CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING PACKET

MARCH 2016

Washington State Conservation Commission

Ag Trade Center/ NE Fairgrounds
317 W Astor Ave.
Colville, WA

WORK SESSION AGENDA
March 16, 2016

Please note: Official action will not be taken during the work session

TIME	TAB	ITEM	LEAD	ACTION/INFO
10:00 a.m.		**Call to Order** • Additions/Corrections to Agenda Items	Chairman, Lynn Brown	
10:15 a.m. *15min.*		**Introductions/Comments**	All	
10:30 a.m. *75 min.*	**1**	**Strategic Planning Area for Discussion:** • Partnering	Mark Clark	Information Only
11:45p.m. *30 min.*		**WORKING LUNCH:** Please RSVP to the Conservation Commission by 3/10		
12:15 p.m.		**Adjourn** ** Load Bus for tour at the Ag Trade Center 12:30 pm departure. Bus will bring guests back after dinner.*	Chairman, Lynn Brown	

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 17, 2016, (tomorrow) the WSCC will hold a regular business meeting at the Ag Trade Center/ NE Fairgrounds 317 W Astor, Colville, WA 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

March 17, 2016

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Wednesday work session - Partnering

Background/Summary:
We will have a couple hours prior to the tour on Wednesday to discuss another strategic area. Below is what you have said in your current strategic plan regarding Partnering. I encourage you to give this some consideration and for those of you sending someone, have a conversation with them before you come. Many thanks

Current SCC Strategic Plan:

Partnerships

Goal
Provide leadership with state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) regarding conservation on private and public land to strengthen relationships with the various organizations in the state to assure complementary rather than duplicative efforts.

Objectives
- Increase in recognition by partner entities of conservation districts as the important link to the land owners and managers.
- Increase in the number of formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) documenting the relationship between organizations, agencies, SCC, and conservation districts for shared funding, staffing, equipment, materials, vehicles and other resources.

Strategies
- Improve coordination internally and externally with partners including a discussion of role and strategic priorities of SCC in relation to other partner organizations.
- Use the Farming and Environment Group as an advisory group for input to SCC on agricultural issues.
- Expand partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, and other organizations to bring resources together from various sources so that collective resources go further.
- Outreach to agricultural and environmental partners that can support SCC and conservation districts activities, programs, and funding.

Performance
Increase the number of memorandums of understanding which document formal agreement for shared resources. Number of projects and collaborative work completed with partner organizations and agencies.

From RCW 89.08.070 – Duties and Responsibilities of the Commission:

(d) To facilitate, promote, assist, harmonize, coordinate, and guide the resource conservation programs and activities of districts as they relate to other special purpose districts, counties, and other public agencies.

(4) To secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and any of its agencies, and of agencies of this state in the work of such districts.

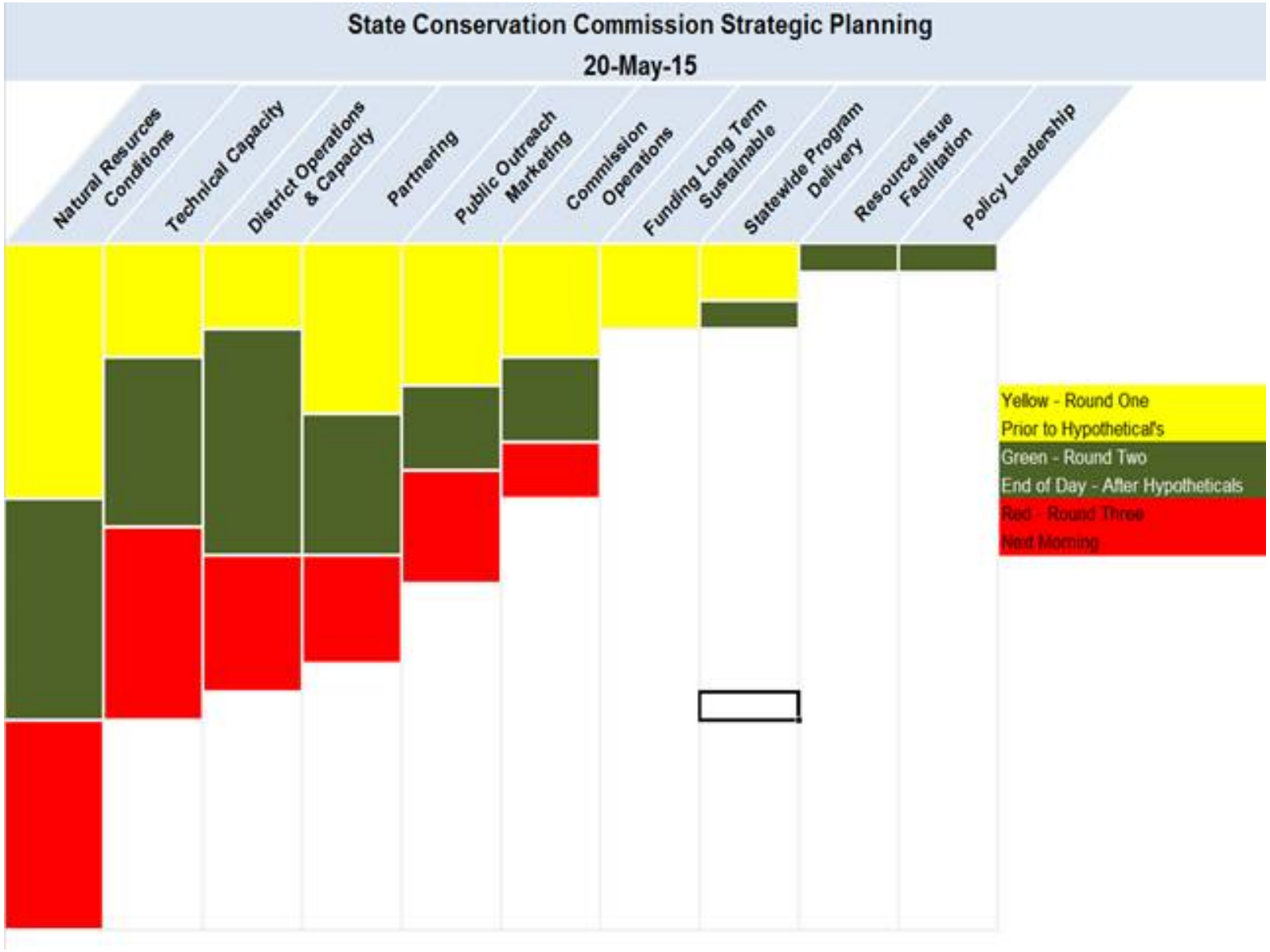
(6) To encourage the cooperation and collaboration of state, federal, regional, interstate and local public and private agencies with the conservation districts, and facilitate arrangements under which the conservation districts may serve county governing bodies and other agencies as their local operating agencies in the administration of any activity concerned with the conservation of renewable natural resources.

Action Requested:

Given this background information -

- So how did we do the last five years?
- What still needs work?
- If you were looking back five years from now what would it look like?
- What 3 action items would you suggest for the next few years?

Staff contact: Mark Clark, Executive Director, mclark@scc.wa.gov


State Conservation Commission Strategic Planning
20-May-15
Natural Resources Conditions
Technical Capacity
District Operations & Capacity
Partnering
Public Outreach Marketing
Commission Operations
Funding Long Term Sustainable
Statewide Program Delivery
Resource Issue Facilitation
Policy Leadership
Yellow - Round One
Prior to Hypothetical's
Green - Round Two
End of Day - After Hypotheticals
Red - Round Three
Next Morning

Washington State
Conservation Commission

Ag Trade Center/ NE Fairgrounds
317 W Astor Ave.
Colville, WA

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

Time	Tab	Item	Lead	Action/Info
8:30 a.m.		**Call to Order** • Additions and/or corrections to the agenda	Chair Brown	
8:35 a.m. *10 min.*		**Introductions**	All	
8:45 a.m. *40 min.*		**Spokane Tribe presentation-** *Invited* **Colville Tribe presentation-** *Invited*		
		********Public Comment will be allowed prior to each action item********		
9:25 a.m. *5 min.*	**1**	**Consent Agenda** • Approval of the January 21, 2016 Business Meeting Minutes ***(pgs. 9-12)***	Chair Brown	**Action**

9:00 a.m.
45 min.
	2	**Budget**
		• Agency Budget Update ***(pg. 14-15)***
		• Implementation Funding
		  ○ FY16 Implementation Grant Funding ***(pgs. 16-16)***
		  ○ Grant County CD Funding ***(pgs. 17-20)***
			Sarah Groth/Mark Clark
			
			Grant Co. CD Supervisors, Marie Lotz, District Manager
				Info
				
				Action

		• Non Shellfish Funding ***(pgs. 21-22)***	Mark Clark	**Action**
		• Fire Funding Update ***(pgs. 23-24)*** ○ DRAFT Fire Recovery Funding Guidelines & Table **(pgs. 25-28)**	Mark Clark	**Action**
9:45 a.m. *45 min.*		**Priority Habitats and Species Presentation** *- Margen Carlson, Department of Fish and Wildlife*		
10:30 a.m.		**BREAK (15 minutes)**		
10:45 a.m. *75 min.*		**Governor's Policy Office Update – *tentative*** *- JT Austin, Governor's Natural Resource Policy Advisor*		
12:00p.m. ***45 min.***		**LUNCH PROVIDED: Please RSVP to the Conservation Commission**		

********Public Comment will be allowed prior to each action item********

12:45 p.m. *75 min.*	**4**	**Policy/Programs**		
		• National Association of Conservation Districts WA DC Fly In Update	Mark Clark, Chair Brown & Partners	**Info**
		• Puget Sound Days in WA DC	Ron Shultz	**Info**
		• Office of Farmland Preservation Easement Info Update re: Comments received ***(pgs. 30-49)***	Ron Shultz	**Info**
		• Dairy Loan Program	Ron Shultz	**Info**
		• Shellfish Growers Letter	Ron Shultz	**Action**
		• Update on Chehalis Basin		**Info**
2:00 p.m.		**BREAK (15 minutes)**		

********Public Comment will be allowed prior to each action item********

2:15 p.m. *45 min.*	**3**	**District Operations**		
		• Regional Manager Report ***(pgs.51-55)***	Mike Baden	**Info**
		• Central Regional Manager Recruitment Update	Ray Ledgerwood	**Info**
		• Technical Professional Development Workgroup ***(pgs. 56-65)***	Ray Ledgerwood	**Info**
		• Elections Update ***(pgs. 66-69)***	Bill Eller	**Info**
		• Department of Corrections Memo ***(pg. 70)***	Ray Ledgerwood	**Info**
		• Cultural Resources		
		○ DAHP Letter to Director Clark ***(pgs. 71-81)***	Ray Ledgerwood	**Info**
		○ Workgroup Charter ***(pgs.82-83)***	Ray Ledgerwood	**Info**
3:00 p.m. *45 min.*	**5**	**Commission Operations**		
		• WACD WSCC Resolutions Action Register ***(pgs. 85-86)***	Mark Clark/ Commissioner Craven	**Action**
		○ 2015 Passed WACD Resolutions ***(pgs. 87-107)***		
		• May Strategic Planning Session Discussion ***(pgs. 108-109)***	Mark Clark	**Info**
		• WSCC Staffing Update	Mark Clark	**Info**
		• Save the Date ***(pg. 110)***	Mark Clark	**Info**
3:45 **p.m.**		**Adjourn**	Chair	

Next Meeting: A **conservation district tour** and **interaction dinner** hosted by the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District will be held on **May 17, 2016**. The **Conservation Commission** will hold its Strategic Planning **work session** on **Wednesday**, **May 18,** and its regular **business meeting** on **Thursday, May, 19, 2016**. **Location:** Goldendale Grange

Please note that 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 1

DRAFT

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting
Bremerton, Washington
January 21, 2016

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met in regular session on January 21, 2016, in Bremerton, Washington. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Lynn Brown, Chairman, Central Region
Jim Kropf, Vice-Chairman, WSU-Puyallup
Dean Longrie, West Region
Larry Cochran, Eastern Region
Daryl Williams, Member
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Todd Welker, Dept. of Natural Resources
Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture
Kelly Susewind, Dept. of Ecology (DOE)
Mark Craven, President, WA Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT
Mark Clark, Executive Director
Ray Ledgerwood, District Operations Manager
Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Laura Johnson, Communications & Outreach
Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager
Bill Eller, South Central Regional Manager
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Sarah Groth, Fiscal Analyst
Brian Cochrane, CREP Coordinator

PARTNERS AT THE TABLE REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING
Roylene Rides at the Door, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Lucy Edmondson, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Dave Vogel, WACD

GUESTS ATTENDED
Harold Crose, Grant CD, John Preston, Grant CD, Marie Lotz, Grant CD, Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD, Wendy Pare, Skagit CD, Matt Heins, Clallam CD, Brian Stahl, Kitsap CD, Katie Cruz, and Gary Bar, Dept. of Agriculture, Peter Murchie, EPA, Ginny Prest, Dept. of Agriculture

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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the consent agenda, which includes the December 3, 2015 meeting minutes and Executive Director and Chair travel request for the March NACD Spring Fly-in. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed.

MID-TERM APPOINTED SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS

Two mid-term applications were received. Commissioner Larry Cochran, representing the eastern region and Commissioner Dean Longrie, representing the western region verified the applications and made their recommendations for appointment.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to appoint Mr. Jason Schlee to the Asotin Conservation District. Seconded by Commissioner Bahrych. Motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to appoint Ms. Lynn Simpson to the Cowlitz Conservation District and Mr. Myron Ougendal to the Mason Conservation District. Seconded by Commissioner Kropf. Motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS:

Outlined below are the current procedures SCC staff are to take on Commission positions of legislation:

1. Commission staff will review and evaluate legislation as it's introduced. The evaluation will focus on potential impacts (positive or negative) to the Commission itself, the agency, or conservation districts. Commission staff will track the legislation through session.

2. If legislation is introduced that's deemed to have an impact on the Commission or conservation districts, staff will discuss with the executive director the legislation and the issue.

3. The executive director and policy director will determine if the matter is one which needs to be coordinated with WACD, and if the matter is one which needs to be brought to the Commission for input.

4. There may be situations when then legislation is moving quickly and more rapid feedback is needed from the Commission. In these cases (as determined by the executive director) Commission staff will brief the Commission executive committee. The executive director will then discuss possible agency positions with the executive committee.

5. If time permits, a briefing will be made to the full Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to reauthorize the existing procedure related to the legislative process. Seconded by Commissioner Welker. Motion passed.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE- JULIE HOROWITZ

Julie Horowitz, Natural Resource Policy Advisor for Governor Inslee presented to the Commission his goals in regards to Results Washington. The SCC is part of the Governor's Goal Council 5 (Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment).

OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION EASEMENT POLICY

Josh Giuntoli, OFP staff, briefed the Commission on the status of several ongoing discussions of existing farmland preservation funding reviews. For example, last session the legislature passed a budget proviso calling for a review of funding allocations in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). One of the buckets of funding in that program is farmland preservation. Members discussed and approved the following motion below:

Commissioner Bahrych moved for staff to reach out to stakeholders (local/state/federal/tribes/legislators) to determine interest and identify options for potential funding for the existing agricultural conservation easement account. Staff should report initial findings at the March 2016 WSCC regular meeting. Final recommendations should be reported to the Commission at the May 2016 WSCC regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Craven. Motion passed.

CREP STREAM LAYER AND PERFORMANCE METRICS

Brian Cochrane, Habitat and Monitoring Coordinator presented to the commission. The existing GIS stream layer showing CREP-eligible streams uses dated stream location information. It does not reflect current salmonid use of Washington streams, and roughly 1/3rd is not available for projects due to programmatic restrictions. An update, using WDFW and NWIFC data, can generate a stream layer under the 10,000 mile cap allowed and better represent stream reaches that are both documented for salmonid use and available to the program. Some existing projects, located on streams based on presumed (vs. documented) presence, do not align well with the new layer, but overall, the fit of proposed streams, existing projects, and private agricultural lands is very good. The proposed layer, like the existing layer, is very close to the 10,000 mile cap, so future additions will be limiting and challenging.

