2026 CACD Resolutions Summary

2026 CACD Policy Book

Resolutions Passed by Resource Committees Unanimously- Consent Calendar

These resolutions will appear on the Consent Calendar at the Membership Meeting.

Title of Resolution:	**Resolution Requesting Revisions to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grazing Management Policies**
Policy:	**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District respectfully requests that the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) submit this resolution to the Colorado State Technical Committee and/or NACD for consideration of revisions to current Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) management policies to be included in future Farm Bill legislation that would allow more frequent managed grazing, including grazing opportunities approximately every three years where appropriate, in a manner that promotes rangeland health, maintains and enhances wildlife habitat, reduces excessive fuel loads that contribute to wildfire risk, and does not unnecessarily penalize participating producers.
District Submitting:	Branson-Trinchera CD
Submitted as:	**Action Item**
Committee Action:	**Passed unanimously as written (Soil & Land Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Resolutions Passed by Resource Committees, Amended or Not Unanimous

Title of Resolution:	**SUPPORTING AGRIVOLTAICS AND AGRICULTURAL USE ON AGRICULTURAL-ZONED SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS**
Policy:	The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts supports the inclusion of agricultural or conservation-based land management practices as an important part of solar energy developments located on agriculturally zoned land. Furthermore, CACD encourages counties, municipalities, developers, landowners, and relevant agencies to incorporate agrivoltaic practices defined as the integration of solar energy generation facilities with agricultural activities and to include appropriate and beneficial livestock stocking rate, into the planning and operation of solar developments on agriculturally zoned lands.
District Submitting:	El Paso CD
Submitted as:	New Policy Item
Committee Action:	**Motion passed unanimously as amended (Energy Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Resolution to Support Local Control of Land Use Planning in Agricultural and Rural Communities**
Policy:	**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts supports the principle that land use planning and decision-making should remain at the local level, led by county governments, municipalities, local conservation districts, and private landowners; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CACD opposes state-level policies or mandates that preempt local authority over land use planning, zoning, and agricultural land management; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CACD encourages the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and the Colorado General Assembly to recognize and uphold local control in land use decisions affecting agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CACD supports collaborative, locally driven planning processes that balance growth, conservation, agricultural production, and private property rights in a manner appropriate to each region of the state.
District Submitting:	Yuma County CD
Submitted as:	New Policy Item
Committee Action:	**Passed unanimously as edited**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Community and Landowner Engagement for Data Center Development**
Policy:	Colorado Association of Conservation Districts shall provide support to Conservation Districts to develop and adopt a suggested format of soil and water conservation practices for adoption by counties and towns as an application procedure requirement concerning data centers, battery storage, and commercial and industrial developments within conservation district boundaries by having conservation districts as a reviewer in pre-application, general meetings, and community meetings during the development period. Conservation Districts shall receive guidance from CACD on how to engage with their local planning and zoning committees and be included in the review and approval of proposed assessments and land use changes.
District Submitting:	White River/Douglas Creek CDs
Submitted as:	**Action Item**
Committee Action:	**Passed unanimously as edited (Soil & Land Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Reduce the timeline for cultural resources reviews for EQIP infrastructure installations**
Policy:	Deer Trail Conservation District is requesting that CACD work with NACD to advocate for NRCS to increase capacity, review requirements for third-party qualifications, and streamline the process for cultural resource reviews for EQIP infrastructure installation from a 12-18-month window to 6 months from obligation of the contract.
District Submitting:	Deer Trail CD
Submitted as:	**Action Item**
Committee Action:	**Passed unanimously as edited (Soil & Land use Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Resolution to Protect Colorado's Water and Natural Resources from Data Center Development**
Policy:	**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) supports responsible data center development that protects Colorado's water resources, productive agricultural lands, and natural resources; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that CACD supports requiring large-scale data centers seeking state incentives or approvals to demonstrate an adequate, reliable, and sustainable long-term water supply, including during drought; disclose anticipated and actual water demand, water source, consumptive use, cooling technology, and cumulative impacts; and, where groundwater is proposed, provide appropriate groundwater-impact analysis and monitoring; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CACD encourages direct-to-chip, closed-loop, dry cooling, water reuse, and other technologies that minimize consumptive freshwater use while recognizing that water-efficient technology does not eliminate the need to evaluate the sustainability of the facility's total water demand; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CACD opposes state incentives for large-scale data centers when the water supply would result in significant permanent dry-up of productive agricultural lands, unreasonable groundwater depletion, impairment of interstate compact obligations, or significant adverse impacts to existing water users or natural resources; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CACD supports consideration of regional and cumulative water impacts, meaningful consultation with affected Conservation Districts, Watershed Associations, agricultural water users, and neighboring communities, and preservation of local government authority to regulate or deny data center development based upon water availability, land use, and natural resource impacts. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** Paper water is not equivalent to wet water. Paper water is the legal right, permit, or accounting claim stating how much water an entity is allowed to use. Wet water is the physical, liquid water that can actually be pumped, drunk, used for farming, or run through a faucet.
District Submitting:	Washington County CD
Submitted as:	**New Policy item**
Committee Action:	**Motion passed as amended (Water Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Resolution Supporting Comprehensive Review and Local Participation in proposed Instream Flows**
Policy:	CACD supports the inclusion of all relevant data within the catchment of the nearest gauging station and historical data to inform minimum flows that vary by season, rather than imposing a single static flow. In-Stream Flow (ISF) rights should preserve reasonable opportunities for existing and future agricultural ditches, stock tanks, ponds, diversion improvements, and emergency water storage, subject to applicable water law.
District Submitting:	White River and Douglas Creek CD
Submitted as:	**New Policy item**
Committee Action:	**Motion passed as amended (Water Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Resolution to Add Shade Balls into Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) EQUIP Program as a Conservation Practice (NACD)**
Policy:	The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) will introduce a resolution to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to add rhombus shade balls into the Natural Resource Conservation Service EQIP as a conservation practice for landowners to address water conservation and water quality.
District Submitting:	*Branson-Trinchera CD*
Submitted as:	**Action item**
Committee Action:	**Motion passed as amended (Water Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**Resolution to Add Shade Balls into Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) EQUIP Program as a Conservation Practice (STAC)**
Policy:	The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) will introduce a resolution to the Colorado State Technical Advisory Committee and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to add rhombus shade balls into the Natural Resource Conservation Service EQIP as a conservation practice for landowners to address water conservation and water quality.
District Submitting:	*Branson-Trinchera CD*
Submitted as:	**Action item**
Committee Action:	**Motion passed as amended (Water Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Resolutions Failed in Resource Committee

