	40,434
Professional Service Contracts	80,502	32,256	48,246
Travel	84,114	77,282	6,832
Grants, Benefits & Client Services	9,017,128	2,394,969	6,622,159
Sum:	<u>10,118,506</u>	<u>3,394,381</u>	<u>6,724,125</u>

TAB 6



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2015 WACD Annual Meeting Adopted Resolutions

December 2, 2015



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2015 WACD Annual Meeting Resolutions – FINAL

Resolution	Title	Author/District	Committee Passed
2015-06	Changes in Timing, Conduct and Responsibilities for Conservation District Supervisor Elections	Thurston CD	Legislative Committee
2015-09	Long-Term Sustainable Funding	Spokane CD	Legislative Committee
2015-10	Emergency Response Funding	Okanogan CD	Legislative Committee
2015-11	Professional Engineering Program Funding	South Central Area Engineers	Legislative Committee
2015-12	District Building Capacity Needs	Snohomish CD	Legislative Committee
2015-16	Central Washington Weather Radar	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-17	Improve Forest Land Management on State and Federal Lands	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-18	Fuel Buffers along Roads	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-19	Sharing Burned Intensity Data with Non-Federal Burned Area Evaluation Teams	Okanogan CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-20	Preparedness for Resource Assessments after a Natural Disaster	Stevens County CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-21	Conservation of Aquatic Farm Lands and Habitat related to Burrowing Shrimp Degradation	Pacific CD	Natural Resources Policy Committee
2015-22	Recognition for Associate Supervisors	Clark CD	District Operations & Education Committee
2015-23	Increased Funding for Professional Engineer Grant	Clark CD	District Operations & Education Committee
2015-24	Cultural Resources Review Process Efficiencies	Pierce CD	District Operations & Education Committee

NOTE: Resolutions adopted retained their original assigned numbers.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-06

Title: Changes in Timing, Conduct and Responsibilities for Conservation District Supervisor Elections.

Problem:

Under current law (Chapter 89.08 RCW), and rules (Chapter 135-110 WAC) of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), conservation district supervisor elections are held at various times within the first quarter of each year, and are the responsibility of each local conservation district to conduct. Concerns have been expressed by some legislators, at least one independent group (League of Women's Voters), and by some district supervisors about:

1. The degree of voter awareness and participation in district supervisor elections;
2. The cost to a conservation district for supervisor elections;
3. Differences between conservation district supervisor elections and other elections; and,
4. The level of citizen interest in becoming a candidate for elected district supervisor.

WACD recognizes that it is critical to the public's confidence in the leadership and governance of conservation districts that elections garner as much voter and candidate participation as possible. Lack of voter awareness about conservation districts (their existence and function), together with voter confusion about election procedures and variable election dates (including the perceived overlay of other "regular" elections), can reduce the public's participation in the conservation district supervisor election process. WACD is committed to securing more involvement by the public in conservation district supervisor elections by promoting meaningful and affordable improvements in the supervisor election process and procedures.

Toward that end, WACD submitted recommendations to WSCC for action on specific alternatives in refining district supervisor elections (see *WACD Recommendations on WSCC Election Proviso Report, July 17, 2014*). These recommendations outline how we might help give people more reason to vote by changing the timing and manner in which district supervisor elections are held. WACD recognizes the need to market the district election – that is, market what it is conservation districts do, how their communities benefit, and how people can participate and make a difference.

WACD also noted the difficulty, in some cases, in enlisting local citizens to become candidates for supervisor elections. Supervisors are unpaid, and often donate long volunteer hours with extensive travel and public interaction. It is a challenge to find people, often having fulltime jobs, who are willing or able to put in the time required for these leadership positions.

Candidate and voter interest is hampered further if the public is not informed about what districts do and why voters and candidates should consider becoming involved.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-06 (continued)

WACC is scheduled to deliver a report to the Legislature on supervisor election reform, as required under 2014 budget proviso language. WACD understands, in order to retain credibility with taxpayers, legislators, customers and others, and to build unity among conservation districts on a reasonable path forward, that it is necessary that supervisors initiate action on conservation district supervisor election reform.

