

COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

The five members of the county conservation board are a decision-making and policy-making body appointed by each county board of supervisors. The board's authority includes the acquisition and development of land, adoption of rules and regulations, comprehensive planning of an overall county conservation board program and specific site plans for individual areas. Other functions of the board include hiring an executive director and staff, developing a budget, and working with other governmental subdivisions to provide programs for the public.

The primary consideration of the board should be to provide a balanced conservation, recreation, and education program to the citizens of the county through proper planning and identification of needs and demands. The county conservation board can be the primary county agency dealing with natural resource issues in its county.

I. CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Interested in current conservation and environmental issues. Willing to stay informed and expand knowledge and training on conservation topics
- B. Not hesitant to accept responsibility
- C. Accepts leadership role or leadership from others. Chairperson leadership skills (Roberts Rules of Order)
- D. Accepts and allocates responsibility
- E. Skilled in interpersonal relations
- F. Understands concepts involved with making and carrying out policies
- G. Recognizes the need for developing short and long-term goals and plans
- H. Possesses foresight for making planning decisions
- I. Maintains professional contacts
- J. Commitment of time (more than just 12 board meetings). In addition, should be required to attend state and/or local orientation session(s) to learn his/her role as a conservation board member
- K. Ability to understand role as board member, which includes:
 - a. Hiring competent, professional director
 - b. Willingness to allow the director to advise the board
 - c. Willingness to allow the director to conduct normal duties and responsibilities unencumbered by an over-protective, controlling board
 - d. Ability to objectively evaluate staff recommendations and desire to welcome such
 - e. Knowing chain of command within staff and allowing that process to work without interference
- L. Ability to deal effectively with the public
- M. Ability to deal effectively with other boards, commissions, committees, etc., in all levels of government and private sector
- N. Willingness to volunteer
- O. Knowledge of or willingness to learn public finance and government structure

Source: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards