

# CDI News

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## CDI Board Members

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Rick Juchems, Vice President  
Butch Neumeyer, Past President  
Babetta Lucke, Treasurer  
Lorna Troester, Secretary

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Region 9: Jim Gevock

Our Mission: *“CDI informs, educates and leads Iowans through our local districts to promote conservation of natural resources.”*

## Fine Times--“500 Voices Will Be Heard”

The Conservation Districts of Iowa, *celebrating our 60th anniversary this year*, is truly a grass roots organization. Every thing we do begins with a request from a local district. CDI, your statewide organization, exists to do those things your district doesn't have the time, power, or the money to do on its own. By working together, we have been able to keep the conservation programs strong and relevant to Iowans. So how does this work?

One way to achieve the common goals is through the resolutions process. The resolutions accepted by CDI members form our policy book. And that policy book drives our plan of work. We review our policy book and subsequently adjust the work plan at least on an annual basis.

Another way is through your regional representative. Each of the 9 Regions has one Director and one or more alternates, which make up the CDI Board. These Board members provide direction for both the executive committee and the CDI staff. You should feel comfortable to contact these regional representatives with your comments, questions and concerns.

As you can see by our mission (above), informing and educating Iowans about natural resource conservation through the districts is of prime importance. Plan to

attend the meetings and conferences CDI coordinates. This is one of the best ways we pass along new information. We strive to help Commissioners understand their duties and responsibilities as elected officials.

Of course there is the policy side of CDI. This is really where we can speak with “one voice”. We have found creating relationships with State Legislators on their home turf is most effective. And most of what we do truly is education with legislators. Because they have to know a lot about many different subjects, they look to CDI and you, the SWCD Commissioners, to be the experts for soil and water issues.

CDI works with NACD to promote national legislation and policy that can enhance our conservation efforts. CDI coordinates with NACD on national policy issues. We communicate with Iowa's Congressional delegation and their staff through emails, faxes, telephone calls, and face-to-face meetings.

Working together with our partners at local, state, and national levels we can accomplish great things. Be an active part of your organization and help your organization help you.

*Jerry Fine*

Visit our website  
often for events and  
other information at:  
[www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org)

Deb Ryun, Executive Director [debryun@cdiowa.org](mailto:debryun@cdiowa.org)

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Hilary Johnson, Envirothon Coordinator [envirothon@cdiowa.org](mailto:envirothon@cdiowa.org)



## Iowa Envirothon Regional Winners

The Iowa Envirothon Regional Competitions are now complete and we have the winners. The following teams will be going on to compete at the state level on April 23, at Springbrook Conservation Education Center.

Decorah Unpickled Herring  
 Riceville FFA  
 Decorah Raptors  
 Iowa City West A  
 Marshalltown Hermnivores  
 Winterset Cougars  
 Western Christian I  
 Winterset Jackalopes  
 Charles City FFA  
 Iowa City West B  
 Malvern  
 Muscatine FFA I  
 Iowa City High  
 North Mahaska FFA  
 North Polk FFA

Congratulations to you all and good luck!

The Canon Envirothon is a team competition for high school students. In the field and classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios and answer written questions covering five categories: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, and Current Environmental Issues.

The Canon Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental competition. It was started by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts in 1979. The first National Envirothon competition was held in 1988 with Iowa joining in the 1995-1996 school year.

**Currently, teams representing over 45 states and Canadian provinces compete at the national level for \$75,000 in scholarships and prizes.**

The Iowa Envirothon is a state-wide program developed in conjunction with National Envirothon policies, with the top team in the state representing Iowa at the Nationals. Past participants have equated the Envirothon to the competitions Odyssey of the Mind, and Mock Trial.

Check our website for further information at [www.cdiowa.org/envirothon.html](http://www.cdiowa.org/envirothon.html) or if you have any questions, e-mail [envirothon@cdiowa.org](mailto:envirothon@cdiowa.org)



## SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE CSP: Conservation Security Program

*These suggestions were created after talking with producers and field staff from around the country about CSP. Please consider adopting these proposed changes as part of your farm bill position paper.*

1. Equitable and Fair; All producers could apply every year, not limited to watersheds
2. State Allocations; Available funds should be distributed to the states for contract awards, see local priorities.
3. Local Priorities; Using the State Technical Committee and the local work groups, states should set their own selection criteria and distribute the allocated state funds based on that formula until the money runs out.
4. Transparent Ranking Criteria; Each state will post the state ranking criteria on the NRCS website and make it available by other means upon request. Everyone will know how the applications are ranked and how then to potentially make improvements to their operation if they want to participate.
5. Ability to Improve; Producers who don't get in will know why and can reapply the next year.



