**RESOLUTION 2020-08**

|  |
| --- |
| **SHORT TITLE:** Local Cooperation Between NRCS Teams and Conservation District Boards |

|  |
| --- |
| **SPONSOR CD:** Stevens County Conservation District |

|  |
| --- |
| **AREA:** 🞏NW 🞏SW 🞏NC 🞏SC X NE 🞏SE |

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION TYPE:**  🞏 **Policy**  X **Position Statement**  🞏 **Recognition**  🞏 **Study** |

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY** (check any option that applies):  X **WACD**  **X WSCC**  **🞏 OTHER STATE AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **X NRCS**  **X NACD**  **🞏 NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

|  |
| --- |
| **BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:** Conservation Districts (CD) were established 75-80 years ago to assist the Federal Soil Conservation Service (NRCS/SCS) technical staff who provide services to local agriculture producers and landowners. Today Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS/SCS) and CD’s missions align as non-regulatory service providers to local agriculture producers and landowners. NRCS field team staff and CD staff often work together on projects and programs with the same landowners. The credibility and working relationships of both agencies are based on one or the others actions for the good or bad. The NRCS/SCS District Conservationist (DC) is the leader of the field teams and is responsible for the staff interactions with the agricultural producers and landowners.  Many CD’s and state agencies such as WSU Extension rely on local individuals and other agency staff opinion in the hiring process for employees working with the public. This builds relationships, agency trust and finds the best individual to work with the local individuals.  The current hiring process for NRCS/SCS does not allow local input for the selection of staff who work with agricultural producers and landowners. This lack of local input can create difficulties in NRCS/SCS and CD’s providing their programs and services to local agricultural producers and landowners. |

|  |
| --- |
| **PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:** Request that WACD, WSCC and NACD work with NRCS to change their policy to allow for Conservation District boards to have input in the District Conservationist hiring process and for staff on detail, as well as input on annual performance review. |

|  |
| --- |
| **TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION** (check all boxes that apply):  🞏 Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.  X Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.  🞏 New policy. |

|  |
| --- |
| **IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?**  X **NO**  🞏 **YES** (briefly explain): |