Brian will be presenting to FSA STAC the proposed change concept. If approved, the data will be cleaned up, a review with the CD's will occur, a policy will be developed guiding transition and re-enrollment, and will then need to be adopted by the SCC and STAC.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve modification of the allowable projects in the emergency and cultural resources fund as reflected in staff memo of January 18. Seconded by Commissioner Craven. Motion passed.

Commissioner Cochran moved to table the existing motion until the March Commission Meeting. Seconded Commissioner Craven. Motion passed.

WACD 2015 PASSED RESOLUTIONS

Two resolutions were passed. Director Clark noted that we will work on more during the March meeting in Colville. At the December 2015 meeting, a motion was presented on Long Term Sustainable Funding which is consistent with the current resolution 2015-09 (Long Term Sustainable Funding).

Motion by Commissioner Craven to pass WACD resolution 2015-06 (Changes in Timing, Conduct and Responsibilities for Conservation District Supervisor Elections) to allow Commission staff to continue the work. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Craven to direct staff to open dialogue to address the concerns raised in resolution 2015-21 (Conservation of Aquatic Farm Lands and Habitat Related to Burrowing Shrimp Degradation). Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed.

COMMISSION OPERATIONS

Website: Director Clark provided an update regarding the agency's website. It has gone through a transition with many challenges involved, ensuring security and working through issues with the State Department of Enterprises. Laura Johnson, Communications staff has done a great job facilitating the process and finding solutions.

Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS): Project management system designed for the Conservation Commission. Used to collect data. Melissa Vander Linden, SCC staff, has been collecting information from districts on how to address the concerns they are having. We are working with the consultants on enhancing the system.

Bill Eller has accepted the position of Voluntary Stewardship Program Coordinator. The position he was previously in, Central Regional Manager is currently out for recruitment.

The agency is still working on the needs for the Budget Manager position and hopes to have a recruitment out in the coming weeks.

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

TAB 2

Washington State
Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Mark Clark, Executive Director
Commission Members

FROM: Sarah Groth, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Implementation and Single Year Funds

When the Commissioners approved the allocation for the Implementation Grant funding for fiscal year 2016, it was unknown what the Commission would do in funding Grant County Conservation District for fiscal year 2017. At the time the same amount of funding was set aside for Grant County Conservation District as they received in fiscal year 2016.

At this time, the Commission can continue to work through the options Grant County Conservation District proposed at the January 2016 Commission Meeting. These options were:

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.

The commission can make a decision now, or delay a decision until the May Commission Meeting since the funding does not take effect until July 1, 2016.

The remainder of single fiscal year funding decisions will be up for discussion and decision at the May 2016 Commission Meeting.

State Conservation Commission Agency Operations Budget

(Including Commissioners Expenses)

Biennium to date as of February 2016 close

Fund 001- General Fund Summary

Category	Biennium to Date Allotment	Biennium to Date Expenditures	Biennium to Date Variance
Salaries and Wages	751,208	751,915	(707)
Employee Benefits	275,952	271,936	4,016
Goods and Other Services	221,856	169,997	51,859
Professional Service Contracts	107,336	70,889	36,447
Travel	112,152	107,851	4,301
Grants, Benefits & Client Services	12,064,004	3,521,111	8,542,893
Sum:	**13,532,508**	**4,893,698**	**8,638,810**

District	FY16 Approved by SCC on July 16, 2015
Adams	$ 97,229
Asotin	$ 84,866
Benton	$ 79,625
C Klickitat	$ 66,033
Cascadia	$ 90,274
Clallam	$ 127,156
Clark	$ 79,625
Columbia	$ 79,625
Cowlitz	$ 86,326
E Klickitat	$ 61,663
Ferry	$ 79,625
Foster Creek	$ 67,125
Franklin	$ 79,625
Grant	$ 179,825
Grays Harbor	$ 79,625
Jefferson	$ 79,625
King	$ 127,048
Kitsap	$ 79,625
Kittitas	$ 79,625
Lewis	$ 79,625
Lincoln	$ 79,625
Mason	$ 95,484
N Yakima	$ 84,726
Okanogan	$ 88,923
Pacific	$ 77,440
Pal Rock	$ 60,875
Palouse	$ 68,820
Pend Oreille	$ 79,625
Pierce	$ 126,450
Pine Creek	$ 60,875
Pomeroy	$ 73,070
S Douglas	$ 64,940
S Yakima	$ 67,125
San Juan	$ 79,597
Skagit	$ 128,893
Snohomish	$ 94,026
Spokane	$ 79,625
Stevens	$ 79,625
Thurston	$ 79,625
Underwood	$ 79,625
Wahkiakum	$ 85,313
Walla Walla	$ 79,625
Whatcom	$ 114,060
Whidbey	$ 86,092
Whitman	$ 60,875
TOTALS	**$ 3,858,754**
Average	*$ 85,750*

Marie Lotz
Manager
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(509) 331-6787

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GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING REQUEST

We are suggesting a tiered funding approach to transition from the four Conservation District Structure to current Grant County Conservation District. The following budget is the preferred approach where GCCD would need the funding to implement the 3 year strategy: By year four we anticipate rates and charges to be in place – VSP implementation to be in place – a minimum of one Grant in place – and continued Conservation Commission annual Implementation funding primarily targeted to conservation application.

Grant County Conservation District Three Year Plan:

Year 1 **7/1/16**	**$150,000**	Continue with Cost Share funding of $50,000; Fund existing programs; Fund existing staff.
Year 2 **7/1/17**	**$130,000**	Continue with Cost Share funding of $30,000; Fund existing programs and use reserve cash; Fund existing staff and hire technical staff and use reserve cash. Hire Conservation Planner
Year 3 **7/1/18**	**$114,000**	Continue with Cost Share Funding of $14,000; Fund existing programs and use reserve cash; Fund existing staff and use reserve cash; Seek a larger facility and use reserve cash; Voluntary Stewardship Program implementation phase; Have Rates & Charges to supplement programs, cost share, staff and facility.

MANAGEMENT	FISCAL YEAR
• Build technical staff capacity	• 2018
• Develop targeting plan for conservation cost share program	• 2017
• Develop and implement staff training plans focusing on conservation planning certification	• 2017
• Strengthen partnership with Wash Soil Health Committee	• 2017
• Develop Grant Funding Strategy using County Resource Assessment and partnership to execute;	• *2019*
• Hire a Conservation Planner in year two;	• *2018*
• Build staff technical capacity hire one resource conservationist/planner;	• *2017*
• Conservation District board of supervisor's capacity building and training	• *2016*

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	FISCAL YEAR
• Task orders to assist NRCS implement farm programs	• 2016
• Water quality and quantity grants	• 2017
• Soil health grants	• 2016
• Energy grants	• 2018
• Rates & Charges	• 2020
• VSP implementation	• 2019
• WA State Conservation Commission funding	• 2016
• Information Education Public Schools	• 2016
• Develop partnerships with ag associations	• 2016
• Partnering with State and local government	• 2016

PROGRAMS	FISCAL YEAR
• Develop and secure County Rates & Charges	• 2016
• Develop plan to implement comprehensive agricultural energy audits program partnering with Bonneville Power Administration and Grant County PUD	• 2018
• Plan and implement Moses Lake shoreline restoration plan	• 2018
• Develop soil health implementation and outreach plan for irrigated and dryland agriculture	• 2019
• Develop targeting plan for conservation cost share program	• 2017
• Partner with Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association Develop and implement Farmed Smart Plan for irrigated agriculture	• 2018
• Complete VSP plan and develop technical capacity to take the lead on implementing the Voluntary Stewardship Program for Ag in Grant County	• 2019
• Develop water quality and quantity Implementation Plan using findings from the GWMA sole source aquifer plan for Columbia Basin as planning data base	• 2019
• Complete dairy/feedlot plans and provide technical assistance on CNMP implementation	• 2017

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION	FISCAL YEAR
• Expand education/outreach (Soil Health, air quality, energy, irrigation water management, direct seed, cover crops)	• 2018
• Field days	• 2018
• Newsletter	• 2017
• Website, social media	• 2017
• News press releases and featured articles	• 2017
• Education in the classrooms	• 2017
• Outreach through VSP	• 2016
• Grower annual meeting presentations	• 2016

Washington State
Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Ray Ledgerwood & Karla Heinitz

SUBJECT: Non Shellfish Project Funding

Background summary:

The Regional Managers have contacted each Conservation District regarding the current status of completing priority 1 and 2 Non-shellfish projects, and have confirmed the next priority Non-shellfish project ready to be funded with capital funds. The listing (next page) totals $1,345,890. The total of funds returned by districts is $235,070.

The amount of the request for approval by the Commission would be **$1,110,820** to fund each of the district's next ready-to-proceed priority project. Financial staff have calculated the amount currently available for funding is in excess of the requested amount.

Please see the enclose documents, the motion from the July 2015 CC meeting and the policy around the Non-shellfish funding. Currently the policy caps non-shellfish funding at $150,000 per district and allows 25% per project to cover costs outlined in the policy. Approving these projects will put many districts at the limit for the biennium so if additional funds are available, they would not currently be eligible. We anticipate July being the earliest for any further funding recommendations.

Action requested:

Approve the next priority non-shellfish project funding amount as presented by staff.

Staff Contact:

Ray Ledgerwood, Regional Manager Coordinator
Karla Heinitz, Management Analyst

Non-Shellfish Project Request Summary

District	Funding Needed for Next Priority Project
Adams	$6,250
Asotin County	$62,500
Benton	$24,645
Cascadia	$48,750
Central Klickitat	$62,500
Clallam	$0
Clark County	$18,750
Columbia	$62,500
Cowlitz	$31,250
Eastern Klickitat	$0
Ferry	$14,187
Foster Creek	$0
Franklin	$25,000
Grant County	$24,750
Grays Harbor	$0
Jefferson County	$44,438
King	$3,880
Kitsap	$40,625
Kittitas County	$62,500
Lewis County	$62,500
Lincoln County	$12,500
Mason	$9,375
North Yakima	$62,500
Okanogan	$0
Pacific	$62,500
Palouse	$62,500
Palouse-Rock Lake	$0
Pend Oreille	$0
Pierce	$0
Pine Creek	$0
Pomeroy	$0
San Juan Islands	$36,250
Skagit	$5,016
Snohomish	$62,500
South Douglas	$28,125
South Yakima	$62,500
Spokane County	$62,500
Stevens County	$22,500
Thurston	$62,500
Underwood	$25,000
Wahkiakum	$43,750
Walla Walla County	$68,350
Whatcom	$62,500
Whidbey Island	$0
Whitman	$0
TOTAL PROJECTS	$ 1,345,889.82
Return Funds	$ 235,070.00
TOTAL NEEDED	$ 1,110,819.82

Washington State
Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Supplemental fire funding

Background/Summary: Commission staff are anticipating fire recovery funds in the supplemental operating budget this legislative session. The enclosed documents have been developed to allow us to allocate money as soon as the Governor signs the budget bills.

There are a few funding elements known:

- $300,000 for weed control. Most recent budget proviso language specifies this amount for Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board. We have already worked with WSDA on granting procedures.

- $750,000 to back fill funds the Commission allocated for the fire in July out of existing funds.

- $1,200,000 as State match for NRCS $4,800,000 EWP funds received on March 7.

That leaves $6,550,000 for allocation to fire recovery needs, which are identified in the most recent budget proviso language as: "…solely to protect water quality, stabilize soil, prevent crop damage, replace fencing and help landowners recover from losses sustained from wildfires."

Staff is working with NRCS and FSA staff to understand additional Federal funding available and set aside dollars for work District staff would be involved in.

Beyond that, there will be projects that do not qualify for federal funds or are a high priority for protecting the resource that needs to be funded as soon as possible.

The draft document "FY 2016 – 17 Fire Recovery Funding Guidelines" is the work in progress of the funding process staff is developing. Further work will have occurred after you receive this concept document and we will cover updates at the meeting.

Once staff has finished their work, we will reach out to the disaster declared districts on the draft and make final adjustments. We are planning on setting aside preliminary amounts for each disaster declared district for a given time frame so signups and evaluation of highest priority work can be identified. We anticipate needing to make ongoing adjustments to those amounts.

Action Requested:
I am requesting the Commission authorize the funding and the developing procedure as outlined. I am also requesting that at least two (2) Commission members participate with staff in final funding decisions requested by the districts.

Staff contact: Mark Clark, Executive Director, mclark@scc.wa.gov.

Washington State Conservation Commission

FY 2016-17 Fire Recovery Funding Guidelines

The following are general guidelines for fire recovery funds appropriated by the legislature for the 2015 fire season and 2014 Carlton Complex Fire. These guidelines may change as information becomes available and changes are necessary. Also, funding available may change as new information becomes available and priorities change.

Funding available for landowner assistance: $6,550,000

1. **Counties eligible for funding will consist of counties that received Emergency Declarations in from the Governor for the year 2015 (unless otherwise noted below):**

Asotin	Okanogan 2015
Chelan	Pend Oreille
Douglas	Skamania
Ferry	Spokane
Klickitat	Stevens
Okanogan 2014	Yakima

2. **Eligible Land ownership within these counties shall be limited to the following:**
   - Private Lands

3. **Eligible applicants shall meet at least one of the following:**
   - Landowner
   - Authorized tenant or operator

4. **Resource Concerns addressed shall be based upon the following provided by legislative appropriation:**
   - Protect Water Quality
   - Stabilize Soil
   - Prevent Crop Damage
   - Replace Fencing
   - Help Landowners Recover from Losses Sustained from Wildfires – *language in appropriation – needs definition*

5. **Eligible Practices:**
   Eligible practices shall be any practice that satisfactorily address one or more of the resource concerns listed above. Practices shall be installed according to NRCS standards or acceptable alternative (P.E., Industry standard, comparable replacement)

6. **Funding for Districts**

Funds provided to Districts will be utilized for Cost-Share consistent with the Resource Concerns and Eligible Practices noted above.

A) The Commission will award funds through a fire recovery grant. Vouchers shall be submitted according to Commission policies and procedures.
B) For these emergency projects, the cost-share limit per landowner shall be evaluated on a project by project basis.
C) An additional 25% will be awarded on top of the cost-share for the purposes of engineering, technical assistance, permitting, preparation of cultural resources documentation, and other administrative activities similar to other capital funds. *(or could just be a percentage of awarded funds. Into one pot – not project specific)*
D) Cultural resources ……

It is understood that the emergency nature of the projects may make it necessary to begin planning and implantation as quickly as possible. A cost-share form is attached as Appendix A *(I believe we had one that was used for Carlton Complex?).* This shall be deemed adequate for initial producer sign-ups and for work to commence. However, projects must be entered into CPDS by……..

7. Funding for Landowners

Funds awarded to landowners shall be in the form of cost-share consistent with Board approved award and approval protocols, cost-share percentages, and cost-share limits within the programmatic limits described above.

8. Allocation of Funds

There will be an initial allocation where funds are reserved by county until July 31, 2016. After July 31, unallocated funds (funds that have not been awarded to the District by the Commission and/or have not secured by a cost-share agreement with a landowner) will be placed into a single pot and subsequent funds will be awarded as projects are submitted by a District to the Commission.

Initial reserved funding pools for each county will be allocated as follows below based upon……..

Asotin		Pend Oreille	
Chelan		Skamania[1]	
Douglas		Spokane	
Ferry		Stevens	
Klickitat		Yakima	
Okanogan (2014 and 2015)			

If a District cannot use part, or all, of their initial allocation please let Commission financial staff know as soon as possible. Unused funds may be redistributed during the initial allocation phase. For counties with multiple Districts, or where Districts cross county lines, it will be important for Districts to closely coordinate activities.

[1] Burned areas all on Federal Land

Funds shall be awarded to Districts for projects utilizing the Form linked here:_____. Projects entered into the form shall be ranked by District priority. District priority should reflect the urgency of the project and project priority should give priority to projects that do not qualify for federal recovery programs such as EWP, EQIP, ECP, etc.

Once received, projects will be approved by a committee made up of Commission staff and Commissioners. Upon approval Districts will be formally notified of the award.

