

Conservation Districts of Iowa



Business Meeting

&

Annual Report

2016



70th Annual Business Meeting Agenda, August 29, 2016

- I. Call to Order - Robert Lynch, President
- II. Credentials Committee Report
- III. Approval of 2015 Business Meeting Minutes
- IV. President's Report - Robert Lynch, President
- V. Executive Director's Report - Clare Lindahl, Executive Director
- VI. Update from CDI Lobbyist, Jim Obradovich
- VII. NACD Report - Tim Palmer, North Central Region Executive Board Member
- VIII. Annual Dues Announcement - Jim Frederick, Treasurer
- IX. Financial Report - Jim Frederick, Treasurer
- X. Election of Officers for 2016
 - a. Nomination Committee Report -
Jim Frederick, Nomination Committee Chair
 - b. Vote for Officers
- XI. Resolutions Report - Alex Schmidt, Resolutions Chair
- XII. Vote on Resolutions - Alex Schmidt, Resolutions Chair
- XIII. Outgoing Officer Recognition
- XIV. Other Business
- XV. Adjournment

CDI MISSION:

Conservation Districts of Iowa informs, educates and leads
Iowans through our local soil and water conservation districts
to promote conservation of natural resources.



Rules Governing the 2016 Annual Business Meeting

1. District commissioners will be seated in the front of the room with district name cards.
2. Each district whose dues were paid by June 30, 2016 will have one vote per commissioner for each \$170 paid.
3. Voting for elections and FINAL votes on all resolutions and bylaw amendments will be by ballot, including proxies. Other business and amendments will be by voice vote of the members present.
4. To be recognized to speak, a commissioner must raise the district name card.
5. To address the assembly on any issue, a commissioner must use the microphone, address the chair and state name and district.
6. Discussion on any issue cannot be debated until AFTER it has been brought before the assembly in the form of a motion. A representative from the submitting SWCD must be present in order to bring the resolution before the assembly.
7. When amending resolutions, bylaws or any other motion, debate is limited to ONLY the merits of the amendment.
8. Any commissioner may yield the floor to any person for technical information pertaining ONLY to the issue currently before the assembly.
9. Special Debate Rule - Debate will be limited to two (2) minutes for each speaker for each motion. After all have spoken who so desire, the person making the motion may speak one additional minute. A time limit of ten (10) minutes will be imposed on any one resolution or bylaw amendment.
10. To proceed in an orderly manner, please observe common courtesy customs of debate, including refraining from unnecessary conversation when any person is addressing the assembly.
11. Resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for approval by those commissioners voting at the annual meeting will be adopted.



69th Annual Business Meeting Minutes, September 1, 2015

CDI President Jane Weber called the 69th Annual Conservation Districts of Iowa Business Meeting to order at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona at 9:08 a.m. on September 1, 2015. President Weber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Barbara Johnson gave an invocation for the conference.

There were 313 eligible votes from 68 Districts.

Johnson County SWCD moved to accept 2014 CDI Annual Business Meeting Minutes. Jasper County SWCD seconded. Motion carried.

President Jane Weber delivered the President's Report and highlighted her activities from the past year.

Clare Lindahl delivered the Executive Director's Report and highlighted CDI's Year in Review detailed in the Business Meeting Program. Lindahl also provided an overview of the conference.

CDI Lobbyist Jim Obradovich provided a budget and policy update to commissioners.

Beth Mason, North Central Region Representative and Tim Palmer, North Central Region Executive Board Member provided an update on behalf of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Kevin Griggs, CDI Treasurer, announced that 67 SWCDs had paid their Fiscal Year 2016 dues to date. Griggs reminded the membership that dues should be paid by September 30, 2015.

Griggs presented the Financial Report which included the 2015 budget vs actual, 2016 budget and the balance sheet as of June 30, 2015. Butler County SWCD moved to approve the financial report. Polk County SWCD seconded. Motion carried.

Griggs delivered the CDI Nomination Committee Report as chair of the committee. Griggs introduced the other CDI Nomination Committee members CDI Region 1 Director, Ken Gard and CDI Region 2 Director, Rick Wadle.

Griggs reported that the committee put forth a call for candidates for the CDI President and Vice President positions to SWCDs and Commissioners in July and that candidate bios were sent to SWCDs and Commissioners in August.

Griggs announced the candidate for CDI President was Robert Lynch. Griggs asked for nominations from the floor for CDI President thrice. There were no nominations from the floor and Griggs announced Robert Lynch as incoming CDI President effective January 1, 2015. Members were instructed to discard their ballot for CDI President.

Griggs announced the two candidates running for CDI Vice President, Cathy Graves and Alex Schmidt, and invited each to speak briefly. Cathy Graves and Alex Schmidt spoke briefly. Griggs asked for nominations from the floor for CDI Vice President thrice.

continued...

69th Annual Business Meeting Minutes continued

There were no nominations from the floor. Griggs accepted the 2 candidates and asked members to use their ballot to vote for CDI Vice President. Robert Lynch announced Alex Schmidt was incoming CDI Vice President effective January 1, 2015.

Robert Lynch reviewed the rules governing the 2015 CDI Annual Business Meeting as Resolutions Chair. Next, the process of bringing forth, discussing and voting on resolutions proceeded under Robert Lynch's guidance.

WHEREAS, CDI supports the revision of the Iowa State Code to allow Assistant Commissioners voting rights at monthly Commissioner Meetings if Commissioners have the need and want to approve them to do so. CDI asks the State Soil Conservation Committee to work with IDALS-DSCWQ to change the Iowa State Code to allow unelected Assistant Commissioners to fill a quorum and to vote when necessary at county level SWCD discretion. Buena Vista County SWCD moved to bring "Assistant Commissioner voting privilege" to the floor. Sioux County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Buena Vista, Sioux, Madison, Butler and Decatur. Members voted by ballot. The resolution failed (90/214). Failed by 70.4%.

CDI should ask that the State Soil Conservation Committee work with USDA to review and revise rental payments every five years. Buena Vista County SWCD moved to bring "Rental Rate Agreement Re-Adjusted Every 5 Years" to the floor. Clay County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Buena Vista. Members voted by ballot. The resolution passed (216/99). Passed by 68.5%.

