



## Conservation Districts of Iowa

### **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Source Water Community Facilitator**

Job Title: Source Water Community Facilitator  
Hours: Full time  
Start Date: January, 2020  
Duration: Dependent on funding –  
1 year secured,  
Strong potential to continue  
Pay: \$18.46/hour, health, dental, and  
vision insurance, retirement plan  
Location: Atlantic, Iowa

#### **About Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) & Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)**

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Soil and Water Conservation Districts were formed across the nation in response to the devastation of the 1930's Dust Bowl, which brought ecological, economic, and social misery to tens of thousands of Americans as a result of farming the land without conservation. Districts were charged with restoring and protecting the soil to ensure continued productivity, and they did so by encouraging the use of an array of conservation practices. Today, there are 3,000 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and 17,000 Commissioners across the nation. In Iowa alone, there are 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and 500 Commissioners. Every county has a Soil and Water Conservation District and all Iowans, urban as well as rural, are served by them. Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide Iowans with education, technical assistance and funding to put conservation on agricultural and urban land.

Conservation Districts of Iowa is a 501(c)3 whose mission is to inform, educate and lead Iowans through our local soil and water conservation districts to promote conservation of natural resources. CDI implements its mission by providing SWCDs and Iowans through numerous programs, projects and events.

The organization is managed by a paid Executive Director and a volunteer Board of Directors. CDI also employs a full time Office and Projects Manager, Water Quality Specialist and 8 field staff that work in offices across the state to assist with wildlife and wetland conservation work.

#### **About the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

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The DNR is the lead state agency for source water protection in Iowa. Using a collaborative approach, the DNR protects Iowa's public drinking water sources and enhances source water quality by providing individualized information, assistance and support.

The mission of the DNR is to conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Iowa and ensure a legacy for future generations.

## **Position Description**

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Work in a joint capacity with CDI and DNR to bring together key stakeholders to protect community source water (drinking water) in DNR Region 4. Employee will complete a source water protection plan for 5-7 communities each year. Activities include researching and evaluating communities on the potential for engagement on a source water action plan. Meeting with key stakeholders in each community to design and implement a source water action plan. Facilitating site visits with landowners in the source water capture zones and evaluating the potential impact of best management practices. With the collaboration and approval of key community stakeholders, write a final report (Source Water Protection Phase 2 Plan) to be submitted to the City Council and DNR.

The individuals will be an employee of and receive supervision from CDI, with daily instructions provided by DNR staff. Employee will be based in Southwest Iowa covering the following counties:

- Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Pottawattamie, Cass, Adair, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Fremont, Page, Taylor, Ringgold Counties.

CDI seeks a dynamic, self-motivated employee who can initiate community conversations and bring diverse groups to the table to discuss source water protection. For this reason, the position is ideal for someone with experience in sales or facilitation. Because source water can be impacted by land management, geology and other environmental factors, it would be a strength for the employee to have a background in agriculture, environmental science, landscape architecture, planning or a related field.

### **Responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

- Lead and facilitate meetings with community stakeholders
- Engage farmers/landowners in conservation planning
- Conduct fields surveys to inventory possible well contaminant sources
- Work with the DNR to define the capture zones of community wells
- Inventory land use, well and potential contaminant sources in the well capture zone
- Collaborate with the community to write a source water protection plan
- Work with the DNR to arrange water sampling and other scientific assessments to define potential contaminant sources
- Leverage resources from partner organizations and recruit new partnerships
- Attend and seek out training opportunities
- Understand the benefits of water quality and soil health
- Research and apply to grant opportunities
- Complete activities with accuracy and professionalism
- Understand CDI's and DNR's mission
- Report regularly to CDI, DNR and other partners
- Publicize accomplishments to CDI, DNR, partners and the general public
- Use MS Word and Excel
- Work outside in inclement weather and minimal travel overnight as necessary

### **Qualifications:**

- Degree in agriculture, environmental science, landscape architecture, planning or a related field
- Past experience in sales or facilitation would be a major strength

- Familiarity with/ interest in agriculture and conservation practices, programs, technologies, etc.
- A conservation ethic
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office
- Strong attention to design and detail
- Self-starter; ability to work independently and take initiative
- Ability to prioritize tasks and work on multiple community source water plans/facilitation simultaneously
- Clear and concise oral and written communication skills
- Comfortable speaking to groups and engaging with diverse audiences
- Past experience with GIS would be viewed favorably
- An understanding of groundwater dynamics would be viewed favorably
- Valid driver's license required
- Enthusiasm and zeal for your work

**Benefits of position:**

CDI and the DNR are dedicated to making this experience as valuable to the employees as the employee is to CDI! Some of the benefits of this position include:

- An opportunity to work with statewide organizations in source water protection
- Ability to work with a diverse group of partner organizations involved in agriculture, conservation and environmental protection
- On the job training
- Interaction and training opportunities with specialists in the industry
- Health Dental and Vision Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Access to a vehicle

**To Apply:**

Please submit the following materials in pdf format to John Whitaker, Executive Director of CDI at [john@cdiowa.org](mailto:john@cdiowa.org) by **December 15, 2020**.

- Resume
- Cover letter
- A writing sample (1 page max) that best illustrates your qualifications for this position. One recommendation would be a scenario in which you effectively sold something or facilitated a meeting/interaction.