Districts shall not proceed until they have received a notice of award and have a cost-share agreement secured with the eligible applicant. If a district begins work before receiving a notice of award and/or a signed cost-share agreement with an eligible applicant, any work done will not be reimbursable under this program.

9. <u>Expiration of Funds</u>

Funds must be expended by June 30, 2017.

Fire Recovery Funding Allocation Table

Total Funds Awarded	$8,800,000.00
Commission Backfill	$750,000.00
Noxious Weeds	$300,000.00
Federal EWP match	$1,200,000.00
Federal EWP TA Hold-back	
Federal ECP TA Hold-back	
Federal EQIP TA Hold-back	
Available Funds	**$6,550,000.00**

	Allocation Method 1 (Assigned Percentage)		Allocation Method 2 (Total Burned Acres)[1]				Allocation Method 2 (Total Private (Other) Acres)[2]			
County	**Percentage of Funds Allocation**	**$ Amount based on percentage**	**County Total Acres Burned**	**Percentage of Total Acres Burned**	**$ Amount Based on Total Acres Burned**	**Percentage of Funds based on Total Acres Burned**	**Private Acres Burned**	**Percentage of Total Private Acres Burned**	**$ Amount Based on Total Private Acres Burned**	**Percentage of Funds based on Total Private Acres Burned**
Asotin	2.0%	$131,000.00	9,718	0.77%	$50,302.83	0.77%	9,665	2.05%	$134,148.22	2.05%
Chelan	8.0%	$524,000.00	103,190	8.15%	$534,137.59	8.15%	28,677	6.08%	$398,030.87	6.08%
Douglas	8.0%	$524,000.00	51,631	4.08%	$267,255.14	4.08%	46,949	9.95%	$651,642.48	9.95%
Ferry	3.0%	$196,500.00	141,254	11.16%	$731,166.50	11.16%	8,696	1.84%	$120,698.69	1.84%
Klickitat	6.0%	$393,000.00	41,823	3.31%	$216,486.45	3.31%	35,756	7.58%	$496,285.94	7.58%
Okanogan 2014[3]	21.0%	$1,375,500.00	255,181	20.17%	$1,320,881.52	20.17%	98,753	20.93%	$1,370,671.36	20.93%
Okanogan 2015	41.0%	$2,685,500.00	512,134	40.47%	$2,650,935.36	40.47%	190,763	40.42%	$2,647,751.26	40.42%
Pend Oreille	1.0%	$65,500.00	26,730	2.11%	$138,361.25	2.11%	7,276	1.54%	$100,989.39	1.54%
Skamania			405	0.03%	$2,096.38	0.03%				
Spokane[4]	1.0%	$65,500.00	168	0.01%	$869.61	0.01%				
Stevens	8.0%	$524,000.00	68,618	5.42%	$355,184.16	5.42%	40,968	8.68%	$568,627.43	8.68%
Yakima	1.0%	$65,500.00	54,542	4.31%	$282,323.21	4.31%	4,406	0.93%	$61,154.38	0.93%
	100.0%	$6,550,000.00	1,265,394	100.00%	$6,550,000.00	100.00%	471,909	100.00%	$6,550,000.00	100.00%

[1] Total Acreage Calculation From GIS Table (attached) - best available data

[2] Private Acres Calculated from "Other" Owner Type (P_Des_Nm) from GIS Table (attached) - best available data - should approximate private acreage, but not perfectly

[3] Acreage data from Carlton Complex BAER Report, Sept. 2014

[4] GIS data set appears to be missing data for burned acreage.

Data provided by Andrew Phay, Whatcom Comservation District

Source(s): Ownership and County Limits were obtained from the USDA Geospatial Data Gateway. The originator was the USGS Gap Analysis Program: https://gdg.sc.egov.usda.gov/

• The fire boundaries were obtained from ArcGIS Online from Rebecca Steele, http://wacds.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=909b2547abda4ed4b8d049e68a735986

TAB 3

Washington State Conservation Commission — Office of Farmland Preservation

March 17, 2016

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Josh Giuntoli, OFP Project Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agricultural Conservation Easement Motion – Stakeholder feedback

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At the January 21, 2016 regular business meeting, Commission members passed a motion directing staff to reach out to stakeholders to determine interest and identify options for potential funding for the existing agricultural conservation easement account. The motion requested these initial findings be presented at the March 2016 WSCC regular meeting.

Staff shared the motion and request for input from interested stakeholders including members of the Farmland Roundtable, natural resource leads for tribes, natural resource government agencies, program leads for local purchase of development right programs, and conservation districts. SCC staff participated in stakeholder briefing calls and answered stakeholder questions.

Feedback received is provided in the Stakeholder Response attachment. Comments are generally supportive of the Commission advancing a program and provide qualities and parameters they would like commissioners to consider.

In addition to this feedback, staff was requested to provide sample agricultural conservation easements. Due to their size, they will be made available at the commission meeting to review and help inform next steps.

Examples come from King County, Snohomish County, Whatcom County, Skagit County, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

These documents vary but ultimately result in the permanent restriction of the land to agricultural uses. Each defines these restrictions. Currently, the Conservation Commission is utilizing the Recreation and Conservation office model. This is due mostly to the fact that this document was what was discussed with landowners prior to applying and prior to funding. It is the lengthiest of the examples provided, but details clear specifications on use, exclusions, remedy, and enforcement.

Washington State Conservation Commission — Office of Farmland Preservation

March 8, 2016

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Josh Giuntoli, OFP Project Coordinator

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Feedback

Tom Davis - Director of Government Relations – Washington State Farm Bureau

Off the top of my head, the only value I can see in moving forward with actually implementing RCW 89.08.530 is if the focus was on fixed term leases. There are already enough permanent easement programs offered and I don't see much need to compete with the land trusts. Another important issue is the use of specific buffer requirements. Our position is that specific buffer widths should not be required under this or any other easement program. - Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Monte Marti - District Manager - Snohomish Conservation District

Reading the notes. If I have not stated before, we are interested in pursuing easements with our partners (PCC Farmland Trust, Forterra, etc.) and private landowners. We want to be involved with future activities. I don't have any specific recommendations or input yet, but I definitely feel there is a role for the Commission. It isn't a place that I want to wander to without some help and support ~ as was demonstrated over the last several months.

The OFP needs to provide help and support in this arena. There is a lot of interest and need to increase farmland preservation, and we need to collectively move this initiative forward. We will need to partner with, and actively engage the local land trusts. They have a need and they can help support the initiative. Their experience and expertise will be valuable.

Cara Hulce - Adams Conservation District

The Adams Conservation District board of supervisors discussed the Ag Easement Program at their board meeting last week. They agreed that since there's very little urban sprawl in our area, there probably wouldn't be a high demand for the program in our District.

George J. Boggs, JD - Executive Director - Whatcom Conservation District

My thoughts as follows:

- Whatcom has about 4,000 development rights on prime ag land. (see **Comment Attachment - 1** attached for those just around Lynden). So, yes need a program to retire and protect.
- Lummi have said that they want farmland to stay as such to protect their tribal treaty rights.
- Question whether the easement should be held by the State. Olympia seems too remote to keep monitor and protect. But then again, it is a matter of public record that when recorded should give notice to the Counties so as not to issue building/development permits. AG could enforce.
- Issue whether farm land protection would be coupled to Riparian Buffer prescriptions. In which case, very unlikely absent unique circumstances.
- An improvidently located/drafted easement could perhaps prevent construction of structures need to for farm viability.

Ryan Mello - Executive Director - Pierce Conservation District

The big question here is how would this fund be different than the farmland protection program at the RCO through the WWRP? We are all for more funds for agricultural conservation. The WWRP $$ is always oversubscribed and because of the funky formula RCO/WWRP uses to determine how the 12 grant buckets get filled, the farmland protection program is usually woefully underfunded.

The niche to fill is:

- Certainty of funds available for agricultural conservation
- Allowing all kinds of agricultural land to be protected: rangeland that supports livestock operations, soils that grow crops and flowers, etc (WWRP is really biased to only super high quality soils).

Jess Davenport - Interim Manager - Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

Currently we are in the process of signing easements that will be held by Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts. Also our boards have both decided to continue pursuing Agricultural Conservation Easements.

I reviewed the attached PDF and I would like to not have it limited to the verbiage "farmers" and think that ranching should also be included so that all Agricultural operations have a chance to participate in receiving funding.

WSCC should pursue development of the dormant agricultural conservation easement program. When the Commission moves forward there will need to be a ranking system in place for those projects that are submitted to receive funding for Agricultural Conservation Easements. The niche I see that WSCC will fill is being one of the only viable funding sources for Conservation Districts that directly work with their local landowners and help develop a project to be submitted that will assist in diminishing development in Washington State.

Rick Jones - District Manager - Walla Walla County Conservation District

I heard back from one board member, Pat McConnell, who I believe conveyed the sentiment of the entire board and myself. His comment was "There was a time I was pretty supportive of this but I have found over time that the places ag conservation easements fit are few and far between. Additionally, the financial benefit(s) for the owner are not significant enough to "keep someone in business" as the concept suggests. So my comment is that I don't care if they revive this program or not."

Chris Elder - Planner - Whatcom County Purchase of Development Right Program

From my understanding of the proposed Agricultural Conservation Easements program, I believe the program will support efforts statewide to protect agricultural lands from development. I hope that this program will complement and support existing purchase of development rights, and similar, programs. I believe the Conservation Commission should be allowed to recruit and manage funds that can be offered statewide to existing, and potentially new, programs, as well as manage its own easements in areas that don't already an established farmland protection group. I am hopeful that activation of this program will increase the overall funding levels supporting protection of agricultural lands for continued agricultural activities.

Kate Delavan – Interim Regional Director – American Farmland Trust

See comment attachment 2

E.J. Zita - Chair – Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

See comment attachment 3

John C. Maclean – Chair – South of Sound Community Farmland Trust

See comment attachment 4

Andrea McNamara Doyle – Interim Executive Director – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition

See comment attachment 5

Hannah Clark – Executive Director – Washington Association of Land Trusts

See comment attachment 6

Mike Tobin – District Manager – North Yakima Conservation District

See comment attachment 7

Kara Symonds - Farmland Legacy Program - Skagit County

See comment attachment 8

Linda Lyshall, PhD - Executive Director - San Juan Islands Conservation District

See comment attachment 9

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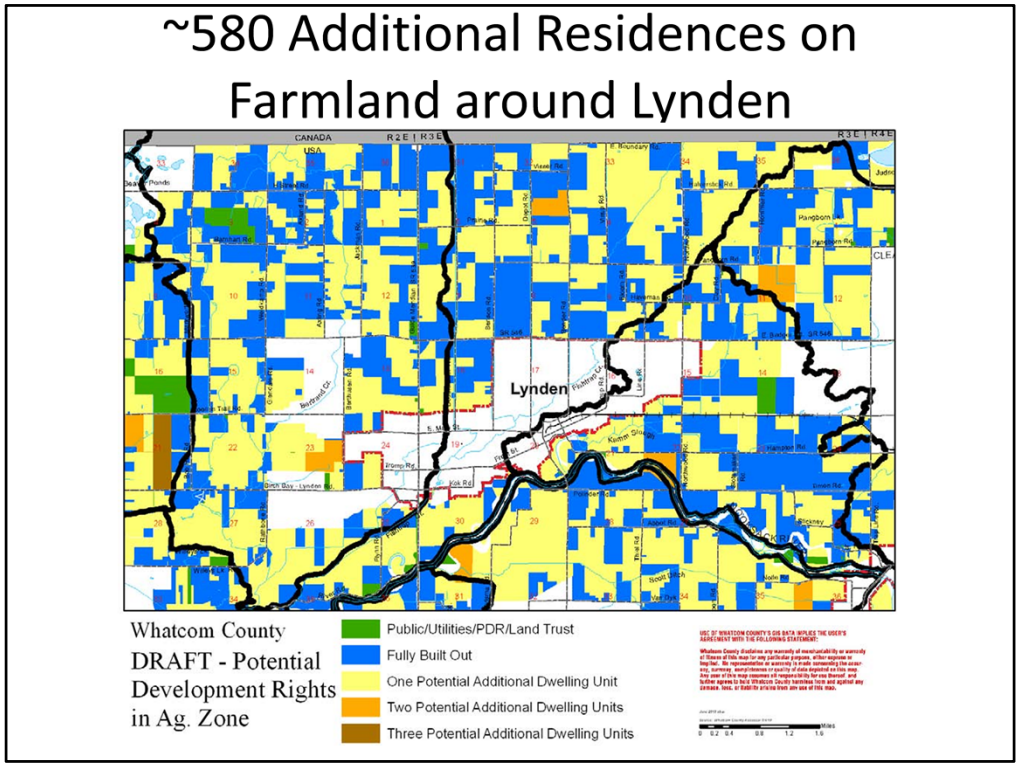


Here is the 2010 Assessment of Potential Development Units within the Study Area (Bertrand, Fishtrap & Kamm Creek Watersheds)

Relevance: Residential development has the potential to fragment agricultural operations. This tax parcel based estimate indicates approximately 700 existing units with the potential to build 580 additional units within the study areas.

- Residential uses compete for farmland making it more expensive for farm operations to expand. Expansion is typically necessary to accommodate the new generation of farmers.
- By its nature Ag is dusty, noisy, smelly and leaky. Residential uses make conflict inevitable which is still another stressor on farmers.

Question: If it is acceptable for these farmers to convert farmland to residences for their personal benefit, why is it not similarly acceptable for farmers to enroll in a farm program for personal benefit plus advancing the larger community goal of salmon recovery, particularly one that is not "permanent" like pavement or structures?

Data Sources: Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Analysis does not include City of Lynden or rural-zoned areas.

To: Washington State Conservation Commission
From: American Farmland Trust, Pacific Northwest
Subject: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, RCW 89.08.530
Date: 3/7/2016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as the Washington State Conservation Commission (the Commission) considers the future of the easement program authorized in RCW 89.08.530. **American Farmland Trust (AFT) encourages the Commission to move forward with the agricultural conservation easement program.** AFT agrees with the Commission that agricultural conservation easements are a valuable tool to protect farmland and maintain the economic viability of farms. AFT also agrees that there is a need to diversify and increase agricultural conservation easement funding in Washington State.

Need for Additional Farmland Preservation Funding
The Farmland Preservation Account (FPA) is one of the most oversubscribed categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). Every biennium, quality farmland projects are left unfunded (over the last eight years, approximately 40% of WWRP FPA projects have gone unfunded). At the same time, our state's federal share of ACEP-ALE dollars has declined. The considerable unmet demand for farmland preservation projects justifies a new statewide program.

Differentiation from WWRP
American Farmland Trust urges the Commission to consider how a new program could complement, rather than be in competition with, the WWRP. Several suggestions on how to differentiate are included in the following section.

Program Design
If the Commission decides to move forward, we recommend additional outreach with potential program participants and programs in other states to inform program design. Our initial thoughts regarding program design are presented with the recognition that further stakeholder consultation is needed:

- *Program Intent:* The program intent includes the need to "...help local governments fight the conversion of agricultural lands…" (RCW 89.08.530). The intent section also recognizes the need to help keep farmers in farming and farmland in agriculture and references the myriad value of prime farmlands. Our interpretation of the intent is that this program seeks to prevent farmland conversion to non-agricultural uses, in other words to protect farmland for its agricultural value. Potential criteria require a more robust conversation, but should include agricultural viability measures (e.g. access to infrastructure and markets), soil type, and development pressure measures (e.g. proximity to urban areas, changes in area land prices, local trends). We urge the Commission to also consider how the adoption of Best Management Practices may be encouraged through program participation.

- *Program Timeline & Compatibility with Other Funding Sources:* Agricultural conservation easements often require a combination of more than one funding source. An annual program would increase the likelihood that Commission funds can be used to leverage other funding sources. We urge the Commission to consider the restrictions and requirements of ACEP-ALE, WWRP, and county programs in order to create a compatible program.

- *Funding Source:* To avoid competing with the WWRP, we recommend the Commission seeks a funding source outside of the State Capital budget. A stable funding source not tied to legislative appropriations is preferred.

- *Easement Length:* We recommend permanent easements. Several years ago, American Farmland Trust reviewed the few states which offer less-than-perpetuity agricultural conservation easements. With the limited data available at the time of the study, we found that none of the programs resulted in an easement transaction. Permanent easements, on the other hand, are used widely across the US to protect farmland.