Recommendation:

WACD and WACC shall explore the following combined changes in the conservation district supervisor election process and procedures, within existing law or rules, or through legislative action, and through consultation with the state auditors' association and other local partners, as appropriate:

1. Vet with all conservation districts a procedure for a statewide election day for all annual conservation district supervisor elections, exploring the costs, benefits, and logistics of such an approach, and including collateral benefits and costs in terms of marketing conservation districts and their supervisor elections to encourage voter and candidate participation, and seeking possible cost efficiencies or reductions in comparison to alternatives.
2. Facilitate a procedure whereby *county auditors* participate in district supervisor elections, including distribution and receipt of ballots, provision of ballot security, managing ballot processing and counting, and otherwise cooperating with the conservation district to provide separate, secure and impartial handling of election materials. WACD and WACC shall develop this procedure and cost estimates through consultation with the county auditor association and conservation district(s) currently using such a system.

Presented by: Thurston Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-09

Title: Long-Term Sustainable Funding

Problem:

Conservation districts in Washington are consistently facing increasing demand for services with fewer financial resources to address these needs. Several conservation districts have been able to take advantage of an assessment or rates and charges to provide financial resource to meet some local needs. However for most conservation districts local county commissioners have not supported requests to enact these fund sources.

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), like all natural resource state agencies, has faced budget cuts over the past several biennium. The most recent budget for the WSCC was a maintenance level budget with only a few specific funding increases dedicated to programs with specific funding requirements not available to all conservation districts. The state budgets in future years will continue to be constrained by other demands such as K-12 education funding. Continued reliance on state general funds for WSCC and conservation district activities will mean continued competition for limited funds.

Federal funding for natural resource programs is also facing continuing limitations and reductions. Existing fund sources traditionally relied on by districts are being modified with new planning requirements or wider buffers. These changes can limit the attractiveness of these programs for landowners, reducing landowner willingness to take advantage of these resources.

Recommendation:

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and the WSCC should actively pursue implementation of a long-term sustainable fund source for conservation district activities and WSCC programs.

The selection of the specific long-term fund source should be mutually identified by the WACD and the WSCC after broad discussions with conservation districts, stakeholders, and key policy makers including legislators.

The long-term fund source should be identified by May 2016.

When pursuing such a fund source the following criteria should be followed:

1. Allow for local conservation district variation in program implementation to meet local conservation needs.
2. Not jeopardize existing conservation district rates and charges or assessments, while still allowing conservation districts to continue to pursue rates and charges to support local conservation needs.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-09 (continued)

3. Provide sufficient funding to significantly increase basic funding for all conservation districts.
4. Provide sufficient funding to significantly increase funding for the WSCC to provide programs to support conservation efforts across the state.
5. Engage a variety of stakeholders to support the funding request and support the work of conservation districts and the WSCC.
6. Engage all conservation district supervisors and staff in the development of the funding proposal, and encourage all conservation districts to engage with local stakeholders to better understand the work of their local conservation district and support the funding request.

Presented by: Spokane Conservation District

Approved by the Northeast Area Association on 10/20/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-10

Title: Emergency Response Funding

Problem:

Immediately following natural disasters, local, state, federal, and tribal jurisdictions begin the long process of recovery. This work eventually turns to the evaluation of damages to natural resources and community needs for redevelopment as a means of getting local agriculture and other industries functioning.

Conservation districts in Washington State are uniquely qualified to provide important, and sometimes, critical technical and financial assistance to private landowners affected by natural disasters. Districts know the communities they serve and understand how to quickly triage situations and work with partners to bring the most important resources to bear on the greatest natural resource concerns. Districts employ highly qualified and dedicated technical professionals who are often called upon for technical advice, education, and design of critical conservation practices immediately following fires. Not all Districts have the financial capacity to provide the necessary staff time to adequately meet these needs.

There are dozens of emergency response programs for agriculture housed within federal agencies. However, these programs take considerable time to actually deliver funding and resources to those in need on the ground. Often, smaller amounts of work very early following a disaster can lead to a significantly reduced cost to recover if funded months or even years later. This includes, but is not limited to, seeding disturbed areas to prevent erosion, controlling invasive species, and providing critical business infrastructure.

