



Washington State Conservation Commission

SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE CHANGES FOR THE 2017-2018 CYCLE

COMMENTS REQUESTED

SUMMARY

Conservation Commission members, at their July 20, 2017 meeting, approved posting for comment DRAFT changes to conservation district appointment procedures and policies, consisting of

- Changes to the Election and Appointment Manual that clarify whether the appointed Conservation District board supervisor positions need to be landowners or farm operators, and that the Commission will include that inquiry into the applicant vetting process.

The amendments in the Manual can be found on pgs 35-36 and pg 39.

The proposed changes are the result of a few issues that came to light during the last appointment cycle. The [draft Elections and Appointments Manual](#) (with proposed changes in red) is posted on the [Commission's Elections and Appointment web page](#).

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION

Conservation Commission staff will be accepting comments on the proposed changes until September 8, 2017. Please use the [2017 Appointment Changes Comment Form](#) to submit your comments. The Commission intends to review comments and adopt the changes at its September Commission meeting. The changes would, therefore, be effective for the 2017-2018 appointment cycle.

BACKGROUND

The Commission is authorized in RCW 89.08.200 to appoint supervisors to conservation district boards, and the Commission is further authorized in RCW 89.08.190, WAC Chapter 135-110, and the Commission's Election and Appointment Manual to establish and maintain conservation district election and appointment procedures.

The procedures exist to assist conservation districts and conservation district supervisors in the election, appointment, and replacement of supervisors in the State of Washington, and to assure fair treatment of all parties involved in such proceedings, and to provide guidance for compliance with WAC Chapter 135-110.

The Commission Elections Officer understands the burden on districts when new policies and procedures are instituted, therefore the need for the new policies and procedures must be clear.

The issues that came to light during the last appointment cycle warrants bringing them to the Commission for consideration. After review and possible revision, the changes would be presented to districts for comment. Final adoption in September would allow the changes to be effective for the 2017-2018 election cycle (the next cycle).

PROPOSED CHANGES

The Commission proposes changing the Election and Appointment Manual to clarify whether the appointed Conservation District board supervisor positions need to be landowners or farm operators, and that the Commission will include that inquiry into the applicant vetting process.

Currently, the Commission, when vetting appointee applicants, seeks to determine whether an applicant is a landowner or farm operator, in order to consider that as part of the make-up of the conservation district board. The Commission wishes to formalize that process by adding a clarifying section to the Election and Appointment Manual.

There is no change to the electronic appointment forms conservation districts use either to seek applicants to appointed positions or to verify the qualifications of persons the district appoints to serve out the remainder of an elected positions' term. Those are as follows:

AF1 – Conservation District Appointed Supervisor Application (same as old form)

AF2 – Mid-Term Elected Position Appointment Verification of Qualifications (same as old form, but re-titled)

The proposed changes to the Election and Appointment Manual can be found on the [Commission's web page](#).