

Bylaws
Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners
A non-profit corporation
DBA Conservation Districts of Iowa

ARTICLE I
Name

The name of this organization shall be “The Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners”, doing business as “Conservation Districts of Iowa”. The official abbreviation of its name shall be “CDI”. The word “Association” in the following bylaws refers to Conservation Districts of Iowa, abbreviated as CDI.

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The Association is organized exclusively for educational, scientific, and charitable purposes, as those purposes are defined for organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Section 3.1 Active Member (Voting). Each of five (5) Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners of the 100 Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts is eligible to become an active member in this association upon payment by the district of the annual dues to the Association treasurer.

Section 3.2 Affiliate Non-voting Member. Any individual or business who is concerned with soil and water conservation activities in the state may become an affiliate non-voting member of the Association by applying and paying dues as determined by the board of directors. They shall be non-voting members who are eligible to attend meetings of the Association and to receive its publications.

Section 3.3 Voting. Each active member shall have one (1) vote in the transaction of business of this Association. An active member may vote in person or by proxy executed in writing by an active member of his/her Soil and Water Conservation District, or by his/her duly authorized attorney-in-fact. An active member executing a proxy for a commissioner of his/her respective Soil and Water Conservation District must register the written proxy with the meeting’s secretary prior to the opening of the meeting or send by mail the written proxy to the secretary of the meeting five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

Section 3.4 Dues. The board of directors of the Association shall establish the annual dues for active members and shall announce the amount of dues at each annual meeting.

Section 3.5 Payment of Dues. The annual dues of the active members for the fiscal year shall be payable to the treasurer of the Association by June 30 of each year. Membership privileges will be revoked if dues transmittal letter is not postmarked by June 30.

Section 3.6 Certification of Members. The board of directors will certify the active members for the next fiscal year on July 1, based on annual dues paid on June 30.

Section 3.7 Termination of Membership. At such time that an active member ceases to be a commissioner of his/her respective Soil and Water Conservation District, active membership in the Association shall cease and the member is no longer eligible to hold office.

Section 3.8 Transfer of Membership. Membership in this Association is not transferable or assignable to any person, except that a newly elected commissioner who takes office on the first day of January that is not a Sunday or holiday or an appointed commissioner shall assume the membership of the outgoing commissioner if the annual dues have been paid in full for the fiscal year.

ARTICLE IV Meetings

Section 4.1 Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the membership of the Association shall be held each year at a time and place determined by the board of directors for the purpose of electing the president and vice president and for the transaction of business. Association business may be conducted in person or by email, telephone, or other electronic means.

Section 4.2 Special Meetings. Special meetings of members may be called by the president, or by any four (4) regional directors signing a petition calling for a special meeting, or by fifty (50) active members signing a petition calling for a special meeting. Meetings called by a signed petition from the board of directors or from fifty (50) shall have as part of the petition the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except as stated in the notice of the meeting, unless a majority of the members of the Association is present.

Section 4.3 Notice of Annual or Special Meetings. Written notice or electronically transmitted notices of such meetings shall be mailed/transmitted to each of the 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts at least ten (10) days prior to such meetings.

Section 4.4 Quorum. One-tenth (1/10) of the membership shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the membership with the majority vote being decisive in the transaction of business except for the passage of a resolution which will require a sixty (60) percent

affirmative vote to become a part of the Policy/Resolution Statements and in those matters of business which require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE V Regions

Section 5.1 Number. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa shall be divided into not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) regions.

Section 5.2 Regional Structure. Any future change in arrangement of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the regions shall be submitted to and shall receive a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting of the Association before becoming effective. The initial alignment of Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the regions shall be as follows:

Region 1 – Lyon, Osceola, Sioux, O’Brien, Plymouth, Cherokee, Woodbury, Ida, and Monona Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 2 – Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Clay, Palo Alto, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Wright, and Hamilton Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 3 – Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Howard, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Chickasaw, Franklin, Butler, Hardin, and Grundy Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 4 – Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Bremer, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Jones, and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 5 – Crawford, Carroll, Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, East Pottawattamie, West Pottawattamie, Cass, and Adair Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 6 – Greene, Boone, Story, Marshall, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Madison, Warren, and Marion Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 7 – Tama, Benton, Linn, Poweshiek, Iowa, Johnson, Cedar, Muscatine, Clinton, Scott, Washington, and Louisa Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 8 – Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Clarke, Fremont, Page, Taylor, Ringgold, and Decatur Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Region 9 – Mahaska, Keokuk, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Wayne, Appanoose, Davis, Van Buren, and Lee Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Section 5.3 Regional Meetings. The time, place, and agenda for spring regional meetings shall be scheduled by the board of directors.