Recommendation:

WACD support the creation of dedicated funding that can be used by conservation districts in Washington State to provide critical staff support and where appropriate cost-share assistance to disaster recovery operations.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by the North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-11

Title: Professional Engineering Program Funding

Problem:

The WSSC Professional Engineering Services Grants Program provides base funding to support an engineering program in each of 9 regions across Washington State to serve all 45 conservation districts. Engineering services provided include: feasibility studies, assessments, grant application writing, surveys, design, construction management, inspection, contract oversight, project management, program management, project scoping, cost estimating, and budgeting.

The current WSSC budget for each of the 9 areas provides sufficient funding to cover cost of overhead and a portion of one full time engineer's salary. Several of the engineering program regions have struggled to maintain a consistent program due to challenges associated with acquiring and retaining engineering staff due to the funding constraints, lack of technical staff resources, and high workload. The current funding levels have resulted in a high rate of turnover and excessive workload which has adversely affected both programs and projects.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that WACD work with partners to increase the Professional Engineering Services Grants Program funding. This increased support from beyond our traditional funding sources will allow the program sufficient funding to acquire resources to address back logged workload and improve support to each of the districts the program serves.

Presented by: South Central Engineering Area

Approved by the South Central Area Association on 10/14/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-12

Title: District Building Capacity Needs

Problem:

Conservation districts in Washington continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of their communities. Districts develop annual and long range plans that address the resource needs within their district. In order to implement these plans and to address the resource needs, districts have also identified physical building space needs as a potential limiting factor that needs to be addressed. Funding for these building needs is an action that these districts, WACD, the Commission, and potentially other partners need to address.

Recommendation:

WACD and the Washington State Conservation Commission shall develop an action plan to address the land acquisition and physical building space needs of conservation districts. This action plan shall be developed prior to the WACD area meetings in 2016, and potential resolutions shall be developed to implement the plans prior to the 2016 area meetings.

The WACD Board of Directors shall guide the Executive Committee in soliciting a response from all member conservation districts to assess their needs for increased building/space capacity. Districts shall bring their needs to the attention of the Board of Directors prior to development of a WCC biennial budget. The Board of Directors shall determine from this assessment the degree of member districts' interest in pursuing an action plan to secure funding from the Legislature to address this collective need as part of the WSCC – prepared biennial budget. If the Board of Directors incorporates this specific funding item into the WACD legislative/budget strategy for 2017 or beyond, WACD shall support this collective funding request in accordance with priorities set by the Board of Directors. WACD shall work with WSCC, the Governor's Office and the Legislature as directed by the Board of Directors, to support and advance a legislative budget request, including capital budget and other funding options.

If the Board of Directors does not incorporate a collective districts' building/space capacity request into the WACD legislative/budget strategy, the Board shall determine whether any individual capital request from a conservation district is consistent with or conflicts with WACD legislative/budget priorities, in directing a proper level of WACD support or response.

Presented by: Snohomish Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Approved by the Northwest Area Association on 10/6/15

Amended and passed by Legislative Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-16

Title: Central Washington Weather Radar

Problem:

The National Weather Service maintains weather radars at Airway Heights, Washington and Pendleton, Oregon to cover the vast majority of Eastern Washington. These radars provide weather forecasters critical information regarding weather systems, storms, and potentially hazardous conditions for the public, communities, and industry.

Unfortunately, these weather radars are far enough away from the East slopes of the Cascade Mountain range that their effectiveness is severely diminished to non-existent. During times of predicted hazardous weather, the forecasters and hydrologists of the National Weather Service must issue blanket warnings over large areas because the existing radar doesn't show them actual current conditions to know the exact location of thunder cells and other hazardous weather conditions. The result of these large area warnings is too often many people don't see hazardous weather during a warning and thus become desensitized to the warning system.

With accurate radar coverage, weather systems that could be at the least damaging to property and public infrastructure and at most hazardous to human life can be better monitored and appropriate warnings can be issued.

Weather forecast and radar technology are changing rapidly. Landowners, businesses, agencies, and the resources they manage are threatened by weather related threats that could be better forecast if the right combination of technology is utilized.

Recommendation:

WACD and NACD support the necessary funding to conduct studies to identify, design and implement the proper weather forecast system which resolves the weather radar gaps..

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Substituted and amended by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-17

Title: Improve forest land management on state and federal lands

Problem:

Forested lands and adjacent rangelands and communities across the western US are experiencing a catastrophic increase in uncharacteristically severe wildfires, insect infestations, disease epidemics, habitat loss and hydrologic effects that cause massive erosion.