CDI supports the election of Conservation Districts of Iowa Regional Directors at the Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings. Ida County SWCD moved to bring the required CDI bylaw change to support "Voting for Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Regional Directors during Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings" to the floor. Black Hawk County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Ida. Members voted by ballot. The resolution passed (292/13). Passed by 95.7%.

Be it resolved that CDI recommends the Division of Soil Conservation deny cost share to farmers who fall till soybean stubble. Injection of manure and commercial fertilizer is permitted. Clay County SWCD moved to bring "Deny state cost share to farmers who fall till soybean stubble" to the floor. Harrison County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Clay and Cherokee. Members voted by ballot. The resolution failed (127/172). Failed by 57.5%.

Be it resolved CDI recommends Division of Soil Conservation require the land protected by the terrace be no-tilled after construction to receive state cost-share. Clay County SWCD moved to bring "Require no-till on land protected by terrace to receive cost share" to the floor. Fayette County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Clay and Cherokee. Members voted by ballot. The resolution failed (101/217). Failed by 68.2%.

CDI supports local, state, and national funding policies that would rank and award contracts for goods and services, grants, and low interest loans based on the stewardship practices, sustainability or environmental footprint of the applicant.

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69th Annual Business Meeting Minutes continued

Madison County SWCD moved to bring "Environmental Stewardship considered prior to awarding of public funds" to the floor. Buena Vista County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Madison and Sioux. Members voted by ballot. The resolution failed (145/168). Failed by 53.7%.

CDI supports the redefining of conservation tillage to increase the residue cover from 30 to 50%. Story County SWCD moved to bring "Revise the definition of conservation tillage to increase the residue cover from 30 to 50%" to the floor. Clay County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Story and Clay. Members voted by ballot. The resolution passed (209/97). Passed by 68.3%.

CDI supports the provision of cost share dollars for the establishment of alfalfa as a rotational crop to complement corn-soybean rotations in Iowa. Story County SWCD moved to bring "Providing cost share dollars for growing alfalfa in rotation with corn and soybeans" to the floor. Bremer County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Story, Cherokee, Taylor and Johnson. Members voted by ballot. The resolution passed (213/103). Passed by 67.4%.

Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) supports the need for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), State of Iowa, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to update the Cooperative Working Agreement to better address current staffing shortages in field offices and to better define required partner contributions and meet the needs of today's partnership. Jasper County SWCD moved to bring "Update of Cooperative Working Agreement between Natural Resources Conservation Service, State of Iowa, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts" to the floor. Sac County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by Jasper. Members voted by ballot. The resolution passed (276/39). Passed by 87.6%.

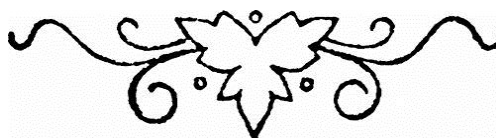
2016 proposed Policy Statement Handbook and Archived Policy Statement Handbook. Jon Gisleson, CDI Region 3 First Alternate, CDI Policy Committee Chair and Floyd County SWCD Commissioner moved to bring "2016 proposed Policy Statement Handbook and Archived Policy Statement Handbook" to the floor. Fayette County SWCD seconded. Discussion was held by CDI. Members voted by ballot. The resolution passed (301/13). Passed by 95.9%.

President Jane Weber was recognized for her service during outgoing officer recognition.

President Jane Weber asked for a motion to adjourn. Johnson County SWCD moved to adjourn the meeting and Marshall County SWCD seconded. Motion carried. President Jane Weber adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m. Commissioners went into their Fall Regional Meetings.

Submitted by Clare Lindahl, Courtney Slagle & Paula Even.

Minutes are on file at the CDI office.



Conservation Districts of Iowa

A Year In Review

Conservation Districts of Iowa's (CDI) mission is to protect Iowa's soil, water and natural resources and to provide support to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Commissioners. **A Year In Review** provides members with detail of CDI's activities throughout the year to accomplish this mission.

Facilitated conversations between commissioners and legislators at **Conservation Partnership Day** at the Capitol in Des Moines. 59 commissioners/assistants attended from 42 districts. All legislators were contacted by commissioners this session! Created district legislative toolbox with materials for conducting local legislative events.

Presented information and updates to 243 commissioners/assistants and 81 field office staff from 85 different counties at nine **Spring Regional Meetings** across the state.

Organized the **2016 Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners 70th Annual Conference & Business Meeting**.

Leading the efforts on **Conservation Central at the Farm Progress Show**, CDI has assisted the group to implement a vision to catch farmer's attention and promote water quality, soil health, wildlife and cover crops including hands on demos and a cover crop plot.

Bringing training opportunities to Iowa's conservation staff by leading **event administration** for activities including the Watershed Academy, Iowa Professional Development Event, NASCA hospitality event and the Conservation Planning Training.

24 different district meeting and events around the state attended by CDI board and staff.

Represented Iowa's soil and water conservation needs in the **national arena**. CDI staff and board members served on the national board and committees; attended national conferences, meetings and trainings; speak with U.S. Legislators and participated in regular correspondence with National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Iowa also has representation on the NACD Executive Board. Iowa will host the 2017 NACD Summer Forum and Tour.

Administered half million dollars to 64 districts for the employment of conservation aides and the application of conservation practices and activities during the **Farm Bill XIII Program**. Currently administering another half million dollars to 63 districts through this program.

Administered over \$100,000 dollars to 18 districts in the Des Moines Lobe for the employment of conservation aides and the applications of conservation practices and activities during the **Des Moines Lobe Program**. Currently administering another \$190,000 dollars to 18 districts through this program.

Raised \$2,250 through the **Friends of CDI Program** which provides individuals, private businesses, agencies and organizations the opportunity to support soil conservation and clean water.

In the second year of the **Iowa Champion Cover Crop Commissioner Program**, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), CDI worked with four commissioners using cover crops to promote their use. These commissioners delivered information to 202 farmers at workshops, field days, tours and conferences; connected with 200 agribusiness personnel and participated in print and social media to a readership of over 20,000. The NWF funded another to continue the work! CDI also shared new information from ISU on the economic benefits of cover crops.

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CDI - A Year In Review continued

Distributed 500 nitrogen testing kits through the **retain Project** which gives farmers the tools and information they need to make the best conservation decisions on their land, starting by helping farmers test for, understand and retain their nitrogen.

