



RESOLUTIONS 101

METRO MAWD MEETING

JULY 17, 2018

EMILY JAVENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMPONENTS OF A RESOLUTION



TITLE
reflects the intent



WHEREAS STATEMENTS
provide the rationale



RESOLVED STATEMENTS
identify specific actions

WHEREAS STATEMENTS SHOULD...

- briefly identify the problem
- provide the rationale for the "resolved" course of action
- lead the reader to your conclusion (resolved)
- be factual rather than speculative
- provide or reference statistics whenever possible
- advise the timeliness or urgency of the problem, the effect of the issue

RESOLVED STATEMENTS SHOULD...

- contain an actionable request
- make sense when read alone
- represent a policy that will be adopted
 - “MAWD supports...”
 - “MAWD opposes...”
 - ~~“MAWD will...”~~
- be a single sentence in length

“NOT SO GREAT” RESOLUTION #1

XYZ will immediately engage the new LMNOP Administration to make them aware of the difficulties that mission support is causing and will work with them until the issues can be resolved.

What's not so great about this resolution?

“COULD BE BETTER” RESOLUTION #2

XYZ will seek national legislation that dedicates 50% of the revenues received from federal oil and gas leases to the funding of soil and water conservation programs within USDA. (1982)

How could this be made better?

COULD BE BETTER RESOLUTION #2

XYZ supports ~~will seek national legislation that dedicates 50% of the revenues received from federal oil and gas leases to the~~ dedicated funding for soil and water conservation programs coming ~~with revenues from federal oil and gas lease revenues.~~ ~~within USDA.~~

“IS THIS REALLY A RESOLUTION?” #3

NACD encourages Congress to contact and request the Secretary of the USDA, DOI, and DHS to immediately address the border fence issue by developing and implementing a plan to maintain existing fence, replace ineffective fences and fence the remaining miles of border between border states and Mexico.

Does this have anything to do with us?



“THIS WORKED WELL!” RESOLUTION #4 - TITLE

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Support
in the 2018 Federal Farm Bill**



RESOLUTION #4 – WHEREAS STATEMENTS

WHEREAS Congress presently is preparing the 2018 federal Farm Bill, which will contain a conservation title with appropriations for federal conservation programs for agricultural lands including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);

WHEREAS the CRP is a principal federal/state conservation program for agricultural lands but enrollments are presently at the federal acreage cap

RESOLUTION #4 – WHEREAS STATEMENTS

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota has been a leader in developing and implementing approaches that maintain agricultural productivity while integrating conservation practices for water quality and habitat benefit, and has shown its commitment through its constitutional mandate for conservation spending and other state and local appropriations for water quality and habitat purposes

RESOLUTION #4 – RESOLVED STATEMENT

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, MAWD supports a strong CRP element in the Farm Bill conservation title, including but not limited to CRP reauthorization with an increased acreage cap, maintenance of continuous signup for high value environmental practices such as buffers and wetland restoration, maintenance or expansion of the grasslands program, and removal of restrictions on incorporation of drainage water quality management practices, while maintaining other successful federal conservation programs for agricultural lands such as EQIP and CSP.

Help Sen Smith Make the Next Farm Bill Work for Minnesota

As you know, a thriving farm economy and strong rural communities are vital to Minnesota's way of life. That's why U.S. Sen. Tina Smith fought for and won a seat on the Senate Agriculture Committee. In the past several weeks she has met with Minnesota farmers, farm leaders and rural and agribusinesses. As we move into this year's important Farm Bill debate, she plans to push Minnesota priorities. But first, she would like to hear from you and your organization about what you want those priorities to be.

Please take a moment to complete the below questionnaire.

1. What is the biggest change you would want to see in the Farm Bill?

The MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), a non-profit group that represents Minnesota's 45 local governments, passed the following resolution in December 2017:

MAWD "supports a strong CRP element in the Farm Bill conservation title, including but not limited to CRP reauthorization with an increased acreage cap, maintenance of continuous signup for high value environmental practices such as buffers and wetland restoration, maintenance or expansion of the grasslands program, and removal of restrictions on incorporation of drainage water quality management practices, while maintaining other successful federal conservation programs for agricultural lands such as EQIP and CSP."

