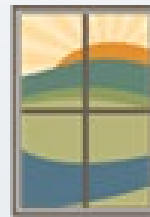


# Policy Making for Conservation District Boards



Washington State  
**Conservation  
Commission**



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
OF WASHINGTON STATE**

*your window to healthy lands*

# Governing boards, by their nature and design, are policy makers.



- Internal policies guide conservation district operations.
- External policies gain understanding and support from *other* decision-making and governing bodies.

# Things to consider before policy making:



## Jurisdiction

- Is it in the purview of the district board to make it happen?

## Needs vs. Wants

- What do you need to happen?
- What you want to happen?
- Usually a big difference!

# Five Principles of Policy Making for Boards

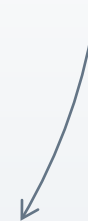
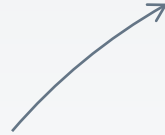
**DIRECTION**  
Agree on the goal.

**HOMEWORK**  
Rely on generally accepted facts and data.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**  
Make sure what needs to happen, happens!

**ACTION**  
Choose a path for achieving your goal.

**CLARITY**  
Be clear, logical, and succinct.





## DIRECTION

**As a board, agree on your policy's "North Star."**

Internal policies:

- Legal requirements usually provide the direction.

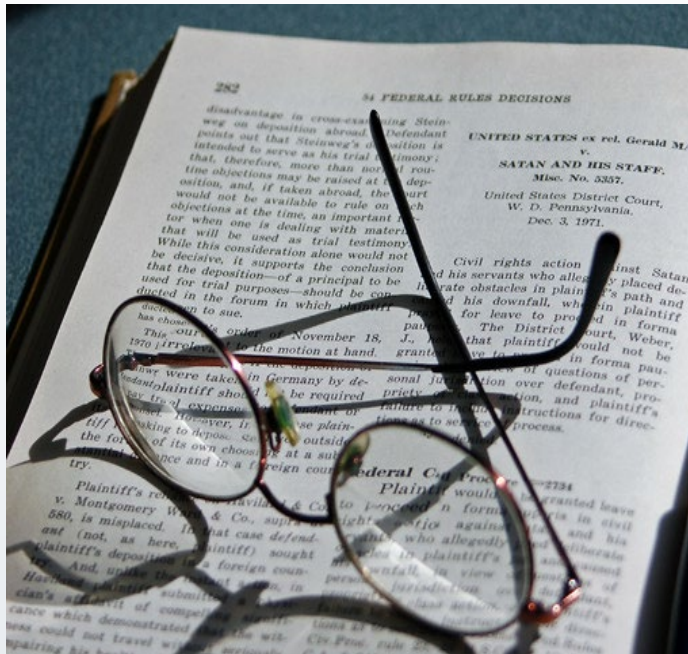
External policies:

- Pay attention to the needs of your clientele and partners.
- What is the one change you would advocate for to meet their needs?

# HOMEWORK

In policy making,  
credibility is everything.

Rely on generally accepted facts, data, and  
peer-reviewed science.



Internal policies:

- Use your existing resources (e.g., MRSC; Enduris; SCC; other districts).

External policies:

- Let facts, data, and science lead the way.

# CLARITY

## In writing your policies and policy statements...



### Internal policies:

- Don't get creative.
- Use the many clearly-written, online templates and examples available.

### External policy statements:

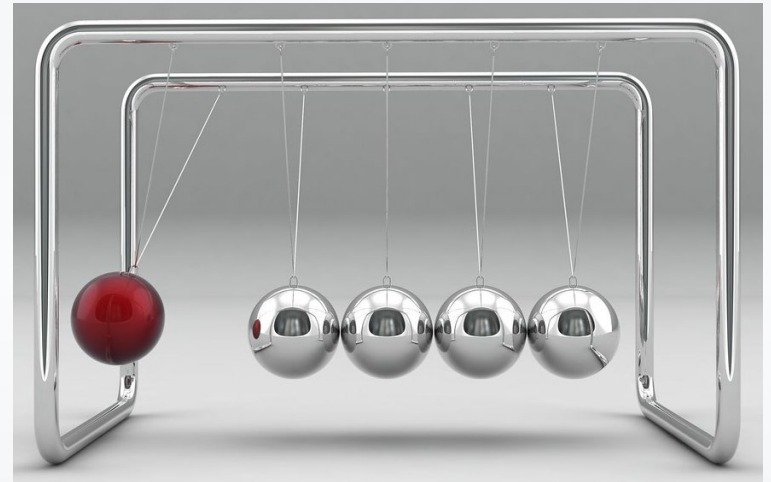
- Focus on needs, not wants.
- Fewer words are better.
- Lead with facts, data, and science.
- Use formats the decision-makers want.
- Use language that builds a bridge.

# ACTION

## Propose, act, and follow through

### Internal policies:

- Approve a clear and legally reviewed policy, understood by those who will implement it.



### External policy statements:

- Approve a fact, data, and need-based resolution for action by the appropriate bodies.
- Provide leadership.
- Be the legs for making it happen.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

# Did your policy make a difference? If not, why?

Internal policies:


- Implementation → District Manager
- Oversight and Evaluation → Board

External policy statements:

- Not only are you the advocate for your policy, you are the eyes watching to ensure its implementation and effectiveness.



## In summary...

- 
- Internal policies: You are the decision maker with many resources to help.
  - External policies: You advocate for the opportunity to improve your district's conservation working relationships.



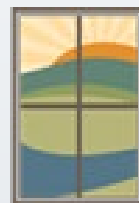
## More information

Contact your Conservation  
Commission Regional  
Manager:

[scc.wa.gov/regional-managers](http://scc.wa.gov/regional-managers)

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