AFT is encouraged by the Commission's interest in creating a new source of funding for farmland preservation in Washington State. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. If the Commission decides to move forward, we look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kate Delavan
Interim Regional Director
kdelavan@farmland.org; 206-860-4222
American Farmland Trust, Pacific Northwest
1402 3rd Avenue, Suite 1325
Seattle, WA 98101

To: Josh Giuntoli
Washington State Conservation Commission, Office of Farmland Preservation ofp@scc.wa.gov

From: Agricultural Advisory Committee, for the Thurston County Board of Commissioners 7 March 2016

Dear Mr. Giuntoli - We strongly support an enhanced role for the State Conservation Commission (SCC) in preserving farmland. More WA state farmland can be kept in agricultural production when more financial resources are dedicated to keeping agricultural land from being sold for other uses, and to helping new farmers afford access to working land.

Funding and implementing the existing SCC agricultural conservation easement account could help provide needed resources for farmland preservation. Other key considerations include:

1. Costs in addition to purchasing the easement
2. Assurance that easement holders can both keep land in agricultural use and keep land affordable to the next generation of farmers
3. Responsiveness to local needs not well addressed in other state or federal programs

1. Costs: The SCC agricultural conservation easement account should cover the due-diligence costs (staff time, appraisal, survey, environmental assessments, and legal work) as well as the purchase price of development rights. It could also benefit farmland conservation with:

- Capacity funding to help land trusts and others work with farm owners considering easements.
- Providing a portion of the stewardship funding when landowners cannot costs through a donation.
- Including funding for fee-simple purchase of farmland when it is leased back to farmers on a 99 year lease basis with ownership of farm buildings by the farmer.

2. Assurance of capacity to meet goals: Not every government entity or non-profit can assure that easement restrictions are upheld for the long run. Organizations need understanding of how to craft an enforceable agricultural easement. They need staff capacity and funds to monitor easements and to prepare for potential action should a current or future land-owner breach easement terms.

3. Responsiveness to local needs: In contrast to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Grant, the SCC agricultural conservation easement account could respond effectively to local needs with approaches such as these:

- Establish regional criteria and selection processes, rather than a statewide approach
- Set an annual application structure rather than the biennial timeframe used in WWRP
- When matching with other funding sources, allow flexibility in aspects of projects funded, so that the combined funds may cover needs such as staff time, due diligence, development rights purchase, and stewardship.

To preserve working farmland, and to make it affordable to new farmers, we support permanent easements, and oppose using public funding for term easements. It is reasonable to expect the language of permanent easements to include means of changing the terms, as agriculture changes over the decades.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,
E.J. Zita, Chair, Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee
ejzita@gmail.com

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

South of the Sound
Community Farm Land Trust

P.O. Box 12118, Olympia, WA 98508 (360) 292-9842 www.communityfarmlandtrust.org

March 7, 2016

Josh Giuntoli
Washington State Conservation Commission
Office of Farmland Preservation
ofp@scc.wa.gov

Josh Giuntoli,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as the Washington State Conservation Commission explores funding the existing agricultural conservation easement program (RCW 89.08.530) located within the WSCC statute.

South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust supports an enhanced role for the State Conservation Commission in increasing focus on saving farmland. The need for more dollars dedicated to the goals set out in the enabling legislation for the easement program is great. We support greater effort to keep agriculture land from being sold for uses other than agriculture, and make farmland more affordable for new farmers to secure access to land.

Funding and implementing the existing SCC agricultural conservation easement account could address the need for more funding to preserve farmland. In doing so attention should be paid to:

- Costs in addition to purchasing the easement
- Assurance that easement holders have the capacity to achieve the dual goals of keeping land in agricultural use and affordable to the next generation of farmers
- Responsiveness to local needs not well addressed in other state or federal programs

Costs: The funding should fully cover due-diligence costs (staff time, appraisal, survey, environmental assessments, and legal work) and the purchase price of development rights. It could also benefit farmland conservation by providing capacity funding to help with outreach to farmers and ranchers, and project and grant development, and stewardship funding. We recommend expanding the legislative authority to include funding for fee-simple purchase of farmland when it is leased back to farmers on a 99 year lease basis with ownership of farm buildings by the farmer.

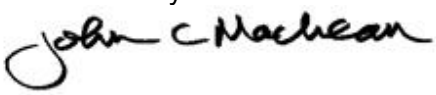
Assurance of capacity to meet goals: Not every government entity or non-profit has the capacity to assure that easements restrictions are upheld for the long-run. Organizations need understanding of how to craft an enforceable agricultural easement. They must have staff capacity and funds to monitor easements and prepare for potential litigation should the current or future land-owner breach the easement terms.

Responsiveness to local needs: In contrast to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Grant, the SCC agricultural conservation easement account could respond effectively to local needs by adopting one or more of the following approaches:

- Establish regional criteria and selection process rather than a statewide approach
- Set an annual application structure rather than the biennial timeframe used in WWRP.
- Funding flexibility such that combined with match dollars, funds cover all costs (e.g. staff time, due diligence, development rights purchase, and stewardship). The true costs of farmland preservation include transactional costs, administrative costs, project development, and appropriate indirect costs, in addition to purchase of development rights.

To meet the goals of affordable land that stays in farming, we support permanent easements and oppose using public funding for term easements. It is reasonable to expect the language of permanent easements to include means of changing the terms as agriculture changes over the decades.

Yours sincerely



John C. MacLean, Chair
SSCFLT Board of Directors
Phone: 360-339-3936

Washington Wildlife & Recreation COALITION

March 7th, 2016

Washington State Conservation Commission
Office of Farmland Preservation
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA, 98503

SUBJECT: WWRC Comments re: WSCC's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (RCW 89.08.530)

Dear members of the Washington State Conservation Commission,

This letter is in response to the WSCC's request for input from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition regarding the potential future funding and nature of your dormant agricultural conservation easement program (RCW 89.08.530). We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments as you explore ways to develop and fund the WSCC's program.

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is a non-profit citizens group of over 280 organizations that leverage public funds for new local and state parks, wildlife habitat, and farmland preservation through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). The WWRP is currently the only state-level easement funding program that protects the state's valuable agricultural land by publicly funding projects that preserve farmland, enhance agricultural production, and improve or restore important ecological functions of lands used for farming. The WWRP has been at the forefront of these efforts and has been recognized as a national leader in utilizing publicly funded conservation easements to serve the public interest in maintaining a healthy farmland environment.

In the last eight years since the creation of the WWRP farmland preservation grant program, the amount of funding available to farmland preservation increased from $2.9 million in 2008 to $4.7 million in 2016. Since 2008, it has dedicated over $20 million to more than 50 farmland preservation projects. Of the 94 project applications seeking WWRP funding during that timeframe, 42 projects have been completed and 11 more are underway.

The Coalition has benefitted from the WSCC's on-going efforts to identify farmland preservation needs derived from the statewide farmland community, including the broad base of farming stakeholders you serve from the smallest family farmers to the largest commercial and industrial agricultural operations in the state. The Coalition and the WWRP have also benefitted from a long history of dialogue with the WSCC regarding how the WWRP's program is implemented. In recognition of our shared history and on-going mutual interest in preserving farmland in Washington, the Coalition provides these comments to the WSCC with the following goals and objectives:

- To build a stronger network of support for increased funding of farmland preservation efforts within the scope of the WWRP; and
- To develop a strategic and collaborative effort to maximize the beneficial impacts of limited farmland preservation funding.

In preparing these comments, the Coalition has engaged in considerable internal discussions with our State Policy Committee. We have also sought direct input from our board members with knowledge of farmland preservation issues and the needs of the farming community and are pleased to share the following:

Comments and Recommendations

Do you have suggestions for how the program might look?

The Coalition recommends that the WSCC pattern any easement program you may pursue based on the lessons learned about the most important elements of WWRP's easement program. Specifically, we encourage the Commission to structure the program in such as way as to ensure high standards for preserving farmlands with the greatest public benefit. To be most successful, it has been the Coalition's experience that the program must include at least the following elements:

- Strict eligibility requirements to guarantee easement holders are qualified and willing to hold easements in perpetuity;
- Stewardship plans and funding, along with formal monitoring, to ensure easements are maintained over time;
- Development of standardized terms and conditions that will increase the predictability of the program and minimize legal uncertainties over time;
- Reliance on a transparent and competitive evaluation process to ensure the highest quality easements are prioritized for funding with limited available resources; and
- A process for periodic review and revision of the program in order to remain responsive to stakeholder concerns and changing statewide priorities over time.

We encourage the WSCC look to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and WWRP for examples in setting these requirements.

Do you see a niche for WSCC to fill?

An agricultural easement account managed by the WSCC could increase farmland preservation funding efforts and provide an additional funding source for high quality agricultural conservation easement projects that do not meet the WWRP's current funding priorities. To ensure the programs are complementary and not viewed as being in competition with one another, the Coalition recommends that there be a clear demarcation between the WWRP grant program and other agricultural conservation

easement funding options. Given the reality that even the addition of another easement funding program will be unlikely to operate at a scale sufficient to prevent widespread conversion of farmland, we encourage the Commission to carefully prioritize the agricultural and related conservation benefits you seek to achieve through any additional funding you are able to secure.

In addition, the Coalition also strongly recommends that the WSCC explore creative funding options currently authorized in your enabling statute outside of the state capital and operating budgets, such as other public and private sources, to ensure a broad base of diversified funding for farmland preservation. One potential is for the WSCC to provide a funding source for high quality agricultural conservation easement projects to meet the WWRP's current match requirements. Doing so could maximize existing resources and improve collaboration between the WSCC and WWRP.

The Coalition is hopeful that the Commission's initiative can serve as an opportunity to improve farmland preservation funding by coordinating potential future project applications and identifying the best fit for projects that may work better under one program or the other. To that end, we hope that an additional easement account will allow the Coalition to continue collaborating with the WSCC in recognizing and supporting strong applications based on project needs and statewide priorities.

Thank you for again for the opportunity to provide our comments. We look forward to the results of the stakeholder feedback and continued updates on the subject.

Sincerely,

Andrea McNamara Doyle
Interim Executive Director

March 7th, 2016

Washington State Conservation Commission
Office of Farmland Preservation
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA, 98503

Dear members of the Washington State Conservation Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as the Washington State Conservation Commission explores funding the agricultural conservation easement program (RCW 89.08.530) within the Commission's statute. There is need for increased funding for agricultural land conservation in Washington to effectively protect prime and important agricultural land. However, any program must set and adhere strictly to strong standards and practices of land conservation and environmental stewardship to uphold the public trust.

Land trusts care deeply about partnering with landowners to protect working farm and ranchland. Increasingly, that legacy is at risk. The amount of agricultural land, particularly family-owned farmland, in Washington has declined significantly in recent years. Agricultural conservation easements are an important tool to work with willing landowners to protect the long-term viability of our farm and ranchland, which provide flexibility to the landowner and certainty of permanent protection to the CE holder.

We share the Commission's desire to increase consistency in funding for farmland preservation easement programs at the state and federal levels. Existing programs are vital to this work, including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Account, Natural Resources Conservation Service ACEP-ALE program, and county Conservation Futures as well as federal tax incentives for farmers and ranchers who donate conservation easements. Each of these programs provides a unique tool targeting the areas of greatest need and greatest threat to farmland loss, but most are currently oversubscribed or, as in the case of Conservation Futures, under-utilized.

As the Commission explores potential funding and implementation of the agricultural conservation easement program, it will be important to confer with land trusts and lawyers specializing in conservation easements to ensure strong standards and practices for the program. For land conservation to succeed over the long term, we need to ensure a high standard for the public's confidence. Land Trusts, as an example, adhere to the *Land Trust Standards and Practices* (attached), guidelines describing how to operate a land trust legally, ethically, in the public interest, with a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.

Conservation easements are an increasingly specialized field of practice. Not every government entity or non-profit has the capacity to draft easements or uphold their terms in perpetuity. Easement holders must have demonstrated experience in crafting an enforceable agricultural conservation easements and must have funds and capability to both monitor easements annually and to prepare for enforcement and defense actions should the current or future land-owner breach the easement terms. Further, public benefit requires that public funds (or tax deductions) be used to meet the conservation purpose of farmland protection and the CE must meet all pertinent laws (IRC § 170(h)(4)(A) outlines the IRS requirements for easements).

The Commission has an opportunity to contribute positively to ensuring farm and ranchland remain a robust part of the fabric of Washington State. In addition to ensuring that any program embraces strong standards and practices as outlined above, we ask that you consider:

- In addition to purchase of development rights, providing the option to fund due-diligence (administrative costs, appraisal and review, survey, environmental assessments, and legal work), indirect costs (in accordance with the Omni-circular), and potentially capacity funding for outreach to farmers and ranchers, project and grant development, and stewardship funding.

- Maximizing compatibility with other funding sources such as WWRP Farmland, NRCS ACEP-ALE, and Conservation Futures, including an annual application process, time of award, and flexibility to combine with match dollars so funds cover all costs.

- Exploring funding sources that are not already oversubscribed, to grow the pie for funding and avoid competing with existing grant programs.

- Working cooperatively with existing programs to build on their success and prepare organizationally to uphold the legal and technical integrity of conservation easements.

We appreciate the Commission's partnership in furthering funding for agricultural conservation easements in Washington, and look forward to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,

Hannah Clark
Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts

Good Afternoon Josh and WSCC,

I (NYCD) would like to provide comment on the opportunity to exercise RCW 89.08.530 and RCW 89.08.540 to the fullest extent possible!

To understand why NYCD supports the opportunity you must at least understand just a few of the issues that surround the current funding mechanism offered by RCO. I will offer my experience (just the briefest of looks at the lunacy) and suggestions.

Beginning in 2007 the NYCD identified the protection of agricultural land as their highest natural resource priority in our annual and 5-yr plans. The Board's decision was based upon the idea that keeping working lands in agriculture was a far easier way to address natural resource (NR) issues rather than "chasing our tails" with urbanization generated NR issues. Simply put working with one landowner on 1000 acres is easier and more effective that working with 200 landowners who all want to put 10 horses on 5 acres. Think about it, with limited funds/staff/resources wouldn't any "business" whose goal is to protect NR of an area want to work with one person rather than 200 (district efficiencies)? NYCD also realized that Farmland Protection was much more than maintain economic viability, community culture, etc.. It was perhaps more beneficial to issues related to reduction of habitat, floodplain function – issues beyond the farmstead that would be more important to NR protection within NYCD.

With identifying the NR Planning Priority, NYCD began to develop a project under the RCO-FPP program – the Van Wyk Project. This project sought to purchase the development rights on a 4600 acre working cattle grazing pasture in the upper Cowiche watershed. The project was first proposed in 2008. Needless to say dealing with RCO was quite an eye opener. Developing a presentation that allows for 15 minutes of glory that is highly susceptible to bias and personal belief of the evaluators is un-believable!!!! What's more is the project was dead on arrival because RCO and the "professional evaluators" didn't even know what rangeland grazing was and there was no way to evaluate it since there wasn't irrigation it, "couldn't be important" to the State!!! Two years wasted.

NYCD spent considerable resources to help RCO create a "Rangeland" category of points to be awarded through the "15 minutes" of glory process during the next 2 years.

2010 NYCD again presented the Project. It fell below the funding line with RCO.

2012 NYCD presented for the third time and was awarded majority funding. We went through the appraisal process and in the end, due in no small part to the length of time that had past, we were unable to get an agreement done with the landowner.

Again to be clear the actual time spent was 2008-2014 (end of grant period). Whereas if funding had been available when the landowner first came to us it would have been done and the entire upper watershed of the Cowiche Basin would be protected.

The previous six paragraphs don't even come close to expressing all the issues, nuisances, frustrations, **sleepless nights**, etc.. the current RCO-FPP program has caused.

NYCD has "looked" to partner with other non-profit organizations that are in the business of conservation easements but we believe that there are no partnerships that meet the level of protection,

enhancement or the wise use of NR's goals that Districts do. Each has a dis-similar mission statement and would reflect poorly upon the District.