Section 5.4 Special Meetings. The regional director may call special regional meetings. Active members within their region will be notified in writing, by telephone or electronically through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District offices of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting not less than three (3) days prior to a special regional meeting.

Section 5.5 Meeting Notification. Active Members within a region will be notified in writing or electronically by the board of directors to their respective Soil and Water Conservation Districts not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to their respective spring regional meetings.

Section 5.6 Regional Directors. Regional directors shall be elected by commissioners present at the spring regional meeting for a term of three (3) years with their new term beginning April 1. One-third of all regional directors are elected each year. Regional Directors will be elected for a three-year term based on a rotating sequence in the following order:

Year 1 Regions 1, 4, 7
Year 2 Regions 2, 5, 8
Year 3 Regions 3, 6, 9

The 2023 Spring Regional Meeting begins the rotating sequence as Year 1. Current regional directors will serve until the next regional director's term begins.

Section 5.7 Alternate Regional Directors. Commissioners shall be elected as Alternate Regional Directors by commissioners present at the spring regional meeting for a one (1) year term and begin such term on April 1 of that year. Another commissioner may be elected as a second alternate director in each region for a one (1) year term.

Section 5.8 Duties of Directors and Alternate Directors.

- A. Regional Director. The regional director shall be a voting member of the board of directors and shall perform duties as assigned by the board of directors.
- B. Alternate Regional Director. The alternate regional director shall perform the duties of the regional director when he/she is absent or unable to serve.

C. Second Alternate Regional Director. The second alternate regional director, if elected by the region, shall perform the duties of the regional director and/or alternate regional director when he/she is absent or unable to serve.

Section 5.9 Vacancy in Regional Director Positions. In the event that a regional director cannot complete his/her term, the alternate regional director will fill the position until the next regional meeting. At such time, there will be a regional election to fill the unexpired term of the vacant regional director position.

Section 5.10 Vacancy in Alternate Regional Director Position. In the event of a vacancy for any reason in the alternate regional director position, the position will be filled at the next regional meeting of active members.

Section 5.11 Voting. Active Members in their respective regions will have one (1) vote per member present at the regional meeting.

ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 6.1 Number. There shall be offices of president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, and treasurer. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined into one office at the discretion of the board of directors.

Section 6.2 Nominating Committee for President and Vice President. The president shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three (3) active members whose duties shall be to select a candidate or candidates for president and vice president. The immediate past president shall chair the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall present a report at the first general session of the annual business meeting. Any elected commissioner may nominate any elected commissioner for the offices of president and/or vice president. Self-nomination is allowed. Such nominees shall be placed on a ballot as a candidate for president and/or vice president. Candidates for president and vice president shall be elected or appointed commissioners who are members of the Association.

Section 6.3 Election of President and Vice President. The president and vice president of this Association shall be elected annually by the members at an annual business meeting of the Association. Voting for president and for vice president shall be by ballot, and the persons receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. Write-in candidates are allowed. In the case of a tie between the candidates, the voting shall continue until one (1) candidate receives a majority. In the case of a tie between the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes, the voting shall continue until one (1) candidate receives a majority. If there is only one candidate for the office, the ballot may be dispensed with by unanimous consent, and the chair will declare the candidate elected by acclamation.

Section 6.4 Conditions of Terms for Officers. The president and vice president of the Association shall serve as officers of the board of directors. The secretary and the treasurer or the secretary-treasurer shall be elected by the board of directors. Each officer shall serve a one-year term starting from the adjournment of the annual conference they were elected at to the end of the next annual conference. The president or the vice president shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in that office. Assistant commissioners are not eligible to serve as officers of the Association.

Section 6.5 Duties of Officers.