## Welcome to the DNR's 5th Annual Project AWARE!

Are you interested in being a part of Project AWARE 2007? You can sign up now by downloading the official registration document at: <http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/aware/index.html> Also, keep checking back to see more updates on important things you need to know for Project AWARE 2007.

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) makes it easy to stay abreast of the organization's activities. *Partners* magazine, the quarterly on-line publication of CTIC, is FREE in your email! Keep the producers in your district informed of national trends, emerging issues, conservation successes and profitable solutions to improve the relationship between agriculture and the environment. See the current issue at: <http://www.conservationinformation.org/partners> and sign up today at: <http://www.conservationinformation.org/partners/subscribe.asp>.

## Knobloch Shares A Parting Poem

*Wilbert "Slick Willy" Knobloch, has retired as a Lyon SWCD Commissioner. He has served a long and distinguished career, and was recently honored at the NACD Annual Conference with a national award. Never at a loss for words, Willy shared the following poem at his retirement party.*

Sometimes it's hard when you know you are stuck.  
You're constantly called the "fellow with all the good luck."  
Little did I realize, not that so soon,  
They would have found my proverbial golden spoon.  
This is life; it has its joys and its pain.  
Just never, never take time to complain.  
It's known we work hard; I'm certain even zealous.  
We tend to look at others, but don't become jealous.  
Don't complain of your burdens, not even your cross.  
If had a chance, them away we could toss,  
Then God gave us a choice just to pick up another,

Our heart may desire the light one of our brother.  
Then we quickly would take and sift through the pile.  
I would venture to say, soon after a while,  
With our lot we'd be happy, and sing like a lark  
When we would try it for size, and look at the mark,  
It really weighed less; my, how we're glad.  
It was a perfect fit; twas the one that we had!  
Then when we look at others, just never let,  
A desire to have or even covet,  
Let our thoughts and motives of one all arise.  
When it comes to our luck or cross, God gave us all the right size!

# CDI Board Updates Strategic Plan

*In January 2007 the CDI Board held a retreat to work on updating the strategic plan. It is important to share the outcome of that planning session with you, the members of CDI.*



## CDI Vision Statement

"Natural Resource Conservation Leaders for Iowa"

## CDI Mission Statement

"CDI informs, educates and leads Iowans through our local districts to promote conservation of natural resources."

## Strategic Issues and Goals

### ***Make SWCD's work (role and functions) visible to the public***

Goals:

- Every Region will write and submit one press/media release or story on a state-wide issue every two years
- Publicize local awards state-wide
- Reward the media when they print or broadcast our stories

### ***Educate local/state/national decision makers on conservation public policy and legislative issues***

Goals:

- Train local districts on how to research and write resolutions in correct format
- Each Iowa legislator and congressional staff will be contacted with conservation information not less than six times annually
- Prepare a list of all the Partners that CDI has agreements with

### ***Develop the leadership ability of conservation district commissioners in Iowa***

Goals:

- Find out what the "Exchange Program" is
- "New commissioner training" should be "ALL commissioners' training" and offered more often
- Spring Regionals should continue to include commissioner training and fall Regionals should continue to focus on awards
- Iowa training will need to be "tweaked" to meet NACD accreditation standards

### ***Promote the conservation of natural resources of Iowa and provide an effective voice for conservation districts in Iowa***

Goals:

- Reduce erosion in Iowa by 50% by 2020
- Long term, zero erosion
- Reduce CO2 produced by agriculture by 50%
- Promote maintaining the current level of acres in CRP
- Reduce water pollution by 50%
- Provide information for contacting legislators to commissioners

### ***Support the active recruitment of future conservation district commissioners***

Goal:

- Five (5) Assistant Commissioners for each District, for a total of 500

## Dickinson SWCD Wins IAMU Award



A local award presentation for efforts to protect storm water in the Iowa Great Lakes was held in Spirit Lake, Iowa. The Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District and a local developer August (Auggie) Scheppmann received awards from the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, an organization that represents over 500 municipalities across the state of Iowa, for work with storm water.

The Dickinson SWCD was awarded for their leadership that has changed the ways of working with storm water by using Low Impact Development or LID to treat the water that is usually warm and polluted. Three years ago the Dickinson SWCD held seminars that educated the public about the many different ways to incorporate LID into developments. This award was for their leadership and collaborative efforts in educating the public and cities for that lead to policy changes for the protection of the Iowa Great Lakes. Mark Ingwersen, chairman of the Dickinson SWCD stated "this award is not just for the efforts of our Soil and Water Conservation District; it took the will of the local people and all their efforts to protect our valuable resources in this county."