Observing the current changes in the RCO-FPP program I'm appalled by several changes the most noteworthy is the fact that a project can garner more points if it takes out productive land for habitat. The points available could literally change the ranking from a project that gets funds to one that is well below the funding line. Think about this, RCO is promoting the reduction of farmland to achieve protection of farmland. This simply is a mechanism of environmentalist using the program for habitat creation and protection which is really what the RCO Coalition and RCO staff really want from the entire WWRP funding pool.

The time is now to have the WSCC exercise the RCW's and change the course that this State takes towards a truly great opportunity the protect natural resources and to enhance the agricultural viability of its economy.

The following Bullets are comments for consideration.

- The WSCC-OFP and local District have a good working relationship and are well suited to grow a FPP program.
- Currently Farmland Preservation is used by the RCO and the Coalition to promote the entire WWRP program even though the FPP program is a very small percentage. This will work in WSCC's favor when approaching OFM, RCO and/or the Coalition to garner the funds and / or support for funding.
- It is often stated and is true that farmers are the first conservationist so it stands to reason that maintaining viable farmland is important to Natural Resource Protection. What local and State entities are best suited to assist local farmers and ranchers with this type of program? A non-profit? NO.
- District can own property including as per the RCW "rights".
- All the elements (needs) of a conservation easement program from education to monitoring are already defined in the RCW for Districts to carry out as part of their authority.
- An easement program administered through the WSCC will have a better opportunity to overcome many of the limitations which has lead the current RCO program to falter such as the ability to react quickly to funding opportunities, corruption by overstepping environmental concerns.
- WSCC-OFP will be a great resource to the needs that will and have been raised by the use of easements such as "estate planning tools".
- Districts will have a greater opportunity to partner with other entities in conservation easements if they can first bring a program to the table where currently District have little to leverage partnerships with others.
- Use of a FPP program with a landowner in partnership with a District will logically lead to other enhancing program(s)(Category 3 funding) that will be consistent with any Agricultural Easement whereas other entities have no reason to look beyond the Easement.
- The WSCC and NRCS have a proven record of working together and dovetailing a program that exists within NRCS and a new one within WSCC will be very easy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief comment. It is NYCD's hope that WSCC's discussion will lead to a successful program and meet a need of many of our local landowners.

SKAGIT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RON WESEN, First District
KENNETH A. DAHLSTEDT, Second District
LISA JANICKI, Third District

March 2, 2016

Mr. Josh Giuntoli
Washington State Conservation Commission
Office of Farmland Preservation
PO Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504-7721

Dear Mr. Giuntoli,

This letter is in response to your request for input on the Washington State Conservation Commission funding farmland preservation easement programs.

Skagit County's Farmland Legacy Program seeks to preserve and enhance agriculture in our valley. Since its inception in 1996, the program has placed Conservation Easements on over 9,500 acres of farmland while purchasing and extinguishing over 190 development rights.

Federal, state, and nonprofit funds leverage our local Conservation Futures Fund to further advance farmland preservation goals. The County would welcome the Washington State Conservation Commission as a financial partner in farmland preservation as we share the goals of preserving and enhancing agriculture.

There is a significant opportunity for the Commission to provide a simplified and streamlined process to financially partner on the placement of Conservation Easements for farmland preservation. We support this initiative and look forward to hearing how this concept progresses.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lisa Janicki

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Ron Wesen

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

BCC/ks

1800 CONTINENTAL PLACE, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273 PHONE (360) 416-1300

SAN JUAN ISLANDS
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

San Juan Islands Conservation District
530 Guard Street, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
www.sanjuanislandscd.org
360-378-6621

March 1, 2016

Josh Giuntoli
Washington State Conservation Commission
Office of Farmland Preservation

Re: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Dear Josh,

Thank you for your request for input on farmland conservation easements. Our district fully supports funding this program and housing the administration of the program in the Office of Farmland Preservation. We believe that the Conservation Commission has the expertise needed to evaluate and prioritize proposals and to administer funds through the Conservation Districts.

The San Juan Islands Conservation District (SJICD) is interested in actively promoting and implementing this program in San Juan County. Due to high property values in San Juan County, it is economically challenging for new farmers to acquire farmland. This program has the potential to allow for transfer of development rights and to keep agricultural land affordable for farmers. SJICD would be happy to serve as the local administrator and easement holder.

Thank you for your interest in moving this program forward. There is a significant need for it in our county.

Sincerely,

Ron Zee, Chair
Board of Supervisors

TAB 4

March 2016 Commission Meeting

District Operations Staff Report (January 2016 to March 2016)

Conservation District Assistance Topics

Topics included:

1. District operations
2. Supervisor elections
3. District budgeting
4. Planting project research
5. Direct seed workshop
6. Personnel management
7. Contracting
8. Community meetings & public comments
9. Task orders
10. Building & office space
11. Commission tour
12. Grant related questions
13. District efficiencies
14. District consolidation
15. Schedule 22 & internal audits
16. Good Governance reviews
17. PIP loans
18. RCPP project implementation
19. 4-district county meeting
20. District boundary questions
21. Employee timesheets
22. Advanced payment form
23. Cost-share reimbursement process
24. Real estate acquisition
25. Voluntary Stewardship Program
26. District Manager recruitment
27. IRS 1099 forms
28. Engineering agreements and issues resolution
29. Land acquisition and financing
30. WACD matters
31. Long range planning
32. Training
33. Fire recovery
34. Non-shellfish & shellfish grants
35. Project implementation
36. Property management
37. Conservation planning training modules
38. Planning community events
39. Prevailing wage
40. IRS reporting on Affordable Care Ac/healthcare questions
41. Health insurance
42. Cultural resources,
43. Policy development
44. Employee evaluations
45. Implementation monitoring
46. Public records
47. Rates & Charges
48. Audit exit conference
49. New supervisor & employee orientations
50. Funding project status & changes
51. Real estate purchasing
52. Vouchering requirements
53. Executive sessions
54. Visiting with legislators
55. Telecommuting
56. Supervisor attendance policies
57. Annual meeting participation
58. Shared leave policy,
59. Community outreach
60. Administrative capacity building
61. Board & supervisor development
62. Composite rates
63. Donations to CDS
64. State Auditor FIT tool
65. NACD
66. Grant applications
67. Policy development
68. Email address questions,
69. Chehalis Basin Flood Authority

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 4 & 5 for summary listing of Regional Managers in-person assistance and follow-up with Conservation Districts

Fire Recovery Need and Funding
Mike Baden coordinated with NRCS Area Conservationists, Commission staff, Okanogan CD and Federal partners to set a data gathering framework on where fire recovery needs and related funding are. Mike also coordinated with NRCS regarding ECP and fire related assistance to landowners and began work on a framework for 13 districts to revise their needs data for development of budget requests and allocation of any supplemental budget funding available. Mike also coordinated with financial staff, refined form for information gathering, started prioritization framework and continued to keep tabs on federal funding status. For more information contact Mike Baden

FireWise
Shana Joy and Ray Ledgerwood participated in a meeting with DNR staff regarding coordinating future budget development based on needs throughout the state and will be meeting with Regional Manager and Regional DNR staff. For more information contact Ray Ledgerwood

Governor's Wildland Fire Council Listening Session
Ray Ledgerwood facilitated the Governor's Wildland Fire Council Listening Session in Wenatchee. Panels of speakers were formed around resilient landscapes, safe and efficient response, and fire adapted communities. 20 presenters provided recommendations to the 3 Council members. This will be the first of a few listening sessions in fire ravaged areas of the state. For more information contact Ray Ledgerwood

Non-Shellfish Project Funding
Regional Managers completed work with contacting all 45 districts regarding status of priority one and two non-shellfish projects, readiness to implement a third priority project. Report to be prepared for Commission member consideration at March WSCC meeting. Shana Joy and Ray Ledgerwood worked with financial staff to develop new CPDS processes relating to non-shellfish and shellfish funding. For more information, contact Ray Ledgerwood

Shellfish Project Funding
Shana Joy participated in a meeting with other Commission staff on shellfish project funding requests in her region. For more information, contact Shana Joy.

Conservation District Development & Capacity
Stu Trefry wrote and published the March issue of Quick Notes and represented WSCC on the WA State Envirothon monthly meeting. Stu also facilitated three community meetings for the Underwood CD to provide additional thoughts for development of their next 5-year plan. Stu also wrote and edited an addendum to the February issue of Quick Notes. For more information, contact Stu Trefry

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. For more information contact Stu Trefry

Task Orders:
WSCC Region Managers and Finance Staff, NRCS Area Conservationists and Program Leads met by net meeting to approve this fiscal year's task orders with conservation districts under the WSCC/NRCS $1 million Contribution Agreement. For more information contact Ray Ledgerwood

Regional Manager – Technical Work Group Position
Ray Ledgerwood developed the position description, interview questions and supplemental questions with Lori Gonzales for the hiring of the new Central Region Manager position. Regional Managers evaluated the seven applications for the Central WA Regional Manager position and interviewed two candidates on March 4. Ray Ledgerwood and Lori Gonzales arranged for the interviews, location and the formation of the interview panel to include RMs, TPDW, District Supervisor, and District Manager. For more information contact Ray Ledgerwood

Chehalis River Basin:
Stu Trefry coordinated a meeting between the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority and Grays Harbor CD. Stu also coordinated a meeting between the 4 Chehalis Basin Conservation Districts and the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority facilitation team and outreach consultants. WSCC's Laura Johnson also participated in that meeting. Stu also represented the Commission at the Chehalis Basin State Team meeting. For more information contact Stu Trefry

Engineering
Shana Joy facilitated a meeting of the North Sound Engineering Cluster and made progress towards consensus on a cluster agreement and future operational protocols with the four participating CDs: Skagit, Whidbey Island, San Juan Islands, and Whatcom. Shana also worked on revisions to a draft engineering cluster agreement with four of my CDs as well as working with each to moderate disagreements about the terms of the agreement. For more information contact Shana Joy

Cultural Resources:
Larry Brewer provided cultural resource assistance with the following: Palouse CD on review needed when a past review was done; Clallam CD on UDP and landowner acknowledgement signing of the short form UDP; Pomeroy CD on correcting an 0505 complied statement form; Pacific CD on tribal review, comments, CR reviews for cranberry conservation practices; Klickitat CD on exemptions for soil testing; and field CR surveys to DAHP & tribes; Columbia on exemptions for soil sampling; Adams CD on no tribal response on reviewed project; Whitman District on a project which needed to follow federal protocol, precision agriculture project and pump placement; 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 and project with federal funding and protocol; Kittitas on tribal contacts; Underwood CD on tribal consultation and topo maps.

Larry also provided other cultural resources services: second phase of Cultural Resource exemptions for Districts has been approved and will be posted on web and announced to districts soon; participated in 0505 agency meeting (by phone) in February; submitted two CR articles for the TPDW newsletters; continued work on developing a regional CR training agenda; completion of the NRCS AgLearn Cultural Resource course; watched the DNR webinar on cultural resources and wildfire; reviewed some of the "0505 Complied Statements" that have been turned into WSCC. For more information contact Larry Brewer

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.

Voluntary Stewardship Program
Stu Trefry participated in the meeting for Counties and CDs on VSP in SW WA. Mike Baden participated in the similar VSP in Moses Lake. Ray Ledgerwood and Bill Eller (phone) participated in the 1st work group session of the Whitman County VSP where the group received information on VSP history, worked on ground rules, reviewed a timetable and flowchart for VSP planning, and set meeting dates. For more information contact Ray Ledgerwood

Coordinated Resource Management:
Ray Ledgerwood participated in the CRM Task Group meet in Ellensburg this reporting period. Topics included information on current CRM work groups, planning Executive Committee meeting and tour in Winthrop, tracking CRM progress, CRM and facilitator training. Ray also facilitated the monthly net meeting and in-person 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

National Partnering:
Stu Trefry participated on the monthly teleconference of the NASCA policy committee and represented NASCA on the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. Stu also met with Shana Joy, Chair of the NASCA policy committee, on updating a Washington NASCA policy resolution. 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

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

Technical & Professional Development Work Group
Ray Ledgerwood participated in the net meetings of the TPDW group's leadership. For more information, contact Ray Ledgerwood

CREP Training:
Shana Joy, Stu Trefry and Mike Baden participated in the CREP training sponsored by WSCC, FSA, and NRCS. For more information contact Shana Joy

Communications, Partnership & Outreach:
Stu Trefry facilitated a work prioritization session, and participated in the monthly calls of the Communications, Partnership and Outreach group. For more information contact Stu Trefry or Laura Johnson

Member Outreach:
Each Region Manager provided information to WSCC members from their respective areas in preparation for the upcoming January Commission Meeting. For more information contact Ray Ledgerwood

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

In-Person & Follow-up Work with Districts:
Regional Managers provided in-person assistance this reporting period with Grant County, Palouse, Palouse Rock Lake, Whitman, Pine Creek, Underwood, Walla Walla, Clallam, Kitsap, Underwood, Clark, Grays Harbor, Kittitas, Cascadia, Lincoln County, Stevens County, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Snohomish, Mason, Adams, Lewis King, Pierce, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Pacific, Okanogan, Foster Creek, Jefferson, Cowlitz, Pierce, Columbia, Okanogan, and Asotin County Conservation Districts.

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

Washington State Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: James Weatherford, Co-Chair
Nichole Embertson, Co-Chair
Technical and Professional Development Workgroup (TPDW)

SUBJECT: TPDW Accomplishments and Budget Update

Summary: Since 2008 a group of dedicated technical staff from Conservation Districts across the state has worked to create a structure for technical training/education, certification, and quality assurance to build, demonstrate and document the technical capacity within districts.

Over the past two fiscal years, with funding provided by WSCC to accelerate this work, what began as a loose group of volunteers is becoming a structured entity with a multi-faceted mission acting as the technical extension of the WSCC. The many facets of this work, including Training, Certification, Quality Assurance, and Documentation of Expertise, have all made significant progress in the pass quarter, and continue to evolve.

Since July 2015, the TPDW has utilized $70,230.76 of the $248,000 2-year budget (see budget summary attachment for details). A significant drawdown of funds is expected in the next quarter as four planned training events are launched, the research and Discovery Farms program installs four new sites, and the new executive administrator (shared duty with the Eastern RM) begins work on task coordination.

Attached is a comprehensive overview of the primary task areas of the TPDW and our accomplishments to date, as well as budget dollars expended.

James Weatherford, Co-Chair, will attend the March meeting of the WSCC and will be available to answer any questions about the TPDW work and budget items.

Action Requested: None. Information only.

Contact: James Weatherford, Co-Chair, TPDW | jweatherford@thurstoncd.com
Nichole Embertson, Co-Chair, TPDW | nembertson@whatcomcd.org

TPDW March 2016 PROGRESS Report on FY16 DELIVERABLES

Herein is the progress report for the Technical and Professional Development Workgroup (TPDW) as of March 1, 2016. This report has been produced for the WSCC.

A. Proficiencies and Standards

A1. Coordinate with HR to develop job classification standards for various disciplines that clearly outline expectations in the areas of technical knowledge, planning process, social context awareness, and quality and content of work products.

Work is being conducted to catalogue the various job classifications and titles used in CD's in Washington. This variety emphasizes the need for standardization.

Proficiencies and planning training standards have been developed for conservation planning, nutrient management, and advanced nutrient management considerations, with a training pathway and additional education and training options identified.

Proficiencies and planning standards for Riparian are being finalized by the Riparian/CREP certification team, in conjunction with CREP Planning requirements.

B. Training

B1. Manage/maintain training needs inventory of all technical staff and their proficiencies; use inventory to identify training needs. Training calendar.

Database. The database has been populated with names, contact info, training, primary job duties, and other pertinent information. Initial trials of the database identified gaps in the information collected, and the database is undergoing updates and follow-up collection of additional relevant data. Additionally, updated data is being added to reflect current on-going training in employee files.

EDC. TPDW holds a regular seat on the NRCS Employee Development Committee (EDC), and works cooperatively with NRCS to develop and maintain a joint training calendar, the Technical Needs Inventory (TNI), including training requests by both NRCS and CD personnel, and facilitate joint delivery of training events.

