

2017 Request for Resolutions Announcement

To: Soil and Water Conservation Districts & Conservation Assistants

From: Conservation Districts of Iowa

Date: January 4, 2017



2017 Request for Resolutions

Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) is requesting resolutions from Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) at this time.

CDI encourages SWCD's to develop well thought resolutions and support the resolutions by providing background information. **Follow the guidelines provided in this announcement**, sign and submit resolutions on or before deadlines and vote on local and state resolutions.

The resolution process is an excellent opportunity to:

- a. Bring issues before the membership and partners
- b. Provide direction for the CDI organization
- c. Relay "in the field" issues to the **State**, including the State Legislature, State Soil Conservation Committee and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality
- d. Bring forth Iowa's issues to the **Nation**, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and U.S. Congress

Discuss issues with the appropriate agency *prior* to submitting resolutions. If the issue cannot be resolved through discussions with the agency, then bring forth your resolution. CDI will work with districts that bring forth similar issues/resolutions. Often combining similar resolutions and bringing them forward jointly provides for a stronger resolution/argument. The CDI Resolutions Committee will review and work with the resolutions sponsoring county to provide language that will fit with the resolutions intent and create actionable policy for CDI and partners.

- Please make sure each Commissioner receives this announcement with enclosures.
- Commissioners should use the ***Process for Writing, Submitting & Voting on Resolutions, Format for Writing Resolutions*** and ***Sample Resolution*** Enclosures in this announcement to complete and submit their resolutions.
- Deadlines for submitting resolutions and voting **must** be adhered to. **No items will be accepted after these deadlines.**

Thank you! We look forward to your submissions! Contact CDI with questions at admin@cdiowa.org or 515.289.8300

Writing & Submitting Resolutions

The resolution process is the means by which the local SWCD Commissioners can identify soil and water conservation issues and needs and bring them before the CDI membership and governing body for review and action. The resolutions provide guidelines and direction to the CDI organization and become part of the CDI Policy Statement. CDI also brings forth resolutions to state and national leadership for action. **Please follow the below process for writing and submitting a resolution.**

1. Develop thoughtful and direct resolutions at the district level.
2. Write a short, comprehensive, background paragraph for each resolution.
3. District resolutions must be voted on by Commissioners, passed by a majority and signed by all Commissioners in favor of the resolution prior to submission to CDI.
4. Resolutions created and affirmed at the district level must be submitted to CDI on or before the deadline.

Voting on Resolutions

Please follow the below process for voting on resolution.

1. Commissioners must vote on and pass by a majority a district resolution. ***All*** Commissioners who vote in favor of the resolution must sign the resolution prior to submission to CDI.
2. Participate in the process of voting on resolutions, which will occur prior to the Annual Conference. ***CDI seeks to have all 100 Districts and 500 Commissioners take part in the voting by mail process.***
3. CDI will mail districts Proxy Cards in June. Proxy voting authority can be given to one of the other five elected Commissioners or to his/her duly authorized attorney in face. Bring Proxy Cards to Annual Conference credentials table in order to receive additional ballots to vote on behalf of Commissioners unable to attend the CDI Annual Business Meeting.
4. Make sure ***at least one*** Commissioner is present at the Annual Conference to present any resolution that requires a vote at Annual Conference. Any resolutions that are brought before the Commissioners at Annual Conference and do not have a Commissioner from the proposing district to present the resolution will not be considered for a vote.

Use Enclosure 3 & 4, ***Format for Writing Resolutions*** and ***Sample Resolution***, to guide resolution creation. Note that the format is simplified according to Parliamentary Rules. Follow the deadlines listed on Enclosure 2. **NO ITEMS RELATED TO RESOLUTION SUBMISSION OR VOTING WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THESE DEADLINES.**

January 4: Call for 2017 Resolutions sent from CDI to Districts.

February 24: Deadline for resolutions to be submitted to CDI for distribution and discussion at Spring Regional Meetings.

March 7 – March 16: Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings are held.

March 24: Deadline for all resolutions and changes to previously submitted resolutions to be submitted.

April 10: 2017 Resolutions, preconference ballots and instructions sent to Districts.