Committed partner to the **Nutrient Reduction Strategy/Water Quality Initiative and Nonpoint Source Management Plan**, CDI reports its tasks accomplished to support the initiatives annually.

Maintain **Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation District Partnership Pictorial Directory**, a printable, web based, pictorial directory that includes federal, state and district staff, SWCD commissioners and assistants and partner staff working in field offices.

NEW Hired Leah Daniels of NewsWorks to assist with a **communications strategy** to promote conservation, districts and commissioners.

NEW Developing a **conservation media library** to spread the story of soil health and water quality and increase the adoption of conservation in Iowa with the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

NEW Bringing together private sector agribusiness stakeholders to create and implement strategies that improve water quality including **4R's Plus** with The Nature Conservancy.

NEW Getting **boots on the ground** by partnering with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Conservation Service to employ 4 Private Lands Wildlife Specialists and 4 Private Lands Wetland Easement Team Specialists to assist field offices with conservation work.

NEW Held a **Conservation Photo Contest**. 59 districts participated. A quilt was created out of the photos to be auctioned off at Annual Conference. Cash prizes received by 4 districts.

Implemented **Poster Contest**. 65 districts received 4,405 posters. 38 cash prizes in the amount of \$1,405 awarded to youth participants courtesy of Grinnell Mutual. State winning posters on display at Annual Conference will be entered into the national competition.

Implemented **Scholarship Program** for students enrolling in conservation/agriculture fields of study. 96 districts received 168 scholarship applications. \$13,450 awarded to nine students courtesy of the district donations to the auction.

Conducted the **20th Annual Envirothon**, a high school environmental education competition. 225 students made up 45 teams which competed regionally around the state. 75 students made up the 15 teams that competed at the state competition. The Decorah Ospreys team represented Iowa at the 2016 NCF-Envirothon competition at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Made 20 enhancements for 20 years to the program!

Created a **soil and water conservation week toolbox** with materials for celebrating.

Updated the CDI, Iowa Envirothon and Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society **websites** and the CDI and Iowa Envirothon **Facebook** pages.

CDI employs a full time **Executive Director**, Clare Lindahl and a full time **Office and Projects Manager**, Courtney Slagle. CDI also employs a **lobbyist**, Jim Obradovich. There are 29 CDI Board Members who have engaged in strategic planning, leadership development and media training in the past year.

Conducted **office administrative** activities associated with operating the association.

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Speaking Engagements

Deliver "History of Soil and Water Conservation" at Marion, Mills & Fremont County Soil and Water Conservation District's 75th Anniversary Banquet

Sustaining Our Iowa Land (SOIL): the Past, Present and Future of Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Policy

Iowa Soybean Association Research Conference on retain

Iowa Water Conference on retain

Project Coordinators Meeting

NASCA NC Region Meeting on retain

Watershed Academy

Proposal to NACD Executive Board to host 2017 NACD Forum and Tour in Iowa

CCA Summer Workshops on retain and Champion Cover Crop Commissioners

Educational Meetings

The basics to being an effective board member, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation

Media Training with NewsWorks

Nonprofit Strategic Planning Professional Development

Iowa Water Conference

RUSLE 2 & Conservation Planning Training

Iowa Professional Development Event

Publications

Monthly staff reports

Quarterly Conservation Districts of Iowa Bulletins

2016 Proposed CDI Policy Statement Handbook & Archives

Commissioner recruitment infographic and webpage; articles with PFI, Soybean, Corn Growers and Women Land & Legacy

CDI - A Year In Review continued

Recognition

Nominated 38 farmers for the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award on behalf of districts

Encouraged participation with the Iowa Champion Commissioner Program which acknowledges active commissioners who attend Conservation Partnership Day, a Spring Regional Meeting and Annual Conference

Conducted 27 actions to promote awards for Iowa farmers, commissioners, districts, landowners and teachers

District Support

Listed below are examples of how CDI supported districts this year:

- Provided districts with guidance on their financial, operational, employer and legal responsibilities
- Circulated district job announcements, provided commissioners and district staff with employee and employer information
- Informed districts of funding opportunities, create and provide materials for fundraising efforts
- Provided updates on conservation practices and programs
- Supplied outreach and education materials and guidance
- Shared area opportunities and local concerns

continued...

Meetings & Initiative
Participation

CDI - A Year In Review continued

Watershed Planning Advisory
Committee Chair & Subcommittee Member

Source Water Ag Collaborative Member &
Chair

Women Land & Legacy State Team Member

IAWA Advisory Committee Member

NRCS State Technical Committee &
Subcommittees Member

Iowa Learning Farms Steering
Committee Member & Farm Leadership
Learning Circle

Cover Crop Consortium Member

Watershed Improvement Review Board
Committee Member

Practical Farmers of Iowa Member

Soil and Water Conservation Society
Member

Iowa Environmental Council Member

State Soil Conservation Committee &
Subcommittee

REAP Alliance

IWILL Supporter

MW Ag WQ RCPP Project Participant

Clean Water Iowa Communications Meetings

Project Coordinator Meeting

NRCS Leadership Meetings

Awards Judging Committee

ISU Science-based Trials of Rowcrops
Integrated with Prairies Meeting

Soil and Water Quality Summit

NACD Soil Health Champions Project

Bird City Iowa Initiative

Meetings & Initiative Participation
continued...

Soil Health Group

Watershed Planning Technical Support Group

HUD Iowa Watershed Project

RAGBRAI Conservation Team

Iowa Water Future Advisory Committee

Meeting to relay funding needs Secretary
Northey

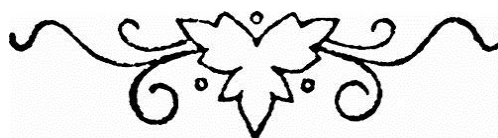
CDI Board & Subcommittee Meetings

SWCD Meetings

Partner, Event, Project & Program Planning
Meetings

Other Correspondence

Local, state and federal government agencies &
staff; Iowa colleges, universities and academic
institutions; farmer and land owner groups;
environmental organizations; not for profits;
wildlife, hunting and fishing groups; commodity
groups, professional associations, community
associations, youth organizations, women
groups, service and member groups, RC&Ds,
WMAs, numerous Iowa agribusiness companies,
private companies, other state association of
districts, legislators, watershed projects and
MORE!



