

DATE: April 10, 2017

TO: Conservation Assistants

FROM: Conservation Districts of Iowa

RE: 2017 CDI Resolutions Process and Pre-Conference Ballot



1. Please Read All the Instructions Carefully!

2. Put the Proposed Resolutions on your April/May Agenda.

Please be sure to make sufficient copies for your five Commissioners and for your office needs. Give each Commissioner one set before the SWCD Meeting so they can study the resolutions before discussion at the meeting.

3. Enclosures

- i. 2017 Resolution Schedule
- ii. Voting at Annual Conference (Mailing of Ballots to Districts & 2017 Guidelines)
- iii. Pre-Conference Resolution Voting Guidelines (Please Print Five Copies and Distribute to Each Commissioner)
- iv. Official District Ballot (Return to admin@cdiowa.org After Tabulating the Commissioner's Votes)
- v. Individual Ballot (Please Print Five Copies and Distribute to Each Commissioner)
- vi. Voluntary Feedback Form (Please Print Five Copies and Distribute to Each Commissioner)
- vii. 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes (Please Print Five Copies and Distribute to Each Commissioner)

4. Five Proxy Cards will be Mailed to your Office at a Later Date.

2017 Resolution Schedule

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

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

**Voting at Annual Conference:
Mailing of Ballots to Districts**

In order to expedite the resolutions process and to save cost, the Pre-Conference Resolution Voting Materials and Voting Guidelines are being emailed to you again this year. The five proxy voting cards for your Commissioners to take to Annual Conference on July 17 in Altoona will be mailed to your office at a later date.

*****Please remind your Commissioners that these voting cards must be presented at Annual Conference if your district wishes to cast voting ballots at the Business Meeting.*****

NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE

These voting cards are NOT to be returned to the CDI office. Commissioners need to bring them to Annual Conference!

Voting at Annual Conference: 2017 CDI Guidelines

1. One voting card will be sent for each eligible Commissioner (5 maximum) based on payment of dues.
2. Each Commissioner will complete the top portion of the voting card, “Declaration of Eligibility,” if he/she is going to be present and voting at Annual Conference OR the lower portion, “Grant a Proxy,” if the Commissioner will not be attending Annual Conference and would like someone else to vote for him/her. **SEE EXAMPLE BALLOT ON NEXT PAGE.**

VOTING CARDS MUST INCLUDE THE HAND WRITTEN SIGNATURE OF THE COMMISSIONER COMPLETING IT!

3. Resolutions should be discussed so those with proxies can fairly represent the opinions of those unable to attend Annual Conference.
4. **NOTE:** At Annual Conference, Commissioners will give their voting cards to the individuals staffing the Credentials table to receive their ballots.

DO NOT LOSE THE CARDS! YOU WILL NEED THEM TO RECEIVE ALL BALLOTS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE! NO BALLOTS WILL BE GIVEN OUT WITHOUT A COMPLETED VOTING CARD.

5. Ballots will be used for the following:
 - a. To elect the President and Vice President
 - b. For the **FINAL** vote on all resolutions
 - c. For the **FINAL** vote on all by-law revisions
6. Ballots will not be used for the following:
 - a. To approve committee reports
 - b. For procedural issues (example: limit or extend debate, amendments, recess, etc.)
7. At the time of each vote, instructions will be given for which ballot to use and how to properly mark it.
8. The tellers will collect and tally the results of each ballot. Business will continue as the tellers work. The President will report the outcome of the vote.

...Again... PLEASE NOTE:

You must bring your Proxy Cards to Annual Conference to receive ballots!

Example Ballot of a Commissioner Who is Attending Annual Conference

County POLK

Declaration of Eligibility

I certify that I am a duly elected soil and water conservation district commissioner or duly authorized attorney-in-fact from the POLK County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Courtney Slagle Signature

Form to Grant a Proxy

I grant _____ (name) from the _____ County Soil and Water Conservation District an unrestricted right to vote in my place at the July 17 - 18, 2017, Annual Conference on all matters that come before the conference.