The underlying causes of these hazards are ecologically and socially complex, and include past management practices, failure to recognize the natural role of fire as a management tool, persistent drought, legal challenges, and lack of adequate funding for federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale fuel reduction and restoration prescriptions.

As of October 2, 2015 the National Fire Information Center reported that over 9 million acres of land have been consumed by fire in the United States this year with several large fires still burning (<https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm>). According to the same source we have lost over 6 million acres to fire in each of the last 10 years on average. Based upon record maintained by the center that date back to 1960, there have only been 7 years in which 8 million acres or more have been consumed by fire. All of these have happened since the 2004 fire year.

Forest lands have changed drastically in the past 100 years, but the effects have been especially acute in the last 25 years. During this time when historic fuel loading has fed explosive and increasingly severe fires, more people and associated infrastructure have moved into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) adjacent to public lands. In spite of this dangerous trend, funding for prescriptive forest management activities on federal lands to restore forest resilience and mitigate risk to adjacent lands, including fuels reduction and prescribed fire, have been drastically cut back.

The lack of adequate restoration funding has also resulted in a significant bottleneck to innovative planning and management tools in which some National Forests have invested (such as the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Restoration Strategy http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340103.pdf). Such tools would enable the federal agencies to implement prescriptions designed to make the forest more resilient to warmer, dryer weather and fire conditions anticipated in the future, balance natural resource protection and management goals, and provide social and economic benefits for local communities and industries.

Lawsuits have also been a barrier, slowing the planning and implementation of fuels reduction projects, reducing effectiveness and adding to the overall cost. In recent years, multi-stakeholder collaborative efforts underway on several national forests across the west are showing promise as a means to overcome litigious gridlock. These efforts, many of which include participation by local Conservation Districts, are playing a critical role in building consensus around the ecological, economic and social interests associated with landscape-scale forest projects.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-17 (continued)

Recommendation:

WACD and NACD support and continue to support the following:

Federal:

1. Legislation that includes provision for the use of off-budget funding sources (similar to FEMA funding for natural disasters) when USDA or USDI wildfire suppression expenses exceed 70% of the 10 year average;
2. Congressional authorization of at least \$500 million for increased prescribed burning;
3. Congressional authorization of \$1 billion for accelerated forest thinning;
4. Coordinated capacity funding of \$50 million for collaborative efforts to engage forest land managers on a local and regional scale; and
5. Full executive branch support through policy and funding requests to implement locally developed prescriptive management plans for federal, state, tribal, and private forest lands.

State:

1. Legislative authorization of at least \$25 million for increased fuels management on state and private lands including prescribed thinning and burning;
2. Legislative authorization for funding to support and increase collaborative capacity building to engage stakeholders, conduct field trips and build social agreement on projects from planning through implementation and monitoring. Since the range of capacity building needs varies among existing and anticipated collaboratives, establishing a competitive Request for Proposal process that could award up to \$200,000 per collaborative for the next biennium would augment the local and regional investments already committed.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Substituted and amended by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-18

Title: Fuel Buffers along Roads

Problem:

During wildland fire fighting activities, incident commanders and on the ground firefighters look for appropriate and safe places to fight fires. These are often areas of more open timber, natural and human created fuel breaks, and areas with good egress routes if the fire can't be contained.

Recent large fires in Washington State have moved very rapidly across landscapes which have threatened to cutoff primary evacuation routes for residents of the Wildland Urban Interface. It is not uncommon for residents in these rural areas to have only one route of egress which, if cutoff due to fire, puts them at significant risk.

Roads in rural areas could be used as defensive fire control locations if the fuels along them are appropriately treated and controlled.

Recommendation:

WACD support the evaluation and implementation of programs and services that develop wildfire fuel breaks along roads and other rights of way for the purposes of containing wildfire and providing critical ingress and egress routes for residents and emergency service alike.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by the North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-19

Title: Sharing Burned Intensity Data with Non-Federal Burned Area Evaluation Teams

Problem:

The USDA Forest Service developed the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team process in the 1930s and 1940s to identify priority conservation measures following wildfires. The process used has improved over the years largely due to lessons learned from previous wildfire recovery efforts and increasing availability of technology.

