

February 1, 2017

**Conservation Accountability and Performance Program Announcement**

All district supervisors and managers are encouraged to review the [Conservation Accountability and Performance Program guidelines](http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/CAPP-for-2017-version-1.23.17-Approved.doc) that will be implemented in 2017. Feedback from 33 individuals in 20 conservation districts provided a basis for revisions to the draft concepts for CAPP and recommendations for rollout. The purpose of CAPP is to encourage the continued capacity building for delivering conservation service, programs and projects in each of our 45 conservation districts.

Conservation Commission at their January meeting approved the accountability requirements (level 1) for use in 2017. The 14 Accountability Requirements **(level 1)** are based in law (RCW) and administrative code (WAC) for conservation districts. Completing 100% of these items is a threshold for receiving state funding through the Conservation Commission. An annual status report will be brought to the Commission at their July meeting. Expectation is that all districts must meet these level 1 accountability requirements to be in “compliance”.

Conservation Commission also passed a motion to enable staff to further develop the Performance Standards **(level 2)** throughout 2017 including details of recognition and implementation. The Commission Members had directed that the new version of Good Governance have performance based elements. The 31 Performance Standards (level 2) are items found in the most outstanding districts in our state and throughout the nation. As a result of the input from Conservation District Supervisors and Employees more than half of the draft Performance Standards were revised to reflect the input received.

Further development of the Performance Standards will occur throughout 2017, and will include district self-evaluations, working with a few districts to “road test” the performance standards, peer and RM assistance with capacity building (by request), recommendations of incentives, naming of the recognition for districts, addressing concerns from districts that do not anticipate meeting the performance standards and related concerns of funding and political impact. Committee would bring results from the 2017 year of development and specific recommendations to the January 2018 Commission Meeting.

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