Signature

Example Ballot of a Commissioner Who is Not Attending Annual Conference and Granting a Proxy

County POLK

Declaration of Eligibility

I certify that I am a duly elected soil and water conservation district commissioner or duly authorized attorney-in-fact from the _____ County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Signature

Form to Grant a Proxy

I grant CLARE LINDAHL (name) from the POLK County Soil and Water Conservation District an unrestricted right to vote in my place at the July 17 - 18, 2017, Annual Conference on all matters that come before the conference.

Courtney Slagle Signature

Pre-Conference Resolution Voting: 2017 CDI Guidelines

General Instructions

Please study each resolution carefully and duly consider each before voting. If more information is needed about specific resolutions, call the sponsoring district for information. Notification of resolution voting results will be emailed to the SWCD office and posted on the CDI website www.cdiowa.org by no later than June 16, 2017.

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 2017 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings. Be prepared to vote to adopt these handbook changes during the CDI Business Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2017.

Eligibility for Voting:

1. Current SWCD Commissioners are eligible to vote on the ballot based on the dues paid in the fiscal year (2016 - 2017).

Requirements for Passage of Resolutions:

1. Resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for approval by the Commissioners voting will automatically be adopted with no further action at Annual Conference.
2. Resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for disapproval by the Commissioners voting will automatically fail with no further action at Annual Conference.
3. If a resolution does not receive the required number of votes in either the approval or disapproval category, it will be discussed or amended during the CDI Business Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2017.
4. A representative of the proposing district must be present at the CDI Business Meeting for any resolution that is to be considered for discussion/amendment at the CDI Business Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2017.

**Official District Ballot:
2017 Proposed Resolutions**

Complete the following:

Name of District

Number of Eligible Commissioners Voting

Signatures of Commissioners voting and the Conservation Assistant

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Conservation Assistant

1. After receiving the completed INDIVIDUAL BALLOTS from the eligible voting Commissioners, record the number of votes under each category for each resolution on this OFFICIAL BALLOT.
2. After recording all the votes, sign the OFFICIAL BALLOT.
3. Ask all Commissioners who voted to sign this OFFICIAL BALLOT. Typed or stamped signatures are NOT valid. Scanned copies with personal signatures can be sent to CDI.
4. This OFFICIAL BALLOT must be **received** by CDI via email to admin@cdiowa.org no later than **June 2, 2017**.

**Official District Ballot:
2017 Proposed Resolutions**

2017 Resolutions	Approve	Disapprove	Discuss/ Amend
1. IFIP Funds Recall			
2. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble			
3. Limit CRP Waterway Enrollment to One Contract			
4. Erosion Control Restrictions for CP-42 (Pollinator Habitat)			
5. Include Palmer Amaranth on the Noxious Weed List in Iowa			
6. Up to Two (2) Commissioners from One (1) Township in Each Soil and Water Conservation District			
7. Voting by Authorized Attorney-In-Fact			
8. Voting for Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Alternate Regional Directors During Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings			
9. Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes	Review, No Vote Until Annual Conference	Review, No Vote Until Annual Conference	Review, No Vote Until Annual Conference

**Individual Ballot:
2017 Proposed Resolutions**

Remember, the section of the submitted resolution you are voting on is in the bold print; the before and after paragraphs are explanation and support of the resolution.

2017 Resolutions	Approve	Disapprove	Discuss/ Amend
1. IFIP Funds Recall			
2. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble			
3. Limit CRP Waterway Enrollment to One Contract			
4. Erosion Control Restrictions for CP-42 (Pollinator Habitat)			
5. Include Palmer Amaranth on the Noxious Weed List in Iowa			
6. Up to Two (2) Commissioners from One (1) Township in Each Soil and Water Conservation District			
7. Voting by Authorized Attorney-In-Fact			
8. Voting for Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Alternate Regional Directors During Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings			
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Signed: _____

Commissioner

1. Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) Funds Recall

We believe that IFIP funds are instrumental for all districts in getting good conservation practices on the ground. Soil erosion and nutrient loss are an issue in all parts of Iowa, and conservation practices are vital to all types of landscapes. However, some districts have a hard time utilizing these funds prior to the December 31st recall, other than on cover crops, no-till and strip-till. This is because of the early recall deadline.