One of the most important pieces of technology used by BAER Teams is Burned Area Reflectance Class (BARC) imagery. BARC images are created from a computer comparing a satellite image of the burned area before the fire and after the fire which shows the approximate amount of vegetation lost due to the fire.

Burned Area Reflectance Class imagery is currently only available to federal agencies except following a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Presidential Disaster Declarations are not always declared for smaller wildfires and thus this resource will not be available to local and state wildfire recovery agencies and organizations.

Recommendation:

WACD and NACD support necessary policy changes to allow for the transmittal of critically important technology available to federal agencies to non-federal entities working to perform timely post wildfire evaluation and restoration activities.

Presented by: Okanogan Conservation District

Approved by North Central Area Association on 10/13/15

Passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-20

Title: Preparedness for Resource Assessments after a Natural Disaster

Problem:

There is a lack of planning, coordination and assistance for resource assessments after a natural disaster, in particular wildfire for state and private lands. Federal agencies have a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program and protocol to assess damages and identify future threats to life, safety and structures. This process also helps with long-term recovery planning.

Specific to Stevens County, the Carpenter Road Fire burned over 60 thousand acres; approximately 50% private ground. The federal and tribal ground was assessed immediately and with no consideration of the private and state lands. A last minute state team was able to assess the private and state grounds. Three separate analyses of the Carpenter Road Fire were made with no cooperation or comparison of results between teams. This cannot be the most efficient use of funds with the best possible results.

Another problem arising from the disaster is timeliness to receive required permits for riparian restoration projects and salvage logging.

Recommendation:

WACD and Conservation Commission work to develop a state natural resource assessment program with stable funding and standard protocols to evaluate state and private ground immediately after a disaster.

WACD and Conservation Commission will ~~try to~~ develop a working relationship with federal agencies to ensure that the entire disaster area is evaluated instead of separating out federal, state and private ownerships.

WACD and Conservation Commission will work to develop this assessment team so it will provide information required by the permitting agency to expedite issuance of permits after a disaster.

WACD and Conservation Commission should invite large corporate landowners to participate in the development and funding of this natural resource disaster assessment program.

Presented by: Stevens County Conservation District

Approved by the Northeast Area Association on 10/20/15

Passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-21

Title: Conservation of Aquatic Farm Lands and Habitat related to Burrowing Shrimp Degradation

Problem:

In the early 1950s 2 species of burrowing shrimp began to expand out of their historic population centers along the west coast of Washington State eliminating habitat stability relied upon by many commercial and noncommercial aquatic species including native shellfish, crab, fish, fauna, etc. This population expansion was first noticed by shellfish growers in Willapa Bay who were losing shellfish crops. From 1963 until 2013 shellfish farmers were permitted through multiple levels of state and federal permitting to control shrimp on a limited amount of commercial shellfish lands with an effective tool that had been proven safe through multiple EISs and years of research. This closely monitored IPM program acted to protect the ability of these farmlands to not only support shellfish beds, but also acted to protect the integrity of these lands for many other species that rely on substrate stability. Currently the permit allowing the only known tool effective at controlling shrimp is not available. The result is the ongoing loss of historic farmlands, and the loss of thousands of acres of habitat.

For over 50 years the shellfish farmers in Willapa and later Grays Harbor have acted out of an economic requirement to control these destructive pests on a small amount of their total farms lands. Permitting restrictions in regard to acre amounts have resulted in farmers losing large portions of historically farmed lands to these pests. The net benefit to the public has been to stabilize these lands so that other species reliant on them had a safe haven as shrimp populations continued to cycle. Now for the first time in 53 years, shellfish farmers have no tool for use to control shrimp populations.

Because other state and federal land managers have not made any significant effort to participate in managing this species, thousands of acres of once productive general habitat areas have been lost. Without an effective control tool it is estimated that between 60% and 80% of the once protected farm lands may be lost. This will result in many farms become non-viable in terms of supporting their overall operational seed and harvest needs for multiple shellfish crops. It will also result in the loss of what is recognized as prime general habitat for many commercial and non-commercial species.

