

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Resolution Process 2021

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 30	District Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually submit vote to approve, disapprove, or discuss at annual conference each resolution.
August 13	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 August 23 - 24	Sponsoring District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring forward the approved resolution during the business meeting portion of the CDI Annual Conference. • There is an opportunity for commissioners in attendance 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 CDI resolution

Title of the Resolution

First paragraph is a statement of fact, a finding, or an argument

Second paragraph states what action should be taken and by whom.

Third paragraph gives additional information to support the resolution.

Include your district name and which CDI region you are in.

Include specific contact information.

Include the signatures of your district commissioners that voted in favor of this resolution.

(See sample resolution)