

# Conservation Districts of Iowa

*Informing, educating and leading Iowans through our local soil and water conservation districts to conserve our natural resources*

945 SW Ankeny Road, Suite A - Ankeny, Iowa 50023 - 515.289.8300 - [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org) - [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org)

## Iowa Conservation Partnership Day

Tuesday, January 17, 10AM - 3PM, Capitol, Des Moines  
Preparatory meeting across the street from the Capitol in the Wallace Building Auditorium at 9:30AM

RSVP to Conservation Districts of Iowa at 515.289.8300 or [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org) by **January 9**.

## New Commissioner Training

February 15, **Storm Lake** | February 16, **Waverly**  
February 21, **Iowa City** | February 22, **Urbandale** | February 23, **Red Oak**

Training is held from 4-7PM. Storm Lake training will be held from 3-6PM. Pizza will be served at each training. RSVP to Conservation Districts of Iowa at 515.289.8300 or [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org) by **February 3**. Existing Commissioners Welcome!

## Save the Date: Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings

- Region 5** – Tuesday, March 7 from 10AM – 2 PM in Shelby County
- Region 9** – Wednesday, March 8 from 10AM – 2PM in Davis County
- Region 7** – Wednesday, March 8 from 4PM – 8PM in Iowa County
- Region 6** – Thursday, March 9 from 10AM – 2PM in Greene County
- Region 4** – Tuesday, March 14 from 10AM – 2PM in Fayette County
- Region 3** – Tuesday, March 14 from 4PM – 8PM in Worth County
- Region 2** – Wednesday, March 15 from 10AM – 2PM in Palo Alto County
- Region 1** – Wednesday, March 15 from 4PM – 8PM in Lyon County
- Region 8** – Thursday, March 16 from 10AM – 2PM in Montgomery County

## Meet CDI's New Water Quality Specialist, Catherine DeLong!



Catherine is a native of Des Moines. In 2014 she graduated from Iowa State University with a Master's Degree in Soil Science and Environmental Science. Before coming to Iowa State she completed her undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom, was an AmeriCorps volunteer in Arizona, operated a ski lift in Colorado and worked on a California almond farm. All of these experiences led Catherine to realize that she valued a connection to the landscape, and wanted to work to strengthen our natural resources.

This took her to Iowa State where her research project quantified the carbon content of Iowa State's 16,000 acres of land. She enjoyed the technical aspects of her degree, but also felt that there was a divide between research and communicating that research to the public. In order to help close that gap, Catherine worked with the Iowa Water Center during her degree and even convinced the United Nations to host a blog celebrating the International Year of Soils in 2015. Since graduating, she has worked on a farmer-focused climate adaptation course for the USDA, Global Agriculture Programs at ISU and Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, cooking and spending time in the great outdoors.

Catherine is absolutely thrilled to be working at CDI! As a soil scientist who is always looking for an opportunity to remind people about the Dust Bowl, she is honored to be working for our Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Catherine will be working on projects related to retainN, source water, encouraging conservation on the Des Moines Lobe, a conservation media library and 4Rs+. She is looking forward to meeting all the commissioners in person. Please feel free to send her an email at [catherine.delong@cdiowa.org](mailto:catherine.delong@cdiowa.org) to introduce yourself or ask any questions.

## Dates of Importance

*January 1 – March 31, 2017*

**January 9 & 10:** NACD North Central Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO

**January 13:** Farm Bill 13B Period 5, Des Moines Lobe Period 5 and Farm Bill 14 Period 1 Reports due

**January 16:** CDI Board Meeting, Country Inn & Suites, Clive, 3 – 6PM

**January 17:** Conservation Partnership Day, Capitol, Des Moines, 10AM – 3PM

**January 27:** Organizational Data Sheets due

**January 28 – February 2:** NACD Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

**February 10:** Iowa Envirothon Team Registrations due

**February 15 – 23:** 5 New Commissioner Trainings

**Friday, February 17:** Scholarship applications due to SWCD offices

**February 24:** Submit resolutions for discussion at Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings

**March 1 – 15:** 5 Iowa Envirothon Regional Competitions

**March 7 – 16:** 9 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings, 10AM – 2PM & 4PM – 8 PM

**March 17:** SWCD chooses a County Scholarship Application to forward to CDI Regional Director

**March 21:** NACD Spring Legislative Fly-in, Washington, D.C.

**March 22 & 23:** Iowa Water Conference, Ames

**March 24:** Resolutions and changes to previously submitted resolutions due

**March 24:** Posters and Entry Forms due to SWCD offices

**March 31:** CDI Regional Director chooses Regional Scholarship Application to forward on to the State Level

**Next CDI Bulletin, April 1, 2017**