Recommendation:

WACD work with WSCC to advocate that all public land managers adhere to pest species statute in controlling pest species on public lands, while recognizing the overall destructive nature of these species to public resources, agricultural lands, commercial species nursery areas, fish habitat, etc. Advocate that state and federal agencies do not allow public lands under their management to harbor pest species as defined in applicable agricultural definition relevant to pest species. WACD and WSCC support shellfish farmer



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-21 (continued)

efforts to expedite permitting necessary to sustain aquatic farm lands with minimal monitoring or other non-critical permit requirements. Request Conservation Commission to meet with Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, Washington Departments of Ecology, Natural Resources and Agriculture to discuss issues related to invasive species on state owned lands.

Presented by: Pacific Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Amended and passed by Natural Resources Policy Committee on 12/1/15

Amended and passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-22

Title: Recognition for Associate Supervisors

Problem:

We show our appreciation to our Board Members at the WACD Annual Meeting and recognize them with pins for their years of service. However, Associate Supervisors do not get recognition from WACD or fellow districts for their time and volunteer efforts.

Our Associate Supervisors work tirelessly for our District. They come to board meetings, participate in our activities, and provide support alongside our board members. Some have helped our District for many years. Associate Supervisors may not be able to vote at a board meeting, but they are just as involved in our discussions and activities as our Board Members. We appreciate the input, effort, and support everyone provides, regardless of their title. Associate Supervisors work hard for our district and they should be recognized in the same way as Board Members for their dedication and years of service completed.

Recommendation:

WACD recognize Associate Supervisors for their years of service the same way they recognize Board Members at the Annual Meeting.

Presented by: Clark Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Passed by District Operations and Education Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-23

Title: Increased Funding for Professional Engineer Grant

Problem:

A knowledgeable and competent Professional Engineer is vital for habitat restoration projects and structural BMPs. Unfortunately, the current Engineering grant funds are inadequate for maintaining a quality Professional Engineer and the support system for the position. Our Engineering Area districts have been struggling to find and keep an engineer able to do the work because of the low salary. Those interested in the position usually do not have the experience or knowledge needed or only stay a short time until they find something else that pays more. Districts need to offer a competitive salary and support to attract and retain a quality natural resource engineer.

Recommendation:

WACD work with WSCC to prioritize the Professional Engineer grant and increase funding for the program in 2017-2019 biennium.

Presented by: Clark Conservation District

Approved by the South West Area Association on 10/7/15

Amended and passed by District Operations and Education Committee on 12/1/15

Passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-24

Title: Cultural Resources Review Process Efficiencies

Problem:

Conservation Districts value cultural resources and actively work to preserve local heritage in our work with private landowners. Much of the work Conservation Districts do in the community rely on grant funding from various different agencies. Various funding agencies have different processes and policies for cultural resource considerations. As of May 2015 nine different agencies have lists of practices exempt from doing a cultural resources review from Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) review. It is likely additional agencies will seek exemption lists. These lists vary vastly and some of the lists are quite extensive. For example; several agencies are exempted from review if work is taking place in a previously disturbed area and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is exempted from review for postholes. However, the State Conservation Commission's (WSCC) exemption list does not include these same exemptions. This lack of consistency puts undo stress on smaller organizations, like Conservation Districts, who relies on a variety of funding yet lack the resources to have a designated cultural resource department to sift through different policies and exemptions.

Valuing cultural resources is a high priority, therefore finding efficient and cost-effective ways to ensure cultural resources are not disturbed and are protected is key to compliance while continuing to deliver conservation on the ground.

Recommendation:

With the goal of respecting cultural resources, while efficiently implementing conservation practices on the ground in a cost-effective way, we suggest:

- A. The Conservation Commission and WACD continue to work on behalf of Districts to propose consistency in exempted activities between all appropriate agencies, including consulting with the DAHP, to have a single list of exempted activities with common definitions to bring more efficiency and consistency to the process so that the organizations implementing projects on the ground may have more clarity.
- B. Conservation Commission should allow staff time spent by conservation district staff managing cultural resources review be eligible expenses for grant reimbursement.

Districts should cooperate within districts, WSCC and cooperators to find the most cost effective and time efficient ways.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution No. 2015-24 (continued)

Presented by: Pierce Conservation District

Approved by the Northwest Area Association on 10/6/15

Amended and passed by District Operations and Education Committee on 12/1/15

Amended and passed by General Assembly on 12/2/15