- A. President. The president of this organization shall be the executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the members and the meetings of the board of directors. The president may vote in ballot votes and may vote to affect the outcome of other votes (raised hands, voice vote, for example) to create or break a tie, or to affect a 2/3 vote. The president shall appoint members to standing and special committees. The president will serve as an ex officio member on all committees except the nominating committee and shall count toward quorum for those committees. The president has full voting rights on the committees he/she serves on.
- B. Vice President. The vice president shall assume the duties of the president when the president is absent or unable to serve and perform such other duties as, from time to time, may be assigned to him/her by the president.
- C. Immediate Past President. The immediate past president shall serve on the executive committee, chair the nominating committee, chair the audit committee, chair the silent auction at annual conference, and serve as chair of the CDI Past Presidents' Council.
- D. Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer. The secretary or secretary/treasurer shall conduct such correspondence as the president, the executive committee or the board of directors may direct; shall keep the corporate records and act as secretary of the meetings of the board of directors, the executive committee and the annual or special meetings of the members; and shall give or cause to be given, all notices required to be given by these bylaws.
- E. Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer. The treasurer or secretary/treasurer shall keep account of all monies, funds, and property of the association and report annually all receipts and disbursements; shall receive funds or make payment of funds as directed by the board of directors; shall give bonds satisfactory to the board of directors; and shall obtain and keep current appropriate communication with the Internal Revenue Service and shall provide to the Internal Revenue Service those records which are deemed necessary to perpetuate the non-tax status of the association.

Section 6.6 Compensation. The president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, treasurer, regional directors, and alternate regional directors shall serve without compensation. Travel and other expenses shall be paid to them, however, as determined by the board of directors.

ARTICLE VII Board of Directors

Section 7.1 General Powers. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by its board of directors.

- A. Section 7.2 Board Composition. The board of directors of the Association shall consist of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past president, and one (1) director from each region. No member may hold more than one position entitling him/her to membership on the board of directors. The board of directors of the corporation shall not number less than three nor exceed twenty. The commissioner appointed by the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture to represent commissioners on the State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the board. Additionally, the Division Director for Soil Conservation and Water Quality at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) shall also serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the board.

Section 7.3 Vacancies.

- A. In the event that a vacancy on the board of directors is created by resignation, death, or failure of the regional director to be elected as a commissioner in his/her Soil and Water Conservation District, such vacancy shall be filled by the alternate regional director.
- B. If there is not an active alternate regional director or a second alternate regional director, then the board of directors of this Association shall name a commissioner within that region to serve until the next regional meeting at which time, an election of a new regional director to complete the unexpired term will be held.
- C. A vacancy in the position of vice president or past president will not be filled until the next annual business meeting.

Section 7.4 Meetings. The board of directors shall have regular meetings at such time and place as it determines necessary to conduct the business of this Association. Business may be conducted in person or by email, telephone, or other electronic means.

Section 7.5 Quorum. A majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum with the majority vote of those directors present and voting being decisive in the transaction of business. (Approved 08.25.2025)

Section 7.6 Voting. Each member of the board of directors present shall have one (1) vote in a transaction of business.

Section 7.7 Executive Committee. The president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, and treasurer constitute an executive committee. The committee shall have and exercise the authority of the board in the management of the business of the Association in intervals between meetings of the board and shall be subject at all times to the direction of the board of directors.

Section 7.8 Power.

- A. The board of directors shall have the power to authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Association in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any such instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.
- B. The board of directors may accept on behalf of the Association any contribution, gifts, bequests, or device for any purpose for the Association.
- C. The board of directors shall have the power to employ personnel and to acquire and own equipment as it deems necessary to carry out its functions.
- D. The board of directors shall have the power to enter into contracts with interested groups and agencies for the betterment and the purpose for which the Association is created.

Section 7.9 Personnel. It shall be the duty of the executive director and/or Association staff to carry out the goals and objectives of the Association. The president of the Association will determine the priority of duties to be assigned.

ARTICLE VIII Committees

Section 8.1 Standing Committees. The board of directors by resolution adopted by the directors in office may designate one or more standing committees. Each committee shall consist of one or more regional directors and may include alternate regional directors, and/or any other active members of the Association.

Section 8.2 Special Committees. Special committees may be designated by a majority vote of the directors present at a meeting. Members of each such committee shall be active members of the Association appointed by the president.

ARTICLE IX

Finance

Section 9.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of each year.

Section 9.2 Audit. The president shall appoint an audit committee to audit the books and accounts of the Association once each year. The president shall appoint the immediate past president to serve as chair plus two (2) commissioners who are not serving as board members to this audit committee. Alternatively, an accredited accounting firm may be directed to audit the books of the Association. The financial status of the Association will be presented at the annual business meeting. Districts may request a copy of the annual audit and the IRS Form 990 be sent to them when completed by the accountant.