Training Plan. The nutrient management proficiencies have been incorporated into a training plan in cooperation with NRCS. Major core training events will be held jointly, alternating

annually Conservation Planning, Comprehensive Nutrient Management (CNMP), and Riparian/Stream Ecology with Pest Management and Nutrient Management (NMP). Additional core training courses will be added as they are identified. Other training events and workshops will be held on an as-needed basis, whether jointly or unilaterally as applicable.

B2. Maintain the list of available training events; Identify needed training events; Coordinate with NRCS on training & WADE for their specific training events.

Training events have been posted on a TPDW maintained calendar which has been referenced on each monthly TPDW newsletter. New and relevant training opportunities are continually added to keep the calendar up to date, as well as publicized in the monthly TPDW newsletter.

The TPDW has coordinated with the WSCC on using GovDelivery to send out special training announcements.

Created a system to register and track training event "applicants" and attendees using Google Forms. This allows organization and regular communication with folks on details, prerequisites, and other information as needed.

Working jointly with NRCS, the TPDW has developed a task order to utilize NRCS funds to hold five planning courses this Fiscal Year. Since the original training task order was accepted by NRCS in January, TPDW has planned the following courses:

- One CNMP Course planned for the week of April 12, 2016,
- Two Conservation Planning Courses planned for the weeks of May 2 and May 23, and
- One riparian planner course being planned for summer 2016 (date TBD).
- One Burn Area Emergency Response training is being planned for summer 2016 (date TBD).

The Task Order was amended in cooperation with SCC and NRCS to incorporate both Riparian course sessions into one overall riparian course and add a new training course for Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team training. The BAER Team training need was identified following the formation of the Inter-Agency BARE Team formed in response to the need caused by the wild land fires the last two years. However, subsequent budget cuts within NRCS necessitating the BAER Training to be dropped form the Task Order. In response, the TPDW has elected to proceed with development and delivery of the BAER training with as much cooperation as NRCS is able to provide, with the additional cooperation of other partner agencies.

The TPDW is working with WADE leadership to encourage a special WADE Conference subcommittee for 2017 and facilitate the coordination of tracks to support Certification training in various disciplines.

B3. Develop and conduct CD lead training events; support individual's training.

Based on popular demand from employees, the TPDW is offering three ArcGIS trainings in Northwest, North Central, and Southeast Washington. Additional requests have been made and are pending location and date information.

Two small farm nutrient balance/management and feed and forage management trainings were coordinated by the TPDW for district staff.

As noted in B2, the TPDW will take over the coordination of the Burn Area Emergency Response (BARE) Team training that was cut by NRCS. The TPDW sees great value in this training for CD staff and volunteered to sponsor it.

C. Certification

C1. Implement and manage current Dairy and Riparian certification processes. This includes total program structure and support, planning, communication, and promotion of individual certification programs.

To date, the TPDW has championed the creation of a Dairy and Riparian Certification program to acknowledge, promote, and support levels of excellence in planning. Both the Dairy and Riparian certifications were created using a peer review committee approach to ensure content and structure are robust and comprehensive.

The dairy certification has been finalized and three staff are currently being run through the application process. They are expected to be finalized in April.

A generic certification template has been created and is in the process of being sent around for review and comment by partner agencies. This will ensure that the process is supported at a high level of rigor.

C2. Coordination of mentoring program for certification program. This task will coordinate with a separate "Mentoring and Job Shadowing" task group (F1 below).

Based on the work being done for the database, experts in various disciplines are being identified and enrolled as potential mentors for different certification disciplines.

C3. Provide opportunities for continuing education toward certification requirements; include a session at the 2016 and 2017 WADE training conference to verify skills in particular disciplines, and provide progress towards certification requirements.

A special WADE 2016 meeting has been developed for the dairy certification applicants.

Discussion is in the works to adapt WADE 2017 to accommodate special tracks for certifications (see B3).

C4… Develop new certifications. Identify leaders/coordinators for each certification and provide support for program development.

With the template creation and vetting, new certifications can be created as soon as leadership is identified for the disciplines. Some work has been done to form a Small Farms Certification program team.

D. Planning Tools and Templates

D1. Develop a list of program specific templates and tools for assessments and outreach to landowners that are needed by CDs that NRCS does not provide.

In process.

D2. Develop comprehensive planning groups to outline planning programs and define the various types and levels of District Conservation Planning with landowners; create templates for each of the plan types with consistent formatting and content; and create/support access to information.

Two leads were selected to develop specific templates for Conservation plans that are unique to Small farms and another template for Dairies.

D3. Begin the development and maintenance of a clearing house for ensuring that technical employees have convenient access to necessary tools for conducting site assessments and evaluations.

The TPDW webpage has created a tab to support this endeavor with preliminary content. Future content will be suggested and curated by the planning groups.

E. Communications and Outreach

E1. Enhance and maintain communications system as well as publicize the TPDW.

The TPDW has contracted with a pro-bono designer to design a new logo and name for the TPDW. Design is under consideration by the TPDW to provide an improved image that will be better received by the technical staff being served. To be finalized in April.

The TPDW website (www.tpdw.org) continues to serve as a source of good information to CD staff. It is updated regularly.

A presentation on the TPDW program was given at the 2016 NACD national meeting in February and reflected a national need for the work being done by TPDW. There was significant interest in establishing a similar model for the Western States region.

E2. Continue and maintain TPDW monthly newsletter launched May 2015.

11 monthly newsletters have been written and distributed by TPDW and recipients have been monitored to determine the effectiveness of the newsletter distribution method.

We are now using the GovDelivery system for distribution.

A district staff distribution system has been developed for the monthly newsletters and other direct mailings of importance.

F. Technical Expertise, Mentoring and Job Shadowing

F1. Develop and pilot a program to coordinate CD job shadowing and mentoring opportunities with personnel experienced in their discipline.

A district to district work agreement was developed and will be used as a template for future work between TPDW and Districts.

A work plan template has been developed to document district board authorization of the mentoring, training of technical staff, providing expertise services, and other work that is done on behalf of the TPDW.

Shared resources have been utilized by several districts, most notable Okanogan and Whatcom/Snohomish, and those opportunities to pair newer staff with senior planners to provide training and "job shadowing" was taken advantage of with apparent great success.

Mentors for the core training sessions, conservation planning course in particular, are being identified. Mentor duties, responsibilities, and expectations have been developed, as well as expectations for Quality Assurance for the plans the course attendees submit to NRCS for review. Oversight will be the responsibility of the mentor.

F2. Cost share for mentor to interact with mentee.

Mentees/Mentors have been established in two districts and is being used to develop a statewide process of district mentoring. In particular, Whatcom CD provided a mentor for a Snohomish CD planner in the area of dairy planning. That mentorship allowed the new planner to gain valuable knowledge and experience not available in their own district.

F3. Develop database and list of experts by discipline for purposes of mentoring, peer-to-peer training, and technical input on policy and programs.

Of the state's 214 district technical staff, approximately 87% of their qualifications have been entered into a searchable database for ready access for mentoring, training, and for locating folks with special technical expertise.

The database has been populated with names, contact info, training, primary job duties, and other pertinent information. Initial trials of the database identified gaps in the information collected, and the database e is undergoing updates and follow-up collection of additional relevant data. Additionally, updated data is being added to reflect current on-going training in employee files, as well as the addition of new employees.

A user manual has been developed and is ready for review and comment.

F4. Coordinate with WSCC Policy Director on engagement of CD technical experts in federal, state and local policies and programs related to conservation activities.

Experts will be identified as training and credentials are verified.

G. Science, Research/Demonstration, and Effectiveness Monitoring

G1. Develop framework of the Research, Implementation, and Effectiveness Monitoring Program.

General guidelines and protocols for research/demonstration have been outlined.

A new Research Specialist was hired at Whatcom CD in March 2016 who will be developing all these materials.

G2. Discovery Farms - Development of DF program for WA State including branding, overall framework, field set up format, standard operating procedures, research support, and data sharing protocols.

The Washington Discovery Farms program has been launched to great interests statewide. A QAPP has been developed and template and guidelines for field set up. The name, logo, and branding has been set with approval for the national program. Nichole Embertson is the current Director of the Washington Discovery Farms program.

A new Research Specialist was hired at Whatcom CD in March 2016 who will be developing and installing the Discovery Farms sites statewide.

G3. Provide Research Program RFP startup money for 2-3 Discovery Farm demonstrations. Work with NRCS on possible TSP match for sites.

Whatcom County has 5 sites, King County is requesting one site, and Snohomish County is in discussion for one site. Skagit and Palouse Counties have also expressed interest.

H. Quality Assurance

H1. Complete development of Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and begin QAPP implementation.

A quality assurance plan has been developed, reviewed/and accepted by NRCS technical staff, sent out for review to select district technical staff.

I. TPDW Coordination

I1. Executive Chair/Whip

A description of duties was developed for a dedicated staff person to coordinate the workload of the TPDW and the person is in the process of being selected. This may coordinate with the new Eastern DM.

I2. Administration, budget, and financial support for workgroup tasks, billing, and reporting.

A web based time tracking system has been put in place and being used to efficiently track TPDW costs. Whatcom CD is administering the budget and reporting monthly to the TPDW.

TPDW Contact Info

For more information on the TPDW activities, please contact:

Nichole Embertson
Co-Chair
nembertson@whatcomcd.org

James Weatherford
CO-Chair
JWeatherford@thurstoncd.com

www.tpdw.org

14-04-IM - Technical Training Services (TPDW)
WHATCOM - BUDGET MONITORING

Effective date: 7/1/2015

COMPLETION DATE: 6/30/2016
% of time completed: 67%
Total % of dollars spent: 28%

	Budget Original	Budget Revised	Initial Payment	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16							Expended	Unexpended
1.0 Tech & Prof Developmen	131,000.00																		131,000.00
Salary & Benefits				1,498.24	2,241.00	1,539.80	2,385.46	1,103.42	626.03	1,389.95	4,387.12							15,171.02	-15,171.02
Travel											731.74							731.74	-731.74
Goods & Services									200.00									200.00	-200.00
Conservation Districts				5,823.10	6,711.31	2,291.39	3,321.32	5,084.23	5,287.33	7,268.38	6,377.75							42,164.81	-42,164.81
25% Overhead				374.56	560.26	384.95	596.37	275.86	156.51	347.49	1,096.78							3,792.78	-3,792.78
Total 1.0 Tech & Prof Dev	131,000.00	0.00		7,695.90	9,512.57	4,216.14	6,303.15	6,463.51	6,269.87	9,005.82	12,593.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62,060.35	68,939.65
2.0 Science & Monitoring	117,000.00																		117,000.00
Salary & Benefits					164.34	2,191.20	109.56	164.34										2,629.44	-2,629.44
Travel						1,091.08			1,575.45									2,666.53	-2,666.53
Conservation Districts					1,361.37		855.70											2,217.07	-2,217.07
25% Overhead					41.09	547.80	27.39	41.09										657.37	-657.37
Total 2.0 Science & Monito	117,000.00	0.00		0.00	1,566.80	3,830.08	992.65	205.43	1,575.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,170.41	108,829.59
Total Grant	**248,000.00**	**0.00**		**7,695.90**	**11,079.37**	**8,046.22**	**7,295.80**	**6,668.94**	**7,845.32**	**9,005.82**	**12,593.39**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**70,230.76**	**177,769.24**
1 Tech & Prof Development																			
1.A Proficiencies & Standar	5,000.00					55.75	0.00	27.88	480.90	507.77								1,072.30	3,927.70
1.B Training					437.56													437.56	-437.56
1.B1 Training Needs Inv	2,000.00			453.02	50.34		453.02			34.88								991.26	1,008.74
1.B2 List Training Events	10,000.00			2,125.42	2,667.78						2,449.33							7,242.53	2,757.47
1.B3 CD Lead Training Even	20,000.00			1,208.05	2,114.09	654.36	3,279.31	4,064.77	3,055.90	3,678.05	3,835.68							21,890.21	-1,890.21
Total 1.B Training	32,000.00			3,786.49	5,269.77	654.36	3,732.33	4,064.77	3,055.90	3,712.93	6,285.01							30,561.56	1,438.44
1.C Certification					684.75						377.92							1,062.67	-1,062.67
1.C1 Dairy & Rip Cert Proc	5,000.00																	0.00	5,000.00
1.C2 Coord Mentoring	2,000.00					547.80												547.80	1,452.20
1.C3 Cert Requirements	8,000.00			617.74							480.99							1,098.73	6,901.27
1.C4 New Certifications	5,000.00				266.00						274.85							540.85	4,459.15
Total 1.C Certification	20,000.00			617.74	950.75	547.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,133.76							3,250.05	16,749.95
1.D Planning Tools & Templates																		0.00	0.00
1.D1 List Prog Templates	2,000.00																	0.00	2,000.00
1.D2 Types of CD Planning	12,000.00			236.44					236.44		137.43							610.31	11,389.69
1.D3 Access to Tools	3,000.00																	0.00	3,000.00
Total 1.D Planning Tools	17,000.00			236.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	236.44	0.00	137.43							610.31	16,389.69
1.E Communications/Outreach				59.11														59.11	-59.11
1.E1 Communication Syster	10,000.00				753.23	136.95	205.43	410.85		480.99	1,133.75							3,121.20	6,878.80
1.E2 TPDW mo Newsletter	5,000.00			702.53	288.83	263.08	380.33	409.48	174.90	363.77	864.97							3,447.89	1,552.11
Total 1.E Comm/Outreach	15,000.00			761.64	1,042.06	400.03	585.76	820.33	174.90	844.76	1,998.72							6,628.20	8,371.80
1.F Tech Exp, Mentoring/Job Shadowing					855.70													855.70	-855.70
1.F1 CD Job Shadow/Ment	10,000.00					805.37	402.68	453.02	1,157.72	2,679.72								5,498.51	4,501.49
1.F2 Mentor	3,000.00			480.46	205.43	273.90	684.75		410.85	480.98								2,536.37	463.63
1.F3 Database/List Experts	4,000.00			118.22		78.87		334.51	111.50	279.04	52.31							974.45	3,025.55
1.F4 Tech Exp Policy/Progra	5,000.00																	0.00	5,000.00

14-04-IM - Technical Training Services (TPDW)
WHATCOM - BUDGET MONITORING

Effective date: 7/1/2015

COMPLETION DATE: 6/30/2016
% of time completed: 67%
Total % of dollars spent: 28%

	Budget Original	Budget Revised	Initial Payment	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16							Expended	Unexpended
Total 1.F Tech Mentoring	22,000.00			598.68	1,061.13	1,158.14	1,087.43	787.53	1,680.07	3,439.74	52.31							9,865.03	12,134.97
1.I TPDW Coordination				522.20														522.20	-522.20
1.I1 Exec Chair/Whip	10,000.00			1,015.85	410.85	102.71	273.90	205.43	136.95	137.43	1,030.69							3,313.81	6,686.19
1.I2 Admin	10,000.00			156.86	130.72	418.30	418.30	352.14	304.71	157.05	261.75							2,199.83	7,800.17
1.I3 Team Meeting	0.00				647.29	879.05	205.43	205.43		206.14	1,006.59							3,149.93	-3,149.93
Total 1.I TPDW Coord	20,000.00			1,694.91	1,188.86	1,400.06	897.63	763.00	441.66	500.62	2,299.03							9,185.77	10,814.23
Total 1 Tech & Prof Dev	131,000.00			7,695.90	9,512.57	4,216.14	6,303.15	6,463.51	6,069.87	9,005.82	11,906.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,173.22	69,826.78
2 Science & Monitoring																			
2.G Science, Research/Demo					68.48		136.95											205.43	-205.43
2.G1 Research/Imp Monitor	3,000.00				354.66						687.13							1,041.79	1,958.21
2.G2 Discovery Farms	10,000.00				136.95	3,830.08		205.43	1,775.45									5,947.91	4,052.09
2.G3 Dicovery Farm Demo	60,000.00																	0.00	60,000.00
Total 2.G Science/Researc	73,000.00			0.00	560.09	3,830.08	136.95	205.43	1,775.45	0.00	687.13							7,195.13	65,804.87
2.H Quality Assurance	44,000.00				1,006.71	0.00	855.70	0.00	0.00									1,862.41	42,137.59
2 Science & Monitoring	117,000.00			0.00	1,566.80	3,830.08	992.65	205.43	1,775.45	0.00	687.13							9,057.54	107,942.46
TOTAL	248,000.00	0.00		7,695.90	11,079.37	8,046.22	7,295.80	6,668.94	7,845.32	9,005.82	12,593.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,230.76	177,769.24
Imp 2015	**248,000.00**		**248,000.00**															**248,000.00**	**0.00**
	248,000.00	**0.00**	**248,000.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**248,000.00**	**0.00**
	Initial Payment			7,695.90	11,079.37	8,046.22	7,295.80	6,668.94	7,845.32	9,005.82	12,593.39							70,230.76	

NOTES:

Grant Award	*248,000.00*
Utilized Funds	*70,230.76*
Funds Remaining	*177,769.24*

Admin Salaries - Overhead (not direct billed)	58.31	136.83				53.17												248.31

Washington State
Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Mark Clark, Executive Director
Commission Members

FROM: Bill Eller, Elections Officer

SUBJECT: Conservation District Elections and Appointments Update

Summary

The 2016 conservation district election cycle is almost finished. Districts hold their election by March 31, and they are supposed to submit the election forms to the Commission by the end of April. Listed below is a status update on elections & appointments.