Conservation Districts of Iowa

2016 Iowa Legislative Session Final Report

Conservation Districts of Iowa Lobbyist:

Jim Obradovich, Capitol Group

Environment First Fund (EFF)

**Soil and Water Conservation/
Administration:**

\$2.8 million received, \$2.75 million received in
FY16

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement
Program:**

\$1 million received, same as FY16

Watershed Protection:

\$900,000 received, same as FY16

**Farm Management Demonstration
Program:**

\$625,000 received, same as FY16

**Conservation Reserve Program/
District Initiative:**

\$1 million received, same as FY16

Loess Hills Conservation Fund:

\$600,000 received, same as FY16

**Resource Enhancement and Protection
(REAP):**

\$16 million received, same as FY16

Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share:

\$6.75 million received, same as FY16

General Fund (GF)

Personnel:

\$17,655,492 received, same as FY16

Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIFF)

Agricultural Drainage Wells:

\$1.92 million received, same as FY16

Multiple Funds

Water Quality Initiative/Nutrient Strategy:

\$9.6 million received from GF and RIFE, same
as FY16

No Funding

Watershed Improvement Review Board:

\$0 received, \$0 received in FY 16

Urban Conservation

\$0 received, \$0 received in FY 16

**Southern Iowa Development and
Conservation Authority**

\$0 received, \$0 received in FY 16

Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWILL)

\$0 received, \$0 received in FY 16

SAVE THE DATE

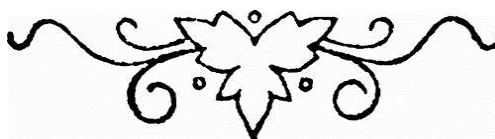
2017

Iowa Conservation Partnership Day

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

10 AM

Capitol, Des Moines



Conservation Districts of Iowa

2015 & 2016 Budget

| | Budget July 15 - June 16 | Actual July 15 - June 16 | Budget July 16 - June 17 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income | | | |
| District Dues | \$ 85,000.00 | \$ 85,000.00 | \$ 85,000.00 |
| Membership Dues (Friends of CDI) | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 2,250.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| NRCS Partnership | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,400.00 |
| NRCS Projects (Des Moines Lobe) | \$ - | \$ 47,952.06 | \$ 252,047.94 |
| NRCS Projects (Farm Bill) | \$ 578,784.27 | \$ 571,640.73 | \$ 420,738.76 |
| Other Projects | \$ - | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ - |
| Cover Crop Champion | \$ 8,372.17 | \$ 7,830.95 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| DNR Employment Income | \$ - | \$ 110,295.17 | \$ 609,019.29 |
| DNR Income to be Deposited After July 1 | \$ - | \$ 132,225.88 | \$ - |
| Envirothon Donations | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 12,675.00 | \$ 17,000.00 |
| Envirothon Registration Fees | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 3,670.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| SWCS Website & Google Drive | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Pictorial Directory | \$ 400.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 400.00 |
| SSCC Grant (Tile Monitoring) | \$ 27,000.00 | \$ 31,866.50 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Cover Crop Grant ISU | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ - |
| Annual Conference Registrations | \$ 72,000.00 | \$ 79,837.90 | \$ 72,000.00 |
| Interest Income | \$ - | \$ 83.19 | \$ 75.00 |
| SWCS CIG | \$ 11,246.00 | \$ - | \$ 11,748.00 |
| Water Quality Project | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 45,000.00 | \$ 45,000.00 |
| Scholarship | \$ 14,000.00 | \$ 18,200.50 | \$ 14,000.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 856,302.44 | \$ 1,153,927.88 | \$ 1,555,928.99 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Retirement Employee Match* | \$ - | \$ 7,428.21 | \$ 16,200.00 |
| Accounting | \$ 600.00 | \$ 673.34 | \$ 800.00 |
| Auditing | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Depreciation** | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 340.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Insurance - General | \$ 5,300.00 | \$ 8,025.00 | \$ 8,850.00 |
| Dues/Donations | \$ 1,435.00 | \$ 1,395.00 | \$ 1,395.00 |
| Awards | \$ 800.00 | \$ 800.00 | \$ 800.00 |
| Memorial Gifts | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Retirement Company Match | \$ - | \$ 6,313.80 | \$ 15,584.66 |
| Legislative/Lobbying | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 7,000.00 |
| Rent | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Telephone | \$ 1,750.00 | \$ 1,790.05 | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Internet | \$ 550.00 | \$ 531.38 | \$ 525.00 |
| Repairs/Maintenance | \$ 200.00 | \$ 138.56 | \$ 200.00 |
| Supplies | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,954.82 | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Postage/Freight | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 952.07 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| NRCS FB XIII | \$ 520,905.85 | \$ 514,476.68 | \$ 378,664.88 |
| NRCS Des Moines Lobe | \$ - | \$ 43,156.86 | \$ 226,843.15 |

continued...