Title of Resolution:	**Community and Landowner Engagement for Data Center Development**
Policy:	Colorado Association of Conservation Districts shall provide support to Conservation Districts to develop and adopt a suggested format of soil and water conservation practices for adoption by counties and towns as an application procedure requirement concerning data centers, battery storage, and commercial and industrial developments within conservation district boundaries by having conservation districts as a reviewer in pre-application, general meetings, and community meetings during the development period. Conservation Districts shall receive guidance from CACD on how to engage with their local planning and zoning committees and be included in the review and approval of proposed assessments and land use changes.
District Submitting:	White River/Douglas Creek CDs
Submitted as:	**Policy Item**
Committee Action:	**Defeated Unanimously (Soil & Land Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Emergency Resolutions

Title of Resolution:	**Conservation Districts Serving as Referring Agency on County Planning of Renewable Energy Projects**
Policy:	CACD will write a formal request letter to all 64 counties across Colorado requesting that the local Conservation District be added to the County's referring agency list and be allowed the opportunity to provide input on proposed renewable energy installations where they are not already included in this process. CACD will reference state statutes in the letter.
District Submitting:	CACD
Submitted as:	New Action Item
Committee Action:	**Motion passed unanimously as amended (Energy Committee)**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	**CACD 2027 Annual District Dues Proposal to Membership**
Policy:	Therefore, be it resolved that the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts 2027 Annual District Membership dues shall be $1,500.00. CACD will offer five (5) joint dues opportunities for two (2) conservation districts to join together, each responsible for a $750 dues payment, for one (1) full voting membership.
District Submitting:	CACD
Submitted as:	Policy Amendment
Committee Action:	**6 in favor, 1 opposed, motion passes**
Membership Action:	

Title of Resolution:	CRP Payments After Haying Practice
Policy:	Be it resolved that the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts encourage Farm Service Agency to remove the one-third payment deduction for the practice of haying on Conservation Reserve Program acreage.
District Submitting:	CACD
Submitted as:	Action Item
Committee Action:	**in favor, opposed, motion passes**
Membership Action:	