CDI should recommend to the state that they revise the rules on IFIP funding to change the recall of funds date from December 31st to the last working day in March. This would give those districts more time to utilize their allocations for those local producers/owners that come in late in the year, or early in the following calendar year.

Explanation: Districts quite often have operators/landowners come into the office after harvest is complete or after the holidays when they have had time to look over their fields and determine if there may be a need to install a conservation practice. Unfortunately, we have to turn people away for cost share early in the year because of this rule. If they have to wait to get their projects started until the following fall or following spring, the possibility of them deciding not to go forth with the project is very real.

Submitted by: Kossuth County
Region 2

For further information contact:
Robert Cink
605 E State Street
Algona, IA 50511
Phone: 515-320-0872

2017 Proposed Resolutions

2. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble

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.

Submitted by: Clay SWCD
Region 2

For further information contact:
Jerry Crew
4475 290th Avenue
Webb, IA 51366
Email: jcrew@webbwireless.net
Phone: 712-838-4464

3. Limit CRP Waterway Enrollment to One Contract

Grassed waterways are a vital conservation practice and have been used to control gully erosion on HEL fields since 1985. Producers that have never seeded down their waterways previously have been able to enroll these areas into CRP and receive annual rental payments indefinitely as long as the waterways are maintained and the contracts are re-enrolled. This is not fair to the producer that did the right thing years ago and created grassed waterways on their own initiative and thus will never be eligible for CRP. Re-enrollment of CRP waterway contracts also creates a high volume workload for field office staff. Many waterway contracts cover only a few tenths of an acre but still require the same amount of time and paperwork as large contracts.

CDI supports a change to the CRP rules to a “one and done” policy for grassed waterways, so that if an area is currently eligible for a CRP grassed waterway, it can be enrolled with incentives and annual rental payments for one contract term (10 years). It would not be eligible for re-enrollment. Any existing CRP waterway contracts would also not be eligible for re-enrollment beyond the current contract.

Explanation:

A “one and done” policy for CRP grassed waterways would still allow producers to enroll grassed waterways into CRP the same as current policy, but it would limit the CRP option to one contract period, which is fair to producers and is not an abuse of the CRP. If a waterway would need maintenance or reshaping in the future, the producer could apply for assistance through another state or federal program, or do it on their own.

Submitted by: Jones SWCD
Region 4

For further information contact:
Julie Orris
300 Chamber Drive
Anamosa, IA 52205
Phone 319-462-3196 Ext. 3

4. Erosion Control Restrictions for CP-42 (Pollinator Habitat)

The current CRP rules allow for up to 100 acres of CP-42 (Pollinator Habitat) per tract and it can be planted on any ground that is eligible cropland.

Much of the cropland in Northeast Iowa is very steep. While we believe the pollinator habitat has merit, it is a slow to establish ground cover and initially not a dense ground cover taking several years to establish. On highly erosive soils, this presents a soil erosion and thus water quality hazard.

We would propose that on any soils with slope category C or greater that the CP-42 pollinator habitat be limited to only plantings in strips up to 30 ft. wide and never exceeding 5 acres in size on any tract.

Submitted by: Allamakee SWCD
Region 4

For further information contact:

Josh Dee
635 9th Street NW
Waukon, IA 52172
Email: josh.dee@ias.coop
Phone: 563-568-2246 ext.3

5. Include Palmer Amaranth on the Noxious Weed List of Iowa

Palmer amaranth is a fast growing weed native to the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico, and has spread east and north through a variety of pathways including contaminated seed, hay, livestock feed and agricultural equipment. It has developed resistance to multiple classes of herbicides and their different modes of action, making it very difficult and expensive to control. Palmer amaranth is a prolific seed producer. Up to 250,000 seeds can come from one plant. It is also highly competitive.