CDI 2015 & 2016 Budget continued

| | Budget | | Actual | | Budget |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | July 15 - June 16 | | July 15 - June 16 | | July 16 - June 17 |
| Other Project Expenses | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ | 3,546.74 | \$ | 4,500.00 |
| Cover Crop Champion Expenses | \$ 1,770.00 | \$ | 214.54 | \$ | 4,000.00 |
| Envirothon Expenses | \$ 14,000.00 | \$ | 13,702.88 | \$ | 12,000.00 |
| CDI Auxiliary/Scholarships | \$ 14,000.00 | \$ | 18,200.50 | \$ | 14,000.00 |
| SSCC Grant Expenses (Tile Monitoring) | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ | 23,366.50 | \$ | - |
| DNR Employment Expenses | \$ - | \$ | 29,772.06 | \$ | 113,956.32 |
| Gas/Oil | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ | 564.88 | \$ | 2,000.00 |
| Vehicle Insurance | \$ 1,100.00 | \$ | 1,487.00 | \$ | 1,550.00 |
| Vehicle Maintenance | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ | 2,218.74 | \$ | 1,500.00 |
| Water Quality Project Expenses | \$ - | \$ | 45,000.00 | \$ | - |
| Vehicle Other Expenses | \$ 300.00 | \$ | 269.75 | \$ | 300.00 |
| Communications Specialist | \$ - | \$ | 1,000.00 | \$ | 5,400.00 |
| SWCS CIG Expenses | \$ - | \$ | - | \$ | 10,680.00 |
| NRCS Partnership Expenses | \$ - | \$ | - | \$ | 9,380.00 |
| Payroll Expenses (Wages & Simple Plan) | \$ 117,262.25 | \$ | 280,037.93 | \$ | 538,691.97 |
| Staff Development | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ | 56.63 | \$ | 4,500.00 |
| Insurance - Health | \$ - | \$ | 3,372.12 | \$ | 11,825.00 |
| FICA | \$ 8,263.65 | \$ | 21,423.20 | \$ | 55,656.77 |
| Meals/Lodging | \$ 500.00 | \$ | 639.38 | \$ | 500.00 |
| Mileage | \$ 250.00 | \$ | 73.80 | \$ | 2,750.00 |
| Meeting Registration | \$ 600.00 | \$ | 737.00 | \$ | 600.00 |
| NACD NC Region Meeting | \$ - | \$ | - | \$ | 750.00 |
| NACD Annual Conference | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ | 1,239.35 | \$ | 2,000.00 |
| NACD Legislative Conference | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ | 1,357.26 | \$ | 2,000.00 |
| Annual Conference Expenses | \$ 62,000.00 | \$ | 59,313.39 | \$ | 62,000.00 |
| NACD Summer Meeting | \$ 700.00 | \$ | 1,397.63 | \$ | 700.00 |
| Board Meals/Lodging | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ | 6,518.85 | \$ | 3,000.00 |
| Board Mileage | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ | 8,993.11 | \$ | 4,500.00 |
| Board Meeting Registration | \$ 750.00 | \$ | 1,546.00 | \$ | 850.00 |
| Board NACD NC Region Meeting | \$ 950.00 | \$ | 663.91 | \$ | 1,500.00 |
| Board NACD Annual Conference | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ | 3,191.25 | \$ | 4,500.00 |
| Board NACD Legislative Conference | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ | 1,513.87 | \$ | 4,000.00 |
| Board NACD Summer Meeting | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ | 1,569.58 | \$ | 1,500.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 818,486.75 | \$ | 1,133,963.62 | \$ | 1,562,752.75 |
| *Not an Actual Expense | \$ - | \$ | 7,428.21 | \$ | 16,200.00 |
| **Not an Actual Expense | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ | 340.00 | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| Net Income (income minus expenses) | \$ 38,815.69 | \$ | 27,732.47 | \$ | 10,376.24 |



Conservation Districts of Iowa

Balance Sheet, June 30, 2016

| | <u>June 30, 16</u> | <u>June 30, 15</u> | <u>\$ Change</u> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | |
| 116 · Wells Fargo Savings | 13,962.81 | 13,9583.61 | 4.20 |
| 115 · Wells Fargo Checking | 101,616.40 | 136,926.66 | -35,310.26 |
| Total Checking/Savings | <u>115,579.21</u> | <u>150,885.27</u> | <u>-35,306.06</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 115,579.21 | 150,885.27 | -35,306.06 |
| Other Assets | | | |
| 146 · Equipment | 17,716.83 | 17,716.83 | 0.00 |
| 147 · Accum Depr-Equipment | -17,207.14 | -16,867.14 | -340.00 |
| 148 · Transportation Equipment | 24,872.30 | 24,872.30 | 0.00 |
| 149 · Accum Depr-Transportation Equip | -24,872.30 | -24,872.30 | 0.00 |
| Total Other Assets | <u>509.69</u> | <u>849.69</u> | <u>-340.00</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>116,088.90</u> | <u>151,734.96</u> | <u>-35,646.06</u> |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Other Current Liabilities | | | |
| 232 · Federal Payroll Taxes | 20,630.01 | 5,902.94 | 14,727.07 |
| 233 · State Payroll Taxes | 4,491.50 | 1,371.50 | 3,120.00 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | <u>25,121.51</u> | <u>7,274.44</u> | <u>17,847.07</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>25,121.51</u> | <u>7,274.44</u> | <u>17,847.07</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 25,121.51 | 7,274.44 | 17,847.07 |
| Equity | | | |
| 270 · Opening Balance as of 7/1/07 | 101,368.47 | 101,368.47 | 0.00 |
| 281 · Retained Earnings after 7/1/07 | 43,092.05 | 47,500.88 | -4,408.83 |
| Net Income | <u>-53,493.13</u> | <u>-4,408.83</u> | <u>-49,084.30</u> |
| Total Equity | <u>90,967.39</u> | <u>144,460.52</u> | <u>-53,493.13</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u>116,088.90</u> | <u>151,734.96</u> | <u>-35,646.06</u> |



2016 Resolution Pre-Conference Vote Results

All the resolutions which passed in 2016 will be placed in the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Policy Book. Resolutions of state significance will go first to the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) for support and appropriate action. All resolutions of national significance will move on to National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for further support, unless it is an item that needs only change in the way Iowa implements federal programs. In that case, CDI will first work with the appropriate federal agency and the state technical committee. Any resolution that is internal to CDI, the board and staff will move forward.

If resolutions received 60% or higher approval votes during pre-conference voting, it was considered approved and will be acted upon as outlined above. If a resolution received 60% or higher disapproval votes, it was considered a failed resolution. If a resolution did not meet the 60% majority to pass or fail, it will be discussed and voted on at this Business Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS - APPROVAL VOTE % - RESULT

BALLOT 1 - Require No-Till on Land Protected by Terrace to Receive Cost Share - 30.32% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 2 - Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble - 50.37% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 3 - Water Quality Initiative Cost Share for Fall Application of Triple Superphosphate - 30.54% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 4 - Setting Reasonable CRP Rental Rates - 53.19% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 5 - Limiting CRP Enrollment of Entire Farm - 43.98% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 6 - CRP Re-Enrollment Payment Limits - 41.67% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 7 - Allow Winter Grazing of Stockpiled Forages as an Option for Managed Grazing on CRP - 56.37% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 8 - Incidental Grazing for Livestock Producers - 54.30% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 9 - Reduced "T" Levels - 37.59% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 10 - Require Conservation Compliance on Previous Crossable Gullies - 53.56% (approve) - DISCUSS

BALLOT 11 - Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes

PASSED RESOLUTION - Cover Crop through State Cost Share - 66.67% (approve) - PASSED

PASSED RESOLUTION - Deny Cost Share Assistance to those who Fall Till Soybean Stubble - 62.84% (approve) - PASSED

PASSED RESOLUTION - Statewide Funding for Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Practices - 60.29% (approve) - PASSED

PASSED RESOLUTION - CRP Rental Rate Calculation Formula Change - 60.05% (approve) - PASSED

PASSED RESOLUTION - Change ISCAP Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to Allow NHEL Farmers - 80.39% (approve) - PASSED

2016 Resolutions

Require No-Till on Land Protected by Terrace to Receive Cost Share

Submitted by: CLAY SWCD - BALLOT 1

The useful life of terraces is greatly reduced when the land is tilled after construction. The demand for cost share for terraces far outstrips available funds, and it is imperative we use them wisely. Since the useful life of a terrace is greatly increased with no-till, Clay SWCD recommends the following resolution.

