

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Resolution Process

District Commissioners are empowered to affect change in administrative rules, policy, or law. If a district believes that a change is needed, the Commissioners are encouraged to bring their idea forward to CDI in the form of a resolution. CDI will help by assisting with the best possible wording, and by checking current policies to prevent redundancy. Resolutions that are eventually approved at the state level carry the weight of 500 elected officials in moving forward.

Resolutions can address a problem in your district that CDI should act on, challenge or make a proposed change to IDALS administrative rules, or be a suggestion to improve Farm Bill or federal programs. Following is our timeline for the resolution process:

DUE ON OR BEFORE	RESPONSIBLE	ACTIVITY
April 1	District Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit your written resolution (approved by the district’s commissioners) to CDI. • If you have questions, concerning the formatting or validity of the idea, contact CDI prior to submitting the resolution.
April 15	CDI Resolutions Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review submitted resolutions. • Check to see if the resolution conflicts with existing policy or is already addressed in current policies. • Suggest different wording or a change in scope, as needed. • Submit feedback on the proposed resolution to the district.
May 15	District Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve any changes to the original resolution and submit final approved version to CDI.
June 15	CDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail a resolution package with all submitted resolutions to the districts.
July 15	District Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually submit vote to approve, disapprove, or discuss at annual conference each resolution.
August 1	CDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post voting results on CDI website. • Resolutions that have a 60% or greater approval are passed. • Resolutions with 50-59% approval are advanced to the CDI annual conference. • Resolutions that receive less than 50% approval are failed.
At CDI Annual Conference	Sponsoring District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring forward the approved resolution during the business meeting portion of the CDI Annual Conference. • Commissioners in attendance are given an opportunity to speak for or against the resolution. • A resolution must receive 60% or greater approval to be passed.

CDI then advances the adopted resolution to the proper group:

- If it is a change to Iowa Rules, the resolution will be brought before the State Soil Committee. Either the sponsoring district or CDI will defend in person.
- If a change to Iowa Code, CDI will lobby the state legislature for its adoption.
- If a change to Farm Bill or NRCS policy, it will be brought before the legislative committee of NACD by either the district or an NACD Board member. If moved forward, NACD will lobby Congress for its adoption.

Format for Writing a District Resolution for Submission to CDI

Enter title of your resolution

Write a statement of fact, a finding, or an argument in the first paragraph.

State what action should be taken and by whom in the second paragraph.

Provide additional supplemental information that supports the resolution in the third paragraph.

Include your District's name and your CDI region.

Provide specific contact information (name, contact number and email.)

List names and signatures of your District commissioners voting in favor of this resolution.

See the following sample resolution.

Sample Resolution

TITLE: Farmstead Windbreaks Installed with REAP Funds

STATEMENT: 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, to conserve energy in these times of high energy costs. Land ownership does not determine the benefit correctly applied conservation practices provide to the environment.

ACTION: We support a revision of the rules on REAP funding to allow any rural landowner to install farmstead windbreaks on their farmsteads. All farmstead windbreaks can help stop soil erosion, provide wildlife habitat, slow the wind and conserve energy, not just those applied on farmsteads on a farmer’s ground. To that end, CD! 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.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: 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: Name of District SWCD

CDI Region No.

For further information, contact:

Name of Commissioner:

Contact Number:

Email:

Names and signatures of commissioners voting "Aye."

John Doe

Pete Smith

Sally Jones