Steve Anderson, Coordinator of the Dickinson County Clean Water Alliance, stated "We are leading the state of Iowa when it comes to protecting water quality from storm water. I am thankful the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities started this award program this year to recognize these people for the work they have done to protect water quality."

The awards were originally presented on February 6, 2007 at the 4th Annual Iowa Storm Water Conference in Altoona. The awards were given out by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

*"Nine planets round the sun, only one does the sun embrace. Upon this watered one, so much we take for granted; So let us sleep outside tonight, lay down in our mother's arms, for here we can rest safely ... One sweet world around a star is spinning - One sweet world - And in her breath I'm swimming, and here we will rest in peace."*

**Dave Matthews**

## Current News From IMMAG

ISU Extension, IMMAG and the USDA-NRCS will conduct a RUSLE2 and Iowa P Index workshop on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Storm Lake Iowa at the County Extension office. This workshop will not be any different from the previous 12 workshops we have conducted in the past 3 years, but the examples will focus on open feedlots. We are doing this to help prepare both consultants and producers who need to meet nutrient management plan requirements as part of a NPDES permit. The nutrient management plan will require the implementation of the P Index. This workshop is also applicable to confinement operations. Currently there are 17 people registered for this workshop and we have a limit of 30 people.

The ISU Extension press release for this workshop can be found at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2007/mar/070602.htm>

On-line registration, a copy of the agenda and the program brochure can be found at: <http://www.uca.iastate.edu/mnet/rusle2/home.html>

Current News page on the IMMAG site is updated weekly; check out: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/default.htm>. Please check this site often for the latest news regarding animal feeding operations and manure management issues.

## Harvesting Wind — Adding Value to your Farm

As of January 2004, about 6,374 megawatts of wind power capacity were installed in the U.S. generating over 16 billion kilowatt-hours annually. That is as much electricity as about 1.6 million average American households use each year. It is estimated that Iowa alone has the potential to produce 4.8 times its own annual electrical consumption through wind power. With this growing potential, the Iowa Farm Bureau believes wind energy is a tremendous opportunity for Iowa farmers to add value to their working farm.

As a growing industry, there are many positives, including 1) strong support for the local economy through new investment, jobs and tax base; 2) providing renewable resources that are readily available and environmentally sound for the nation's energy needs; and 3) high compatibility with agriculture, providing another "crop" which can be harvested from working farmland.

Iowa farmers interested in exploring wind energy will need to arm themselves with some basic information to get started: Just how windy is my proposed site? Is it windy enough to produce commercially viable amounts of energy? Even if it is windy enough, does the site have access to a distribution system (electrical grid) to economically move the power to end-users? Even if a site is windy enough and has access to the grid, is there a local utility company or energy user willing to pay enough for the energy to assure a positive return over the lifetime of the investment? Are there state or federal incentives available to help make the wind project economically feasible?

An online assessment has been established to help Farm Bureau members begin collecting necessary information. The first step for interested farmers will be to provide the basic information regarding the proposed site. That information will be analyzed and you will be provided with a preliminary estimate of the site's wind speed, its access to the electrical grid and the range of selling price and incentives you would need to receive for your energy in order to generate a posi-



itive return on your investment. Based on that information, the system will also generate an opinion as to whether the proposed site is:

Private Use—A small wind turbine may be feasible for reducing your electric bill.

Maybe Feasible—A wind turbine project maybe feasible at this site because of the wind speed and site characteristics.

Probably Not Feasible—A wind turbine project is probably not feasible at this site because of the inadequate wind speed or high cost for electrical interconnection.

If your proposed site is classified as "Maybe Feasible" you will be contacted by phone by our experts (Wind Utility Consulting) for additional discussion on the opportunity. This will give you a chance to further explore your potential interest in pursuing the opportunity.

These services are free to any Iowa Farm Bureau member. Please remember, however, that these services are advisory only and before making any business or investment decisions a member should retain expert assistance and counsel.

*This article was adapted from the Iowa Farm Bureau website. There is a lot more information at this site and are additional links if you'd like to know more. <http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/windassessments/>*



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## Dates to Remember

March 26  
Region 1 & 2 Spring Meeting

March 27  
Region 3 & 5 Spring Meeting

March 28  
Region 4 & 7 Spring Meeting

March 29  
Region 6 & 9 Spring Meeting

March 30  
Region 8 Spring Meeting  
<http://www.cdiowa.org/events.html>

April 10-12  
CDI Visit to Washington D.C.

April 23  
Iowa Envirothon, Springbrook  
<http://www.cdiowa.org/envirothon.html>

May 20-23  
National Watershed Coalition Meeting, La Crosse, WI  
<http://www.watershedcoalition.org/events.html>

June 19-20  
CDI/SSCC Meetings and Tour