Be it CDI recommends Division of Soil Conservation require the land protected by terraces be no-tilled after construction to receive state cost-share.

This will not affect those who already no-till. It will make the best use of available funds and result in reduced erosion which assists Iowa's voluntary nutrient reduction strategy. This will also produce a positive change of behavior allowing farmers to reduce or eliminate tillage.

Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble

Submitted by: CLAY SWCD - BALLOT 2

The Purpose of the voluntary nutrient reduction strategy (NRS) adopted by Iowa is to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in surface waters by 40%. Phosphorus loss is primary associated with soil sediment leaving the field because of tillage erosion.

Be it resolved that CDI recommends the Division of Soil Conservation deny cost share to farmers who fall till soybeans stubble. Injection of manure and commercial fertilizer is permitted.

This will significantly reduce the amount of P reaching Iowa's surface waters and reduce the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The fall tillage does NOT allow the establishment of cover crops.

Water Quality Initiative Cost Share for Fall Application of Triple Superphosphate

Submitted by: MITCHELL SWCD - BALLOT 3

Diammonium phosphate (DAP, 18-46-0) and monoammonium phosphate (MAP, 11-52-0) are the most widely used phosphorus (P) fertilizers in Iowa. DAP applications at crop removal rates for two years of a corn/soybean rotation apply nitrogen (N) at rates of 40 to 50 lbs. N/acre, roughly one third of the N recommended for corn in this rotation. Fall application of N is normally discouraged because of the increased likelihood that it will be lost from the soil profile and contaminate groundwater. Currently, N application with P fertilizers is unavoidable since competitively priced P fertilizers that are free of N are seldom available in Iowa. Although varying fractions of fall-applied N are likely to be available and beneficial to corn during the year following application, N application for legumes such as soybean and alfalfa has little or no agronomic benefit. For purposes of improved water quality Triple Superphosphate (TSP, 0-46-0) is preferable to either DAP or MAP for fall application since it has a high P analysis but contains no N.

continued...

Currently the approved practices for cost share through the Water Quality Initiative include: Cover Crops, Nitrification Inhibitors, and No-Till/Strip-Till. We propose that the use of Triple Superphosphate for fall fertilizer applications be included as an eligible practice for cost share that could eliminate the unavoidable application of N that now results when phosphorus fertilizers currently used in Iowa are applied.

Most producers have some degree of concern about water quality and might be willing to use TSP if it was available and competitively priced. Producer and vendor awareness of the environmental benefits of using TSP may currently be too low to create such a demand shift in the market. Awareness could come quickly with education. Encouraging the use of and improving the quality of P fertilizers that contain no N, such as TSP, could realize significant progress toward the goals of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Increased demand for TSP resulting from a financial incentive should help increase its availability. Given enough time for education and experience to demonstrate environmental benefits, the financial incentive may eventually become unnecessary.

Setting Reasonable CRP Rental Rates

Submitted by: ALLAMAKEE SWCD - BALLOT 4

The current system for setting CRP rental rates has resulted in rentals being far higher than current crop rental rates. They are currently setting county rental rates for all cropland and they are higher than producers can afford to pay for crop ground.

CDI needs to pursue a change to the legislation that sets up the formula for setting CRP rental rates.

The CRP rental rates need to be evaluated more often. The current legislation only allows rentals to be adjusted with a new farm bill. There needs to be an ability to evaluate and adjust rates when economic factors change drastically and rental rates can't respond timely and fairly. The intention of the CRP program was to enroll highly sensitive areas into a vegetative cover for soil protection, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Due to the limited amount of acres in these programs we want to make sure that the acres enrolled are best suited for these programs in an effort to help conserve our natural resources and conservation dollars. At the same time we want to keep productive land available and used wisely. Enrolling productive farmland into the CRP contradicts the original goal of the program, and could potentially deny other more sensitive acres from being enrolled when acreage limits are met. The intention of the CRP program was never to set the local land rates. The local SWCD and FSA COC should have some input into the rental rates based on their personal knowledge of local soils, productivity, and targeted conservation goals.

Limiting CRP Enrollment of Entire Farms

Submitted by: ALLAMAKEE SWCD - BALLOT 5

The CRP program was intended to improve wildlife habitat, conserve soil and improve water quality. It was not intended to harm local economies or provide the most return to landowners.

We feel that CDI needs to pursue legislation to restrict enrollment of whole farms, unless they meet the highest criteria.

Resolutions continued

Currently, through various initiatives such as HELI and some of the special DNR initiatives, whole farms are eligible for the continuous CRP program. The current erodibility level for HELI is an EI (erodibility index) of 8 or greater. In Allamakee County this encompasses the majority of our cropland, with only a few river bottoms not being eligible. This has resulted in entire farms being enrolled, often with added incentives that make the rental rates far beyond anything a farmer could pay to rent this same ground. There are often nice ridge tops that could easily be in row crop production and still control erosion that are enrolled. This will limit opportunities for economic generation from our county land base. When a landowner enrolls an entire farm in CRP, the opportunity to generate more than the rental rate is lost. If someone works the land more economic opportunity is created and more money circulates in the local economy. We gain economic opportunity and keep the ability to support ourselves more with what we have. It makes it difficult for small and beginning farmers to secure land to farm. We've all seen in the past as a high percentage of whole farm CRP stifled land opportunities for 10 to 30 years. We feel it is better to have opportunities for people to support themselves and others rather than federal programs that create minimal economic opportunity. We feel this type of CRP encourages absentee ownership and out of county ownership, social and neighborhood dysfunction.