It has a fast growth rate of 2- 3 inches per day and commonly reaches heights of 6- 8 feet, greatly inhibiting crop growth. Reported yield losses have been up to 91% in corn and 79% in soybean in some states. The weed can also significantly increase production costs for corn, soybean, and other crops.

CDI supports the addition of Palmer Amaranth to the noxious weeds list of Iowa. Working in association with the Secretary of Agriculture, IDALS, and State Soil Conservation Committee we ask that Chapter 317.1 of the Code of Iowa be amended and Palmer Amaranth be included as a primary noxious weed.

The intent of the noxious weed law is to protect landowners from having their land invaded by weeds growing on adjacent land. The law gives each county the authority to order the destruction of weeds classified as noxious by the state. If the owner of the land fails to address the weed problem, the county can assess the owner a fine and control the weeds and charge the landowner for the costs of the control tactic.

Palmer amaranth, which can dramatically cut crop yields, has been identified in 49 counties in Iowa, nearly 10 times as many counties than at the start of the year (2016), said Robert Hartzler, an Iowa State University professor of agronomy.

"We have so much Palmer amaranth in the state, there's no doubt it will establish and move," Hartzler said. "It will have a significant economic impact."

CRP plantings in 2016 contributed to the increase of Palmer Amaranth throughout Iowa. Growers are encouraged to mow CRP acres the first two years of growth. Palmer Amaranth will be suppressed in CRP planting after year four. If included as a noxious weed, FSA can approve mowing of infected areas.

Submitted by: Warren SWCD
Region 6

For further information contact:
Cathy Ayers
6876 Harding Street
Indianola, IA 50125
Email: cjafarm@gmail.com
Phone: 515-229-4160

6. Up to Two (2) Commissioners from One (1) Township in Each Soil and Water Conservation District

Five (5) commissioners are elected from each County as Soil and Water Commissioners. It has become increasingly difficult to find interested parties willing to donate their time to lead the conservation efforts of their county. Conservation leaders are not always evenly distributed among townships in our counties. Often our best local Conservation leaders happen to live in close proximity to one another. In order to be able to utilize the best and most interested potential commissioners, we need to change the rules to have up to two (2) commissioners from one township in a Conservation District in the State of Iowa.

CDI should ask the State Soil Conservation Committee to work with IDALS-DSCWQ to change the rules to allow for up to two (2) commissioners from one (1) township.

Rural farming demographics have changed dramatically since authorizations of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the 1940's. Many SWCDs are experiencing difficulty attracting potential commissioners for a variety of reasons: Aging farming population; there are fewer farmers every year, rural populations in general are decreasing each year, full-time farmers and farmers with off-farm careers have less time to devote to activities like SWCD Commissioners positions; counties with fewer townships due to the smaller physical size; and general lessening of interest in volunteering time for non-paid community work. While we agree that a diverse board made up of commissioners from different county locations is desirable and necessary, we propose that the current rules should be changed to allow for up to two (2) interested individuals located in the same township to be able to run for office and hold office simultaneously. There is no need to limit participation of potential commissioners to fill a vacancy just because an existing Commissioner lives in that same township. Therefore, to maintain the integrity of the Soil and Water Conservation District System in Iowa, we need to broaden the eligibility of interested applicants to our SWCD Boards. Limiting it to 2 commissioners from a single township still keeps representation below a majority votes of a District Board ensuring county wide representation while making it much easier to recruit to fill vacancies on the SWCD Board.

Submitted by: Dickinson SWCD
Region 2

For further information contact:
Chris Hoffman, Chair
1660 160th Avenue
Lake Park, IA 51347
Phone: 712-320-3797

7. **Voting By Authorized Attorney-In-Fact:**

CDI Bylaws allow for active Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners to vote by authorizing an attorney-in-fact to act on their behalf in the transaction of Association business (Section 3.2). This method is available to allow all commissioners to have a voice in the organization regardless of their work schedule, travel distance, and ability to attend a meeting.