Action

None – informational only.

Election Status

As of February 25, 2016, out of the 45 conservation districts,

1. 20 districts have or will have automatically re-elected incumbent candidates (44%) pursuant to WAC 135-110-370.

	DISTRICT	ELECTION
1	Adams	26-Jan-16
2	Asotin County	3-Mar-16
3	Central Klickitat	16-Feb-16
4	Clark	3-Mar-16
5	Ferry	23-Mar-16
6	Grant	9-Feb-16
7	Grays Harbor	19-Feb-16
8	Jefferson County	2-Mar-16
9	King	8-Mar-16
10	Kittitas County	9-Feb-16
11	Lewis County	10-Mar-16
12	Lincoln County	10-Feb-16
13	Mason	20-Feb-16
14	Palouse	9-Feb-16
15	Palouse Rock Lake	17-Feb-16
16	Pierce	23-Mar-16
17	Select Your Conservation District (San Juan Islands)	2-Feb-16
18	Stevens County	18-Feb-16
19	Walla Walla County	28-Jan-16
20	Whitman	9-Feb-16

2. 25 districts are still set to have or will have contested elections (56%), or have not informed us yet that they automatically re-elected their incumbents.

	DISTRICT	ELECTION
1	Benton	9-Mar-16
2	Cascadia	19-Jan-16
3	Clallam	8-Mar-16
4	Columbia	21-Jan-16
5	Cowlitz	24-Mar-16
6	Eastern Klickitat	11-Feb-16
7	Foster Creek	26-Jan-16
8	Franklin	10-Mar-16
9	Kitsap	25-Mar-16
10	North Yakima	15-Mar-16
11	Okanogan	9-Feb-16
12	Pacific	2-Mar-16
13	Pend Oreille	21-Mar-16
14	Pine Creek	23-Mar-16
15	Pomeroy	1-Feb-16
16	Skagit	22-Mar-16
17	Snohomish	15-Mar-16
18	South Douglas	26-Jan-16
19	South Yakima	30-Mar-16
20	Spokane	8-Mar-16
21	Thurston	5-Mar-16
22	Underwood	16-Feb-16
23	Wahkiakum	16-Mar-16
24	Whatcom	15-Mar-16
25	Whidbey Island	2-Feb-16

3. Two districts have notified the Commission of the unofficial results of their elections (Cascadia and Eastern Klickitat).
4. There have been thirty-four declared candidates so far.
5. We are working with a few districts on some election issues. Below are three, listed for illustrative purposes: Whatcom, Pend Oreille, and North Yakima. A brief discussion of each follows.

District: Whatcom Conservation District

Election Supervisor: Dawn Bekenyi

Election Date: March 15, 2016

Issue(s): A member of the public contacted Commission staff on February 19, 2016 to bring to the Commission's attention some issues with Whatcom CD's election, similar to issues that were brought up and investigated last year. Those issues include (just one poll site in Lynden, WA; inability of voters to meet the absentee ballot request deadline; and issues related to email notices from the District back to absentee ballot requestors that might be confusing). Commission staff spoke with the Whatcom CD election supervisor on February 19, 2016 and was satisfied that the Whatcom CD board and Election Supervisor took corrective measures based off of last years' election to address

these issues this year. Voters who couldn't physically vote in person were given the option to request a ballot sent to them in the mail, provided they did so before the absentee ballot deadline expired. The District also established an email response system that supplied an email back to absentee ballot requestors that notifies them that their request was received and will be processed. Therefore, Commission staff finds that the Board and Election Supervisor analyzed all these issues from last year and adequately provided for them this year. Staff believes no further Commission action is necessary on these issues from an election operations standpoint. Election process continues to be an important topic for the public and Commission staff will continue to investigate any concerns raised.

District: Pend Oreille Conservation District

Election Supervisor: David Marcell

Election Date: March 21, 2016

Issue(s): Pend Oreille Conservation District caught a scrivener's error with the date of their election. Once they realized the chosen date was set for a Sunday, they re-advertised their election date. They had previously advertised that they were going to put all further notices in their web page, but they felt with this kind of error, a notice in the newspaper would be best. They ended up advertising both in the local paper and on their web page.

District: North Yakima Conservation District

Election Supervisor: Mike Tobin

Election Date: March 31, 2016 (formally March 15, 2016)

Issue(s): North Yakima Conservation District caught a scrivener's error with the time for polls to be open for their election. Instead of four hours (minimum), they only choose three (despite a warning on the new electronic form that four hours if the minimum). Once they discovered this and realized the polling hours were in error, they chose to restart the election process as they had enough time before the end of the cycle to do so. Their new election date is March 31, 2016.

Appointment Status

As of February 25, 2016, we've had 17 applications for 16 appointed positions in the following districts:

DISTRICT	APPLICANT NAME			
Asotin County	Mr.	Jason	E	Schlee
Clallam	Mr	Matthew	V	Heins
Cowlitz	Ms	Lynn	M	Simpson
Foster Creek	Mr	Kelsey	G	Tanneberg
Grant	Mr.	Richard	W	Leitz
Mason	Mr.	Myron	A	Ougendal
Mason	Mr.	Jason	O	Ragan
Okanogan	Mrs.	Lorah	A	Super
Palouse Rock Lake	Ms.	Erin	M	Bailey
Pierce	Dr.	Brian	W	Sullivan
Pine Creek	Mr	Jeffrey	J	Pittmann
Snohomish	Mr	Mark	L	Craven
South Douglas	Mr	David	P	Linville
Spokane	Mr	Gerald	A	Scheele
Stevens County	Mrs.	Connie	A	Bergstrom
Thurston	Mr.	Eric	L	Johnson
Whitman	Mr	Gary	J	Luft

Using the new on-line appointment application system, applicants fill out (or can be assisted in filling-out) their own appointment application and submitting it directly to the Commission. Each district that receives an applicant is notified by Commission staff that the applicant has submitting an application.

Conclusion

Last years' migration of the election and appointment forms from paper to (mostly) on-line has succeeded in creating efficiencies for staff workload and reducing errors at the district level.

Washington State
Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Ray Ledgerwood – Regional Manager Coordinator

SUBJECT: Department of Corrections (DOC) Work Crews and Related L&I Coverage

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Background Summary:

At the January 2016 Commission meeting the topic of Department of Corrections Work Crews Labor and Industries coverage was brought up by Kitsap CD staff. The issue of concern is not the cost of coverage for a DOC Work Crew, but the potential liability risk to the sponsoring Conservation District for the current requirement of local governments enrolling inmates.

In an informal email data request by Shana Joy, it was found that Kitsap, Mason, Cowlitz and Spokane Conservation Districts have most recently utilized DOC Work Crews on projects. Other Conservation Districts have utilized DOC crews throughout the years.

There are differences in how the DOC work crews were obtained in the past few years. Kitsap CD arranged directly with DOC, where Spokane CD arranged for DOC crews through another state agency (DNR) then reimbursed DNR for the work completed, therefore not having to enroll inmates on their L&I coverage. The use of DOC crews arranged through a state agency (DNR, Ecology, WDFW, other) may be a viable option for Conservation Districts consideration to avoid increased liability and related risk.

Current legislation on this subject is RCW 72.09.100 (4)(d). A proposed legislative 'fix' was brought forward in the 2016 Legislative Session as HB 2416, but the proposed legislation did not make it past the cut-off for this legislative session and therefore not considered further.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- Regional Managers work with Districts and appropriate state agencies regarding project work done by the DOC work crew through a state agency (Spokane County CD example)
- Support future legislation that would require DOC to enroll inmates in L&I coverage instead of local governments (current requirements) to reduce district liability and risk
- Inquiry of Enduris regarding actual liability and risk management with current requirements
- Follow-up with districts that are utilizing county inmate work crews regarding related current requirements
- Consider longer term future activity with WSCC as sponsor agency for DOC work crews with Districts

Commission Action Requested:

No action required at this time

Staff Contact:

Ray Ledgerwood – Regional Manager Coordinator

Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

February 29, 2016

Mr. Mark Clark
Washington State Conservation Commission
PO Box 47721
Olympia, Washington 98504

Re: FY16 Satewide 05-05 Exemption List
Log No.: 082615-17-WSCC

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for contacting our department pursuant to Executive Order 05-05. We have reviewed the information you provided for the proposed FY16 Satewide 05-05 Exemption List for use by Conservation Districts across Washington.

We understand the use of this list requires a review by a professional archaeologist for the practices. We concur with your determination the proposed project will have no effect upon cultural properties.

We would appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive.

In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the concerned tribe's cultural staff and cultural committee and this department notified.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in compliance with Executive Order 05-05. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised, including information regarding historic properties that have not yet been identified. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and a copy of these comments should be included in subsequent environmental documents.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
(360) 890-2615

State of Washington • **Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation**
P.O. Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 • (360) 586-3065
www.dahp.wa.gov

email: *rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov*

WSCC Archeologist's Reviewed Exemptions for Conservation Districts

(Dec 14 2015)

The conservation practices listed in the "Archeologist Reviewed Exemptions for Conservation Districts" table below have been determined to have a potential to cause effects to cultural resources and therefore should always be referred to a professional archeologist for review. The reviewing professional archeologist should consider the following exempt conditions to assist them in determining if a proposed project could be recommended (to the appropriate conservation district) to be exempt from further cultural resource review.

EXEMPT CONDITIONS

-When practice installation does not extend beyond the previously tilled zone and is installed in lands that have an agricultural history of tillage (tilled > 20 times) and falls in the very low to moderate probability using the DAHP predictive model.

-Flood damage repairs to roads, bridges, water control structures, or dams when the facility is not of historic significance in the rehabilitation is to the previously disturbed area.

-In stream structures that do not involve ground disturbance activities.

-Removal of modern dumps (less than 50 years old) not associated with historic properties.

-Removal of non-historic structures or buildings less than 50 years old where there will be no ground disturbance.

-Replacement of existing structures as they pertain to farm and ranch access roads (culverts, roads, cattle guards, and water control structures) as long as construction does not exceed previous disturbance. When the replacement of the structures will exceed previous disturbance, an archaeologist will do an archaeological review on a case-by-case basis and send this information and recommendations via letter to consultation partners for their review and comment. Historic property inventory (HPI) forms will be prepared if the culvert, roads, cattle guards, or water control structures are eligible on their own under one of the national register criteria.

-In forest lands where pruning and thinning of pre-commercial sized trees is undertaken using hand loppers, chainsaws, or hand saws where the dispersal of forest debris is left lying where it falls, is chipped, or is hand stacked (not for burning). When no tracked vehicles are utilized unless over frozen ground with protective snow cover. Other vehicles (such as ATVs or pickups) may be used to access or transport prunings as they will have minimal impact to the surface.

NOTE: Conservation practice is a specific treatment, such as structural or vegetative in nature, or a management technique, commonly used to meet specific needs in planning and implementing conservation, for which standards and specifications have been developed. **Conservation activity** is a general category of undertakings not otherwise covered under conservation practices.

List of Professional Archeologist Reviewed Exemptions for Conservation Districts

(Dec 14, 2015)

These Conservation Activities/Practices requires a Professional Archeologist's review to determine: if **Exempt** (by meeting the exempt conditions shown above) **OR** if **Consultation is needed.**