We feel a more logical EI would be greater than 36 this would exclude Fayette D slope a highly productive soil on which we can easily control erosion with no tillage and or non-structural conservation practices that are able to withstand tillage . This would encompass the truly erodible soils.

CRP Re-Enrollment Payment Limits

Submitted by: BUENA VISTA SWCD - BALLOT 6

CRP ground has many environmental and wildlife benefits, however many acres across Iowa have reached their contract expiration date and have been removed for economic reasons.

CDI should ask that the State Soil Conservation Committee work with USDA to review and revise CRP re-enrollment rules to pay out only the CRP rental payment.

Most Districts are seeing a large increase in the number of acres that are being torn up as they reach their CRP expiration dates, many were tore up due to the higher grain prices. Now that the grain prices have gone down many producers are now re-enrolling these acres back into CRP. The BV SWCD does not feel that these producers should be paid again for the seeding and seedbed preparation costs for installation.

Allow Winter Grazing of Stockpiled Forages as an Option for Managed Grazing on CRP

Submitted by: JOHNSON SWCD - BALLOT 7

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rules currently allow for Managed Grazing on CRP land during the month of April or August & September, as these are periods when livestock producers often face forage shortages. Today many producers are starting to shift towards a prescribed grazing system that incorporates stockpiled forages to reduce reliance on supplemental hay and grain feeding during winter months.

continued...

Therefore, CDI supports a resolution to allow CRP contract holders the option of utilizing managed grazing in November, December or January, if done as part of an approved Prescribed Grazing System.

Explanation: It has long been known that grazing livestock, when managed properly, can contribute to improving the land. Today, we are beginning to better understand that prescribed grazing is actually one of the best methods to achieve an improvement to soil health. Furthermore, winter feeding of hay and/or grain in confinement situations can lead to accelerated soil erosion and excessive pollutants in surface water. When animals are allowed to spread out on the land, those concerns can be reduced if not totally eliminated. The objective of this resolution is to provide landowners with the option of choosing when a managed grazing on CRP will best fit into their operation.

Incidental Grazing of CRP for Livestock Producers

Submitted by: MARION SWCD - BALLOT 8

CRP is a successful program for cropland only farmers. However, current CRP rules does not allow grazing that can be utilized by diversified crop and livestock farmers. We propose to allow grazing on Environmentally Sensitive CRP after harvest of the cash crop.

The Marion SWCD proposes that CDI and NACD work with the USDA to change the livestock exclusion requirements for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program areas that are parts of larger crop fields.

Explanation: The crop will need to be a high residue crop or cover crops to qualify for gleaning. This would include field borders, turn strips, grassed waterways, contour buffer strips and Highly Erodible Land Initiative. Livestock farmers can then enroll these sensitive areas in CRP and be able to glean high residue crops/cover crops after harvest without having to fence off the CRP practices included in a larger field. An additional benefit for the CRP with this option is the improvement of soil condition and health related to the livestock action on it and the surrounding ground. The grazing period needs to be limited to 60 or 90 day maximum, but does not have to immediately follow harvest. The amount of CRP cannot be more than 25% of the total grazing acres. Hay feeding of livestock will not be allowed on areas enrolled in sensitive CRP if feeding while livestock are gleaning the residue. This would not include stream riparian buffers, filter strips, wetlands, or open creek areas. They would still require fence at the crop/CRP divide.

Reduced "T" Levels

Submitted by: EAST POTTAWATTAMIE SWCD - BALLOT 9

CDI should encourage the NRCS to write conservation plans utilizing lower "T" levels.

Explanation: It's been 30 years since a lot conservation plans have been written. It is time for some revision. 5 ton soil losses are unsustainable.

Require Conservation Compliance on Previous Crossable Gullies

Submitted by: SAC SWCD - BALLOT 10

Over the past 20+ years, as larger equipment has been and is being used, it has become a nuisance for some farmers to deal with ephemeral gullies and/or grassed waterways. As a result, these ephemeral gullies are filled in with tillage and grassed waterways are eliminated and farmed through. With continued abuse, some of these ephemeral gullies have eroded to a point where they can no longer be crossed with tillage implements.

CDI should ask that the State Soil Conservation Committee work with USDA-NRCS to deem a farm out of compliance, with a temporary variance, if it had a crossable waterway or ephemeral gully in 1996 which has eroded into a non-crossable gully today. The soil survey from 1996, when conservation compliance became mandatory, should be used to determine the eligibility. To bring that farm into compliance, cost share for that practice could be allowed if approved by that county's Soil and Water Conservation District.

Explanation: Due to negligence by the operator(s) of a farm, some ephemeral gullies have turned into non-crossable ditches. Once these gullies can no longer be crossed, they are not considered crop ground and NRCS no longer looks at this ground during conservation compliance checks. In 1996, if this gully was crossable and it isn't today, this farmer should be considered out of compliance because he has not performed adequate conservation practices on the ground to prevent the gully from increasing in depth. This farmer should be required to return this gully to its pre-1996 state. Grassed waterways, terrace(s), tiling, or a combination of these (along with other conservation practices) should be installed to keep this field productive and keep the soil where it belongs. A temporary variance is necessary to give the farmer a couple seasons to get the work completed because, unfortunate for the current farmer, it could have happened due to the abuse of a previous farmer.

Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes

Submitted by: CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF IOWA - BALLOT 11

In December, 2015 the CDI Policy Committee members and leaders met and developed recommendations for past resolutions. These recommendations were approved by the CDI Board at the January, 2016 meeting. The recommendation was to archive resolutions five years and older unless they are pertinent to CDI's current activities.

Resolutions can be resubmitted!

We are not asking you to vote on the 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes during pre-conference voting. We are sending them to you at this time to review again. This was distributed and discussed at the 2016 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings. Be prepared to vote to adopt these handbook changes during the Annual Conference Business Meeting on Monday, August 29, 2016.

Cover Crop through State Cost Share

Submitted by: ALLAMAKEE SWCD

Currently with regards to the cover crop program we are looking to promote long term goals with short term incentives. We need to allow cover crops, with an annual payment, on the same acres for multiple years.