June 2: Proxy cards received by districts. Proxy voting authority can be given to one of the other five elected Commissioners or to his/her duly authorized attorney-in-fact. **Proxy Cards must be presented at the CDI Annual Conference credentials table in order to receive additional ballots to vote on behalf of Commissioners unable to attend the CDI Annual Business Meeting.**

June 2: Deadline for preconference ballots to be received by CDI.

June 16: Results of preconference balloting will be posted on the CDI website and sent to Districts within a month of being received.

July 17 & 18: 2017 Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts 71st Annual Conference & Business Meeting

Important: Resolutions must be submitted by February 24 to be distributed and discussed at Spring Regional Meetings. Resolutions will be accepted through March 24.

**WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS OR BALLOTS
RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE DEADLINES.**

Format for Writing Resolutions

Enclosure #3

The following is the modernized form for writing resolutions, utilizing simplified Parliamentary Rules.

- Title of resolution
- The first paragraph is a statement of fact, finding, or argument.
- The second paragraph states what action should be taken and by whom. (Please identify who should take the action. Is this something that CDI should do, NRCS, IDALS-DSCWQ, etc.)
- The third paragraph gives additional background information to support the resolution.
- Submitted by (District)
- CDI region (region number)
- For further information contact (name, address, phone, email)
- Signatures of Commissioners voting “aye”

(See Sample Resolution, Enclosure # 4, Next Page)

Farmstead Windbreaks Installed with REAP Funds

Windbreaks are much needed throughout all of Iowa. Trees and shrubs planted on farmland or acreages help prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat, and most importantly, conserve energy in these times of high energy costs. Land ownership does not determine the benefit correctly applied conservation practices provided to the environment.

CDI supports a revision of the rules on REAP funding to allow any rural landowner to install farmstead windbreaks on their farmsteads. CDI should ask that the State Soil Conservation Committee work with IDALS-DSCWQ to change the REAP rules to allow all rural landowners to be eligible to apply for farmstead windbreak cost share.

Explanation: Many SWCDs are seeing a large increase in farmstead owners being non-agriculturally employed. Many of these people would like to install conservation windbreaks. Unfortunately, we have had to turn many people away for cost share because the current REAP rules. If we were able to serve more customers, more energy would be saved, less soil would be lost, and wildlife habitat would be increased.

Submitted by: Hancock SWCD
Region 3

For further information contact:
Dean Stromer
255 Hwy 69
Garner, IA 50438
Email: dean.stromer@cdiowa.org
Phone: 641.923.2837

Signatures of commissioners voting "Aye":

John Hancock

John Doe

Jane Doe

Resolution Process

Enclosure # 5

1. A Commissioner brings forth an idea to their SWCD board, if approved by majority it is submitted to CDI in the resolution format, if not approved by majority, idea dies, Commissioner can try again next year to bring the idea forth to their SWCD board.
2. The CDI Resolutions Committee will review and work with the resolutions sponsoring county to provide language that will fit with the resolutions intent and create actionable policy for CDI and partners.
3. Resolution is sent out to all SWCDs for preconference voting. During preconference voting:
 - a. A resolution passes if it receives 60% or more of the vote in favor of it.
 - b. A resolution fails if it receives 60% or more of the vote not in favor of it.
 - c. A resolution goes to conference for discussion and voting if it does not receive 60% either in favor or against.
 - d. Resolutions pass or fail on a majority vote at conference.
4. National resolutions are submitted to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) with recommendation for action. National resolutions that do not receive support from NACD will not be acted upon further by CDI. Resolutions can be resubmitted.
5. Two kinds of State Resolutions exist:
 - a. One is accomplished through changes to administrative rules (can be accomplished internally by IDALS-DSCWQ)
 - b. One is accomplished through changes to Iowa State Code (is accomplished through CDI lobbyist)
 - c. Sponsoring Commissioners will be asked to contact legislators about their resolution with support from CDI.
6. All State resolutions are submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) with a request for support.
 - a. SSCC sends the resolutions to subcommittees.
 - b. SSCC subcommittees discuss and make recommendation to SSCC as a whole.
 - c. SSCC votes to support, not support or in some cases to modify the resolution
 - d. SSCC makes recommendation to IDALS-DSCWQ to make administrative rule changes – can be denied by Secretary of Agriculture.
 - e. State resolutions that do not receive support from SSCC will not be acted upon further by CDI. Resolutions can be resubmitted.