CDI staff and board shall work together to develop a form for commissioners to appoint an attorney-in-fact to vote on their behalf, and guidance for implementing this section of the Bylaws. CDI should clarify voting materials to agree with this aspect of the organization's existing Bylaws and accommodate this option.

Explanation: Some commissioners have difficulty attending the CDI annual meeting for various reasons, particularly work schedule and travel distances. CDI Bylaws provides for those commissioners to be able to vote by appointing an attorney-in-fact. Appointing an attorney-in-fact requires a notarized form. Getting that form from an attorney may cost a district money, and multiple districts developing their own form could result in added work and confusion for CDI employees and volunteers. Having a standard form and guidance developed would aid in utilization of this option.

Section 3.2 Voting. Each active member shall have one (1) vote in the transaction of business of this Association. An active member may vote in person or by proxy executed in writing by an active member of his/her Soil and Water Conservation District, or by his/her duly authorized attorney-in-fact. An active member executing a proxy for a commissioner of his/her respective Soil and Water Conservation District must register the written proxy with the meeting's secretary prior to the opening of the meeting, or send by mail the written proxy to the secretary of the meeting five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

Submitted by: Cherokee SWCD
Region 1

Supported by: Plymouth and O'Brien
SWCDs

For further information, contact:
Nathan Anderson
400 Locust Street
Aurelia, IA 51005
Email: n8andy@gmail.com
Phone: 515-708-5199

2017 Proposed Resolutions

8. Voting for Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Alternate Regional Directors during Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings

In 2015, a resolution was passed and CDI Bylaws were changed to support the elections of CDI Regional Directors at the Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings.

CDI supports the election of CDI Alternate Regional Directors at the Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings to align with Regional Director Elections.

Submitted by: Conservation Districts of
Iowa

For further information contact:
Clare Lindahl
945 SW Ankeny Road, Suite
Ankeny, IA 50023
Email: clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org
Phone: 515-289-8300

2017 Proposed Resolutions

9. 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook and Archived Policy Statement Handbook

At the 2014 Annual Business Meeting, the membership approved the following process for handling past resolutions:

Annually, the CDI Board will review policy statements five years and older. The CDI Board will make recommendations to update the language and renew the policy statements or to archive policy statements that have already been accomplished or are no longer relevant. These recommendations will be sent to districts with preconference resolution voting, a minimum of 90 days prior to the CDI Business Meeting. Annually, at the CDI Business Meeting the membership will vote to adopt the recommendations to the policy statements made by the CDI Board.

In December 2016, the CDI Policy Committee members and leaders met and developed recommendations for past resolutions. The CDI Board approved these recommendations at the January, 2017 meeting. The recommendation was to archive resolutions five years and older unless they are pertinent to CDI's current activities.

Resolutions can be resubmitted!

The 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes are attached.

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 2017 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings. Be prepared to vote to adopt these handbook changes during the CDI Business Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2016.

Submitted by: Conservation Districts of
Iowa

For further information contact:
Clare Lindahl
945 SW Ankeny Road, Suite
Ankeny, IA 50023
Email: clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org
Phone: 515-289-8300

**Voluntary Feedback Form:
2017 Proposed Resolutions**

Please consider taking time to help districts, commissioners and CDI that submitted resolutions understand concerns you have.

2017 Resolutions	Feedback
1. IFIP Funds Recall	
2. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble	
3. Limit CRP Waterway Enrollment to One Contract	
4. Erosion Control Restrictions for CP-42 (Pollinator Habitat)	
5. Include Palmer Amaranth on the Noxious Weed List in Iowa	
6. Up to Two (2) Commissioners from One (1) Township in Each Soil and Water Conservation District	
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