Section 9.3 Budget. The president shall appoint a budget committee comprised of the treasurer of the Association, who will serve as chair, and three (3) board members who shall prepare a budget for the fiscal year for approval by the board of directors; shall submit it to the Association for ratification at the annual business meeting; and, as necessary submit supplements to the budget for the current fiscal year to the board of directors.

Section 9.4 Order of Business. The proceedings of the Association shall be conducted under and pursuant to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, except as herein otherwise provided.

Section 9.5 Place of Business. The principal business center for the Association shall be the office of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, State of Iowa.

Section 9.6 Depository and Signatures. The funds of the Association shall be kept in a federally insured depository designated by the board of directors. The signature of the president, vice president, treasurer, and executive director shall be on file on signature cards with the designated depository.

Section 9.7 Exemption of Private Property. The private property of the officers and members of this corporation shall not be liable for the debts or liabilities of this corporation but shall be exempt therefrom.

Section 9.8 Stock. This corporation shall have no stock. It shall be comprised of members rather than shareholders. No dividends shall be declared nor shall any distribution of property be made among members.

Section 9.9 Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the Association or in the event it shall cease to carry out its purpose, all business, property, and assets of this corporation shall be distributed equally among the 100 chartered Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

ARTICLE X Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern the Association and its board of directors in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

ARTICLE XI Affiliated Organizations

Section 11.1 CDI Auxiliary. There can be established as an affiliated organization, the Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, DBA CDI Auxiliary.

- A. The objective of this affiliated organization is to provide a basis for the effective utilization of the skills and energies of the members of the CDI Auxiliary in support of the purposes and activities of the Association. To this end, the CDI Auxiliary may engage in such educational, promotional, and public relations activities as will further the purposes, policies, and activities of this Association.

Section 11.2 CDI Past Presidents' Council. There can be established, as an affiliated organization, the Past Presidents' Council of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, DBA CDI Past Presidents' Council.

- A. The objective of the affiliated organization is to provide a basis for the effective utilization of the talents and experience of the members of the CDI Past Presidents in support of the purposes and objectives of this Association. To this end, the CDI Past Presidents may engage in such activities as will further the purposes, policies, and activities of this Association.
- B. This Council shall include all past presidents of the Association and shall serve as an advisory council to the board of directors. The outgoing president shall serve as chair until the term of the current CDI president expires. When the current CDI president's term expires, he/she will then serve as chair.

ARTICLE XII

Policy Statements - Resolutions Review

Annually, the board of directors will review policy statements and adopted resolutions that are five years and older. The board of directors will make recommendations to either update the language and/or renew the policy statements and/or resolutions or to archive policy statements and/or resolutions that have already been accomplished or are no longer relevant. These recommendations will be sent to districts with preconference resolution voting, a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the annual business meeting. During the annual business meeting, the members present will vote whether or not to adopt the recommendations made by the board of directors to the policy statements – resolutions.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the 100 Soil and Water Conservation District offices thirty (30) days prior to the annual business meeting.

CDI is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate on any basis against any individual or group.

Approved Bylaws Amendments

December 13, 2001 No record available.

June 2011 to reflect amendment to Article VI Officers, Section 6.4 to change the beginning of term date to January 1 of each year.

September 4, 2014 to reflect amendment to Article V Regions, Section 5.6 to state that Regional Directors shall now be elected at Spring Regional Meetings with term beginning April 1.

July 7, 2017 to reflect amendment to Article V Regions, Section 5.7 to state that Alternate Regional Directors shall now be elected at Spring Regional Meetings with term beginning April 1.

September 10, 2018 to reflect change to Article VI Officers, Section 6.4 to state that terms of newly elected officers begins at the end of the annual conference in which they were elected.

August 22, 2022 to add Article III Membership, Section 3.2 Affiliate Non-voting Member; to remove calendar years in Article V Regions, Section 5.6 Regional Directors; Article VI Officers, Section 6.4 Assistant commissioners are not eligible to serve as officers of the Association; Section 6.5 Duties of Officers, Item C, Immediate Past President; to clean up sentence structures and grammatical errors throughout document.

August 25, 2025 made minor grammatical and added clarifying words to Sections 3.1, 3.5, 6.2, 6.5 and 7.5. In Section 6.3 unanimous consent provision was added to replace the ballot, if there is only one candidate for the office. In Section 7.2, added two new non-voting ex officio members to the board.