2. What is the biggest change you would be concerned about in the Farm Bill?

3. What USDA programs are working, and why?

"Minnesota has been a leader in developing and implementing approaches that maintain agricultural productivity while integrating conservation practices for water quality and habitat benefit and has shown its commitment through its constitutional mandate for conservation spending and other state and local appropriations for water quality and habitat purposes. CRP is a principal federal/state conservation program for agricultural lands, but enrollments are presently at the federal acreage cap."

4. What USDA programs are not working, and suggestions for improvement?

5. General Comments:

Feel free to contact us at any time if we can be of assistance.
Emily Javens, Executive Director, exec.mawd@gmail.com, 320-979-0084 (mobile)

Thank you for holding listening sessions across Minnesota to get feedback from stakeholders on the next Farm Bill. It is very much appreciated!



APPROVED MAWD RESOLUTION 2017-03 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Support in the 2018 Federal Farm Bill

WHEREAS Congress presently is preparing the 2018 federal Farm Bill, which will contain a conservation title with appropriations for federal conservation programs for agricultural lands including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota has been a leader in developing and implementing approaches that maintain agricultural productivity while integrating conservation practices for water quality and habitat benefit, and has shown its commitment through its constitutional mandate for conservation spending and other state and local appropriations for water quality and habitat purposes;

WHEREAS the CRP is a principal federal/state conservation program for agricultural lands but enrollments are presently at the federal acreage cap;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts supports a strong CRP element in the Farm Bill conservation title, including but not limited to CRP reauthorization with an increased acreage cap, maintenance of continuous signup for high value environmental practices such as buffers and wetland restoration, maintenance or expansion of the grasslands program, and removal of restrictions on incorporation of drainage water quality management practices, while maintaining other successful federal conservation programs for agricultural lands such as EQIP and CSP;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MAWD will coordinate with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture and others to advocate to and work with the State's Congressional delegation and other federal representatives to achieve this policy goal.

Approved December 2, 2017



WRITING TIP #1

**KEEP IT
POSITIVE!**

(DON'T WANT TO
DAMAGE CRUCIAL
PARTNERSHIPS)



WRITING TIP #2

**BE CAREFUL
WHEN
INSERTING
NUMERIC
THRESHOLDS.**

(DON'T WANT TO
LIMIT PROGRESS)

MAWD RESOLUTIONS IMPACTED BY NUMBERS

Increase manager's per diem to \$100 per day.

→ MASWCD has a resolution to increase manager per diem to \$150/day

Increase general levy cap to \$500,000.

→ One legislator said he would support an inflationary increase to \$350,000

→ What if we could eliminate the cap altogether and just use the max %?



WRITING TIP #3

**STATE THE END
GOAL, NOT HOW
TO DO THE
WORK.**

**(DON'T WANT TO
LIMIT SOLUTIONS)**

MAWD RESOLUTIONS IMPACTED BY DIRECTION

Amend open meeting law to allow managers to attend meetings electronically.

→ Better solution may be administrative rather than legislative.



WRITING TIP #4

**KEEP IT RELATED
TO OUR MISSION**

(DON'T WANT TO
WATER DOWN OUR
EFFORTS AND
CONFUSE OTHERS
ABOUT OUR
MISSION)



TIPS FOR PASSAGE

1. PROMOTE YOUR
IDEAS WITH OTHER
WATERSHEDS.

2. TALK TO COUNTIES,
SWCDS TO SEE IF THEY
WOULD WRITE A
SIMILAR RESOLUTION.

3. SEND THEM TO
OTHERS FOR REVIEW.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

JULY – RESOLUTION PACKETS WILL BE SENT OUT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER – DISTRICTS DISCUSS AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS AT WD MEETINGS

OCTOBER – RESOLUTIONS DUE TO MAWD OFFICE BY OCTOBER 1ST

– RESOLUTIONS/POLICY COMMITTEE WILL MEET TO REVIEW RESOLUTIONS

- Committee discusses resolutions, makes recommendations for passage
- Committee can throw out resolutions that are duplicative of existing policy
- Committee can direct staff to work with WDs to combine similar resolutions into one

NOVEMBER – DISCUSS AT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

VOTING TO TAKE PLACE AT ANNUAL CONVENTION (NOV 29 - DEC 1)



QUESTIONS?

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