We would like CDI to work with IDALS to rewrite the rules regarding IDALS cover crop incentive payments.

As now written IDALS cover crop is only eligible on acres never having had a cover before and only for 1 year. If you do want multiple years all the incentive is offered up front causing field checking issues for subsequent years. Also the incentive is intended to cover some of the costs, and by putting all those dollars on the front end there are no funds available to cover costs of subsequent years.

We are proposing a system that mirrors the federal EQIP program. Funds could be set aside for multiple years but only paid during the year of implementation. This would allow for multiple year plan with annual payments. We feel that the benefits of a cover crop system cannot be realized with a one-year trial. It must span over several years before the soil health benefits will begin to materialize at a significant level.

Deny Cost Share Assistance to Those who Fall Till Soybean Ground

Submitted by: SAC SWCD

With the enhanced emphasis on soil and water quality, nutrient reduction would be more successful if fall tillage on highly erodible ground (HEL) was prohibited. With the equipment available today, it is not necessary to till soybean stubble at all in the fall. Unless it is protected with a cover crop, soybean stubble has the greatest risk of erosion until the new crop is established and even then the remaining residue would be in place to reduce erosion.

IDALS-DSCWQ should re-evaluate its cost-share policy and deny all cost incentive assistance to those who fall till soybean stubble on HEL ground. With reasonable conservation in mind, injection of manure and/or fertilizer and drilling cover crops would be permitted.

Explanation: We are still seeing a large amount of fall tillage. It doesn't make sense that we give a farmer cost-share assistance to put in a conservation practice like a terrace or waterway when he is intentionally tilling his ground creating unnecessary erosion. If he wants cost-share assistance for a permanent practice, he needs to be doing everything possible to prevent soil erosion on the field. This would not only promote soil health, it would be a step forward with the nutrient reduction strategy for improving the quality of the rivers and lakes of the state.

Statewide Funding for Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Practices

Submitted by: BUCHANAN SWCD

Water Quality is a key player in the balance of conservation. We as districts are working on a daily basis to get individuals involved to support the reduction of nutrient losses and experts over time through the adoption of water quality practices. We want to have the landowners/tenants have a positive experience.

IDALS-DSCWQ supports a change in how the State Wide Funding for WQI Practices is distributed. IDALS-DSCWQ should take the funds that are allocated to them for the practices from legislature and split them evenly amongst the 100 Districts, give the districts 2 weeks to get the funds allocated and then recall the unused funds. If there are additional funds left, put them in the group and then it will be first come first serve to get the money allocated.

Explanation: Many SWCDs are not being able to use the funds to their best ability by having a "Group Fund", by doing it this way some districts are getting a lot more funding than others. This could be the office that has more staff and the Conservation Assistants can get on the system to process the ones that need funding, but this all depends on when the funds are released. If the funds are released earlier than stated, someone always finds out and within a small amount of time the funds are all depleted before anyone has a chance at them.

The positive of changing this process, is if the districts know that they are getting in funds for their district and can really market the practices, to get landowners/tenants interested in participating and when the landowners/tenants have a positive experience it will be the districts best advertising to get new participants. The other positive is each district will have a fair chance to use all of their funds that are allocated to them and get more practices on the ground because the funds were evenly distributed.

CRP Rental Rate Calculation Formula Change

Submitted by: MARION SWCD

CRP Rental Rate Calculation formula is outdated. We propose that the CRP Rental Rate Calculation be revised to use all soils in the application area instead of just the three with the most acres.

The Marion SWCD proposes that CDI and NACD work with the USDA to change the calculation of CRP rental rates to reflect all soils in the application area, not just the three soils with the most acres.

Explanation: CRP has been a program that has successfully converted poor producing cropland into a retired land use for 30 years. When the program started, and the local staff was working to figure soil rental rates, they used dot counters and only counting the soils with the majority of acres saved a lot of time. However, as computers have come into the workplace and are now completing the calculations of acres of each soil in an application, this is a very fast and efficient method that counts all soils. Using the top three soils, especially when there are many soils in the CRP application area can skew the CRP rental rate for or against enrollment. This has led some people to enroll better land that should be farmed for a good CRP payment while farming low producing ground, a poor land use decision.

continued...

Thus the Marion SWCD proposes CRP rental payments be calculated for all soils in the application area instead of the three with the most acreage to better reflect the true value rental value of the soil. We feel this will lead to better land use decision by landowners to farm the better ground while enrolling only the poorer ground in CRP.

Change ISCAP Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to allow NHEL Farmers

Submitted by: SAC SWCD

Conservation of our soil and water resources is a job for all farmers regardless of whether they farm highly erodible (HEL) ground or non-highly erodible (NHEL) ground.

IDALS-DSCWQ and other committee organizations should consider changing the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award through the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program to allow farmers who farm non-highly erodible ground to be eligible for this award.

Explanation: There are many farmers in Iowa who farm NHEL ground yet they have installed terraces, waterways, do no-till/strip-till, installed filterstrips, seeded cover crops, follow nutrient management plans, etc. This award should not be limited strictly to HEL farmers. NHEL ground is susceptible to erosion, just like HEL ground. With the emphasis on conservation measures to control erosion and to enhance water quality, all farmers should be eligible for this award.



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Conservation Districts appreciates the
generous financial and service support
received from our partners in conservation over
the last year:

Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts & Commissioners, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, State Soil Conservation Committee, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State University, National Association of Conservation Districts, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Agri Drain, Grinnell Mutual, the family & friends of Larry Beeler and Ron Brownlee, Robert Lynch, Jane Weber, Jeri Thornsberry, Jim Gulliford, Jim Gillespie, Kim Leichtman, Tim Palmer, Sherman Lundy, Barnhart's Customer Services, Mid Tech Services, Nyemaster Good, P.C., Iowa's schools, Farm Bureau, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers, Griggs Environmental Strategies, Iowa FFA Association, Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Society, National Conservation Foundation – Envirothon, Smithfield Foods (Algona, Carroll, Mason City, Orange City and Sioux City), Springbrook State Park, Winneshiek SWCD, Barb Schroeder, Dallas SWCD, Denise Forret, Eldon Weber, Jake Hansen, Judie Krebsbach, Pat Schlarbaum, Wayne Petersen, and the many other individuals who have dedicated funding and time to advance the mission of Conservation Districts of Iowa.