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
202	Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring– System Installation (Interim Practice)	This conservation activity standard addresses the system installation associated with edge-of-field water quality monitoring.
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility (No.)	A facility with an impervious surface to provide an environmentally safe area for the handling of on-farm agrichemicals.
310	Bedding (Ac.)	Plowing, blading, or otherwise elevating the surface of flat land into a series of broad, low ridges separated by shallow, parallel channels with positive drainage.
311	Alley Cropping (Ac.)	Trees or shrubs are planted in sets of single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced in the alleys between the sets of woody plants that produce additional products.
313	Waste Storage Facility (No.)	A waste storage impoundment made by constructing an embankment and/or excavating a pit or dugout, or by fabricating a structure.
316	Animal Mortality Facility (No.)	An on-farm facility for the treatment or disposal of livestock and poultry carcasses for routine and catastrophic mortality events.
317	Composting Facility (No.)	A structure or device to contain and facilitate the controlled aerobic decomposition of manure or other organic material by micro-organisms into a biologically stable organic material that is suitable for use as a soil amendment.
318	Short Term Storage of Animal Waste and Byproducts (Cubic Yards)	Temporary, non-structural measures used to store solid or semi-solid, organic agricultural waste or manure (stackable livestock and poultry manure, bedding, litter, spilled feed, or soil mixed with manure) on a short-term basis between collection and utilization.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
319	On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility (No.)	A permanent facility designed to provide secondary containment of oil and petroleum products used on-farm.
320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral (Ft.)	A permanent channel constructed to convey irrigation water from the source of supply to one or more irrigated areas.
324	Deep Tillage (Ac.)	Performing tillage operations below the normal tillage depth to modify adverse physical or chemical properties of a soil.
326	Clearing and Snagging (Ft.)	Removal of vegetation along the bank (clearing) and/or selective removal of snags, drifts, or other obstructions (snagging) from natural or improved channels and streams.
327	Conservation Cover (Ac.)	Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover.
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops (Ac.)	Planting orchards, vineyards, or small fruits so that all cultural operations are done on the contour.
332	Contour Buffer Strips (Ac.)	Narrow strips of permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established around the hill slope, and alternated down the slope with wider cropped strips that are farmed on the contour.
348	Dam, Diversion (No)	A structure built to divert all or part of the water from a waterway or a stream.
350	Sediment Basin (No)	A basin constructed with an engineered outlet, formed by an embankment or excavation or a combination of the two.
356	Dike (Ft)	A barrier constructed of earth or manufactured materials.
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon (No.)	A waste treatment impoundment made by constructing an embankment and/or excavating a pit or dugout.
360	Waste Facility Closure (No.)	Waste facility closure is the process of removing the long-term accumulation of sludge, floating matter, and wastewater from waste impoundments (animal waste lagoons or storage ponds) in an environmentally safe manner.
362	Diversion (Ft.)	A channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.
366	Anaerobic Digester (No.)	A component of a waste management system that provides biological treatment in the absence of oxygen.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
378	Pond (No)	A water impoundment made by constructing an embankment or by excavating a pit or dugout.
382	Fence (Ft.)	A constructed barrier to animals or people.
388	Irrigation Field Ditch (Ft.)	A permanent irrigation ditch constructed in or with earth materials, to convey water from the source of supply to a field or fields in an irrigation system.
393	Filter Strip (Ac.)	A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.
394	Firebreak (Ft.)	A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land planned to retard fire.
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Ac.)	Improving a stream channel to make a new fish habitat or to enhance an existing habitat. Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.
396	Aquatic Organism Passage (Mi.)	Modification or removal of barriers that restrict or impede movement or migration of fish or other aquatic organisms.
397	Aquaculture Ponds (Ac)	A water impoundment constructed and managed for farming of freshwater and saltwater organisms including fish, mollusks, crustaceans and aquatic plants.
398	Fish Raceway or Tank (Ft and ft3)	A channel or tank with a continuous flow of water constructed or used for high-density fish production.
402	Dam (No & Ac-ft)	An artificial barrier that can impound water for one or more beneficial purposes.
410	Grade Stabilization Structure (No)	A grade stabilization structure is a structure used to control the grade in natural or constructed channels.
412	Grassed Waterway (Ac.)	A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
423	Hillside Ditch (Ft)	A channel that has a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across the slope at definite vertical intervals and gradient with or without a vegetative barrier.
430	Irrigation Pipeline	A pipeline and appurtenances installed to convey water for storage or application, as part of an irrigation water system.
432	Dry Hydrant (No.)	A non-pressurized permanent pipe assembly system installed into water source that permits the withdrawal of water by suction.
436	Irrigation Reservoir (No & Ac-ft)	An irrigation water storage structure made by constructing a dam, embankment, pit, or tank.
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (No. and Ac.)	An irrigation system for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface: as drops, tiny streams or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line.
442	Sprinkler System (No. and Ac.)	A distribution system that applies water by means of nozzles operated under pressure.
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (No. and Ac.)	A system in which all necessary earthwork, multi-outlet pipelines, and water-control structures have been installed for distribution of water by surface means, such as furrows, borders, and contour levees, or by subsurface means through water table control.
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (No)	An irrigation system designed to collect, store, and convey irrigation tailwater and/or rainfall runoff for reuse in irrigation.
453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (No & Ac)	Managing in-place natural materials, mine spoil (excavated over-burden), mine waste or overburden to reduce down-slope movement.
455	Land Reclamation, Toxic Discharge Control (No)	Control of acid or otherwise toxic aqueous discharge from abandoned coal mines or coal-mine waste.
457	Mine Shaft & Adit Closing (No)	Closure of underground mine openings by filling, plugging, capping, installing barriers, gating or fencing.
460	Land Clearing (Ac.)	Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas to achieve a conservation objective.
462	Precision Land Forming (Ac.)	Reshaping the surface of land to planned grades.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
464	Irrigation Land Leveling (Ac.)	Reshaping the surface of land to be irrigated, to planned lines and grades.
466	Land Smoothing (Ac.)	Land smoothing is removing irregularities on the land surface.
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet (Ft)	A waterway or outlet having an erosion-resistant lining of concrete, stone, synthetic turf reinforcement fabrics, or other permanent material.
472	Access Control (Ac.)	The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.
482	Mole Drain (Ft)	An underground conduit constructed by pulling a bullet-shaped cylinder through the soil.
500	Obstruction Removal (Ac.)	Removal and disposal of buildings, structures, other works of improvement, vegetation, debris or other materials.
512	Forage and Biomass Planting (Ac.)	Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.
516	Livestock Pipeline (Ft.)	A pipeline and appurtenances installed to convey water for livestock or wildlife.
527	Karst Sinkhole Treatment (No.)	The treatment of sinkholes in karst areas to reduce contamination of groundwater resources, and/or to improve farm safety.
533	Pumping Plant (No.)	A facility that delivers water at a designed pressure and flow rate. Includes the required pump(s), associated power unit(s), plumbing, appurtenances, and may include on-site fuel or energy source(s), and protective structures.
543	Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land (Ac)	Reclamation of land and water areas adversely affected by past mining activities.
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Ac.) (548) (3/03)	Modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatments such as pitting, contour furrowing, and chiseling, ripping or subsoiling.
555	Rock Barrier (Ft.)	A rock retaining wall constructed across the slope to form and support a bench terrace that will control the flow of water and check erosion on sloping land.
558	Roof Runoff Structure (No.)	A structure that will collect, control and convey precipitation runoff from a roof.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
560	Access Road (Ft.)	An access road is an established route for equipment and vehicles.
561	Heavy Use Area Protection (Ac.)	Heavy Use Area Protection is used to stabilize a ground surface that is frequently and intensively used by people, animals, or vehicles.
562	Recreation Area Improvement (Ac.)	Established grasses, legumes, vines, shrubs, trees, or other plants or selectively reducing stand density and trimming woody plants to improve an area for recreation.
566	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (Ac.)	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping is reshaping the surface of the land to support recreational landuse.
568	Trails and Walkways (Ft.)	A trail is a constructed path with a vegetated or earthen surface. A walkway is a constructed path with an artificial surface. A trail/walkway is used to facilitate the movement of animals, people, or off-road vehicles.
570	Stormwater Runoff Control (No. and Ac.)	Controlling the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff.
572	Spoil Spreading (Ac.)	Disposal of surplus excavated materials.
574	Spring Development (No)	Collection of water from springs or seeps to provide for livestock and wildlife.
575	Trails and Walkways (Ft.)	A trail is a constructed path with a vegetated or earthen surface. A walkway is a constructed path with an artificial surface. A trail/walkway is used to facilitate the movement of animals, people, or off-road vehicles.
578	Stream Crossing (No.)	A stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Ft.)	Treatment(s) used to stabilize and protect banks of streams or constructed channels, and shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries.
582	Open Channel (Ft)	Constructing or improving a channel either natural or artificial, in which water flows with a free surface.
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	Measure(s) used to stabilize the bed or bottom of a channel.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
587	Structure for Water Control (No.)	A structure in a water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, maintains a desired water surface elevation or measures water.
600	Terrace (Ft)	An earth embankment, or a combination ridge and channel, constructed across the field slope.
606	Subsurface Drain (Ft.)	A conduit installed beneath the ground surface to collect and/or convey excess water.
607	Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (Ft.)	A graded ditch for collecting excess water in a field.
608	Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral (Ft)	An open drainage ditch constructed to a designed cross section, alignment and grade.
609	Surface Roughening (Ac.)	Performing tillage operations that create random roughness of the soil surface.
610	Salinity & Sodic Soil Management (Ac.)	Management of land, water and plants to reduce accumulations of salts and/or sodium on the soil surface and in the crop rooting zone.
614	Watering Facility (No.)	A watering facility is a means of providing drinking water to livestock or wildlife.
620	Underground Outlet (Ft)	A conduit or system of conduits installed beneath the surface of the ground to convey surface water to a suitable outlet.
630	Vertical Drain (No)	A well, pipe, pit, or bore in porous, underground strata into which drainage water can be discharged without contaminating groundwater resources.
632	Waste Separation Facility (No.)	A filtration or screening device, settling tank, settling basin, or settling channel used to partition solids and/or nutrients from a waste stream.
634	Waste Transfer (No)	A system using structures, pipes or conduits installed to convey wastes or waste byproducts from the agricultural production site to storage/treatment or application.
635	Vegetated Treatment Area (Ac)	An area of permanent vegetation used for agricultural wastewater treatment.
636	Water Harvesting Catchment (No.)	A facility for collecting and storing runoff from precipitation.

Code	Conservation Practice/Activity	DESCRIPTION
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin (No)	An earth embankment or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope of minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and water detention basin with a stable outlet.
640	Waterspreading (Ac)	A system of dams, dikes, ditches, or other means of diverting or collecting runoff from natural channels, gullies, or streams and spreading it over relatively flat areas.
642	Water Well (No.)	A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed into an aquifer for water supply.
643	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (Ac.)	Restoring, conserving, and managing unique or diminishing native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
646	Shallow Water Development and Management (Ac.)	The inundation of lands to provide habitat for fish and/or wildlife.
654	Road / Trail / Landing Closure and Treatment (Ft)	The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails, and/or landings and associated treatment to achieve conservation objectives.
655	Forest Trails and Landings (Ac.)	A temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area.
656	Constructed Wetland (Ac.)	An artificial ecosystem with hydrophytic vegetation for water treatment.
657	Wetland Restoration (Ac)	The return of a wetland and its functions to a close approximation of its original condition as it existed prior to disturbance on a former or degraded wetland site.
658	Wetland Creation (Ac)	The creation of a wetland on a site location that was historically non-wetland.
659	Wetland Enhancement (Ac.)	The augmentation of wetland functions beyond the original natural conditions on a former, degraded, or naturally functioning wetland site; sometimes at the expense of other functions.
666	Forest Stand Improvement (Ac.)	The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES WORKGROUP CHARTER

TITLE:	**CULTURAL RESOURCES EXCHANGE WORKGROUP**
REFERENCE:	**Executive Order 05-05, NHPA Section 106, RCW 27.53; RCW 27.65; RCW 27.44; Forest Practices Act; SEPA, Shoreline Management Act**
EFFECTIVE DATE:	**February 2016**

PURPOSE

The STATE AGENCY CULTURAL RESOURCES EXCHANGE WORKGROUP (Group) provides interagency guidance and technical assistance for state agencies implementing cultural resources protection laws, including:

a. Suggest improvements to existing cultural resource management programs;
b. Lead and/or facilitate the development of long-range cultural resource protocols; policies; consistency; and guidelines/procedures at the request of member agencies;
c. Advise on regulatory and Legislative issues and directives;
d. Foster Statewide interagency cultural resource management coordination; and
e. Facilitate training.

TASK and FUNCTION

In order to accomplish its purpose, the advisory committee:

- Assists in the development and application of program policies and procedures;
- Provides counsel on legislative issues and statewide planning;
- Provides technical counsel; peer review, training, education, and support for member agencies and others working with Executive Order 05-05 and other regulations; and
- Serves as an open forum for discussions of programmatic exemptions, interagency outreach, and development of tools and standards by which cultural resources regulations and policies can be successfully implemented.

ADMINISTRATION

The agencies will volunteer to host workgroup meetings, including arranging meetings, writing meeting summaries, and providing information on agenda items.

Agreement will be by group consensus.

MEMBER DUTIES

Workgroup members represent the interests and views of their respective agency. Members also help achieve program policies, goals, and objectives as established in this charter and other relevant documents.

STANDING and APPOINTMENTS

Workgroup members are volunteers with equal status and shall share fully in all activities and duties. The workgroup committee shall typically have state agency members representing individuals with cultural resource protection interests and responsibilities.

Members will participate on a voluntary basis and be self-selected by state agency program selection.

ETHICS

Workgroup members must uphold a high ethical standard. It is extremely important to avoid both the appearance and actual conflicts of interest.

Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter, confidentiality is imperative. All members are expected to maintain strict confidentiality of sensitive information shared by the workgroup.

MEETINGS

Meetings are monthly. Location and time may vary depending on the agency hosting the meeting.

REIMBURSEMENTS

Workgroup members receive no pay or reimbursement for participating. All activities are voluntary.

TAB 5

State Conservation Commission's Action Register

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2015 Final Annual Meeting Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Commission Action	Date	Staff Assigned
2015-06	Changes in Timing, Conduct and Responsibilities for Conservation District Supervisor Elections	Motion by Commissioner Craven to pass WACD resolution 2015-06 regarding elections to allow Commission staff to continue the work. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed.	January 21, 2016	**Ron**
2015-09	Long-Term Sustainable Funding	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.	December 3, 2015	**Mark**
2015-10	Emergency Response Funding	**No Vote Required**. CC not named in this resolution.		**No Vote Required**
2015-11	Professional Engineering Program Funding	*Does not specifically say Commission, asks WACD to work with partners? It will come up again in budget development. See also 23*		
2015-12	District Building Capacity Needs	*The resolution says districts shall bring their needs to WACD Board prior to budget development. CC role would be in decision on budget inclusion.*		
2015-16	Central Washington Weather Radar	**No Vote Required.** CC not named in this resolution. It is included in DC packet around fire issues.		**No Vote Required**

Resolution	Title	Commission Action	Date	Staff Assigned
2015-17	Improve Forest Land Management on State and Federal Lands	**No Vote Required**. CC not named in this resolution. It is included in DC packet around fire issues.		**No Vote Required**
2015-18	Fuel Buffers along Roads	**No Vote Required.** CC not named in this resolution. It is included in DC packet around fire issues.		**No Vote Required**
2015-19	Sharing Burned Intensity Data with Non-Federal Burned Area Evaluation Teams	**No Vote Required**. CC not named in this resolution. It is included in DC packet around fire issues.		**No Vote Required**
2015-20	Preparedness for Resource Assessments after a Natural Disaster	*Much of this is underway or in discussion. Recommend support*		
2015-21	Conservation of Aquatic Farm Lands and Habitat related to Burrowing Shrimp Degradation	Motion by Commissioner Craven to direct staff to open dialogue to address the concerns raised in resolution 2015-21. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed.	January 21, 2016	**Ron**
2015-22	Recognition for Associate Supervisors	**No Vote Required.** CC not named in this resolution.		**No Vote Required**
2015-23	Increased Funding for Professional Engineer Grant	*Will come up in budget development and again in budget allocation. Recommend support*		
2015-24	Cultural Resources Review Process Efficiencies	*Recommend support and many actions underway*		

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 gamer 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 improve1nents 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 1night 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.

Resolution No. 2015-06 *(continued)*

WSCC 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 WSCC 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 WSCC 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 pursing 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.

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 WSCC 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

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.

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.

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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

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.

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

Washington State Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission

Strategic Planning Session

Goldendale, WA

May 17, 2016 – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Session Objective:

- Discuss and identify future overall strategic direction for agency based on strategic areas, member discussion of where they want WSCC to be in 5 years in each strategic area, and proposed strategies.

Time	Duration	Activities	Outcomes & Notes
8:30 am	10 minutes	**Opening Comments, Session Objectives & Agenda** ▪ Opening comments by Commission Executive Director ▪ Review of workshop objectives and agenda	▪ Participant's knowledge of workshop objective & activities
8:40 am	10 minutes	**Mission, Vision, Values** ▪ Brief review of current Mission, Vision, Values	▪ Notes on Mission, Vision, Values ▪ Mark present
8:50 am	70 minutes	**Strategic Areas** ▪ Review current strategic areas from 2015 work session ▪ Input from Commission members and guests on strategic areas and opportunities.	▪ Post Strategic Areas on Easel Paper on large wall for listing staff recommended opportunities, member legacy notes and other
10:00 am	10 minutes	**Break**	
10:10 am	110 minutes	**Strategic Discussion of Each Strategic Area** ▪ Members discuss the future strategic direction for the Conservation Commission for one strategic area ▪ Review notes from 2015 work sessions for one strategic area including hypotheticals, member notes, staff input, and strategies on each of the strategic areas ▪ Discussion and record of member recommendations for strategies ▪ Repeat for each strategic area	▪ Notes on strategic direction from member discussion
Noon	30 minutes	**Lunch** (on site)	

Time	Duration	Activities	Outcomes & Notes
12:30 pm	90 minutes	**Strategic Discussion of Each Strategic Area** (continued) ▪ Members discuss the future strategic direction for the Conservation Commission for one strategic area ▪ Review notes from 2015 work sessions for one strategic area including hypotheticals, member notes, staff input, and strategies on each of the strategic areas ▪ Discussion and record of member recommendations for strategies ▪ Repeat for each strategic area	▪ Notes on strategic direction from member discussion
2:00 pm	10 minutes	**Break**	
2:10 pm	90 minutes	**Strategic Discussions** (continued) ▪ See above	▪ Notes on strategic direction from member discussion
3:40 pm	20 minutes	**Next Steps, Closing Comments & Adjourn** ▪ Next steps ▪ Closing comments by Commission Chair	
4:00 pm		**Adjourn**	

Logistics & Room

- regular Commission room setup
- breaks & lunch arranged by Commission

Materials

- agenda and meeting design (WSCC)
- mission, vision, values summary (WSCC)
- worksheets (WSCC)
- summary of strategic areas and past notes

Equipment

- small table
- 3 flipcharts with paper
- markers and tape
- large screen (Ray)
- extension cord with multiple outlets (Ray)
- computer & projector unit (Ray)

Washington State
Conservation Commission

March 17, 2016

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Save the Date – Saturday, June 11 – Joint Commission Meeting w/ DFW

The Department of Fish and Wildlife currently has the State Conservation Commission on schedule to participate during their Commission meeting.

Save the Date

When: Saturday, June 11, 2016

Who: Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
State Conservation Commission

Location: Department of Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street
Olympia, WA 98501

If you are available to attend, please let Lori know at lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov or by phone 360-407-7417, so we can get lodging reserved in Olympia for Friday, June 10th.