

MACD Resolutions Process and Timeline

Updates approved by MACD Board 6-7-2023. Links updated 5-11-2026

Three types of Resolutions

1. **Policy Statements.** Resolutions to guide advocacy and legislative activity for MACD.
2. **Legislation Directives.** Resolutions that become bills for legislative advocacy and support.
3. **National Directives.** Resolutions for submission to NACD for consideration for support of regional and/or national initiatives.

Links to Submit Resolutions via Google Forms (2025 Updated)

CLICK HERE FOR: [Policy Resolution Format](#)

CLICK HERE FOR: [Legislative Resolution Format](#)

CLICK HERE FOR: [National Resolution Format](#)

→ *MACD Resolutions webpage:* [Click here](#)

Resolution Timeline

1. **April:** Call for resolutions goes out from MACD.
2. **Prior to August:** Local district boards in good standing write, review, and pass resolutions. District Boards are encouraged to reach out to the Resolutions and Policy Committee, MACD staff, and partners (DNRC, NRCS, etc.) for advice/assistance/expertise while drafting resolutions.
3. **By August 15:** Resolutions passed by districts must be submitted to MACD.
 - a. Resolutions will be sent out “as is” immediately to all districts, with a note that they are under review by the Resolution and Policy Committee (and subcommittees) and that committee comments and recommendations are forthcoming.
 - b. If any district is in the process of drafting a resolution and cannot make the August 15th deadline, they may contact the Executive Director (prior to August 15th) to receive an extension.
4. **Aug. 15 - Sept 1:** The Resolution and Policy Committee forwards all resolutions to the corresponding sub-committee.
 - a. The sub-committees review resolutions for grammar, clarity, pre-existing policy or resolutions, financial feasibility, availability of resources, timeline, and any legal questions/concerns. If necessary, resolutions will be sent to the DNRC/CDB lawyer for review. This process should happen as quickly as possible. These subcommittees may contact the sponsoring district to recommend changes. These changes can be accepted by that district immediately (if the district chooses) or sent out as proposed amendments to consider at Area Meetings.

- b. *Please note:* Sub-committees can work on these resolutions before the August 15th deadline and submitted to MACD earlier. It is recommended that districts submit resolutions ahead of the deadline - particularly those that are significant, complicated, or controversial. This will allow more time for the subcommittee to work with the sponsoring district on questions of legality, feasibility, etc.
5. **Sept. 1 (Sept. 15 at the latest):** All resolutions and sub-committee comments (incl. recommended changes/amendments and sponsoring CDs) are then sent out to the appropriate MACD area for consideration. A courtesy copy of submitted resolutions will be sent out to all districts. At this time, incomplete resolutions, as determined by the sub-committee, will be tabled and not forwarded to Districts or moved to Area Meetings for consideration.
 6. **Area Meetings: Districts vote on resolutions from within their Area (End of Sept. and beginning of Oct.):** During Area Meetings, resolutions are reviewed and voted on (pass, fail, amend) in the Area that contains the sponsoring district. (Ex. A resolution from Beaverhead CD will only be voted on during the Area 6 Meeting). Each district in good standing will be able to cast a single vote on each motion.
 7. **Within a week of the last Area Meeting:** The Resolutions and Policy Sub-committees will review resolutions for any significant changes made at Area Meetings and note discussion points and recommendations for consideration during the Convention. Resolutions that pass at Area Meetings, along with subcommittee comments/recommendations, are sent out to the entire membership by MACD.
 8. **Convention: Resolution Discussion/Debate and Preliminary Vote (1):** Sub-committees (either individually or as a group) meet to discuss, get membership input, and answer questions. MACD Membership will vote on recommendations of 'do pass,' 'pass as amended,' or 'do not pass.' *One vote per district in good standing present.*
 - Amendments may not alter the original intent of resolutions. Any district in good standing can propose an amendment.
 - If a resolution receives a vote of 'do not pass' during this discussion, it will not be automatically forwarded to the Business Meeting.
 9. **Convention: Final Vote during Annual MACD Business Meeting (2):** Resolutions that passed through subcommittee and membership discussion are forwarded to the entire MACD membership for a vote. *One vote per district in good standing.*
 - The debate should have taken place the prior day. Short presentations by the resolution sponsors will be offered.
 - A motion and second may be made to bring to the floor any resolutions that did not pass the prior day. This requires a 2/3 vote of the MACD districts present and in good standing.
 10. **Prioritization:** After the Convention, the MACD Board will determine overall resolution priorities (new and those currently active) for the upcoming year. The Board shall consider insight from MACD Committees, staff, and partners; the overall political climate; and MACD organizational capacity.
 11. **Tracking and Monitoring:** MACD will track actions on resolutions on the MACD member site. Sponsoring conservation districts are required to continue to have a substantial and active role in the implementation of a resolution. This role includes, but is not limited to: collaborating with MACD, specific advocacy actions, and providing testimony at the legislature.

New policy issues that emerge between Area Meetings and Convention.

Urgent and Emerging Issue Resolutions:

'Urgent and Emerging Issue Resolutions' should be used sparingly and only for new or developing topics or situations of high priority to all conservation districts and that have emerged between Area Meetings and Convention.

These ‘Urgent and Emerging Issue Resolutions’ can follow any of the three outlined forms (Legislative, Policy, National) and should be submitted to the Resolutions and Policy Committee at least one week prior to the start of the MACD Convention. The resolution will be submitted to the appropriate subcommittee for review and discussion during the Convention. The MACD Executive Committee has the authority to determine if a resolution meets the standard of an ‘Urgent and Emerging Resolution.’

Legislative Activity after Convention and During Session

Urgent policy issues not addressed in existing resolutions or the MACD policy book.

During the legislative session, the Legislative and Advocacy Committee has the authority to make decisions on legislative bills, appointments, or other issues that clearly align or are in opposition to conservation district priorities. In those cases, MACD will testify ‘in support of’ or ‘in opposition to’ respectively. The Legislative and Advocacy Committee may also recommend MACD appear as ‘informational.’

Furthermore, the MACD Board has the authority to make decisions in the case of more complicated issues. If timing allows, the board can ask the appropriate subcommittee to provide advice or a recommendation. If the board feels an issue is very contentious, the board can choose to send the issue to districts for a vote/poll or refrain from making a decision.

Process for Making Operational Changes or Requests

Recommendations for operational changes do not need a resolution and membership approval.

1. **Submitting a proposal.** If a district wants to suggest a change to MACD operations or make a proposal, the suggestion should be submitted in writing to the MACD Executive Director by September 1st so any actions may be included in the annual operational plan.
2. **MACD Impact.** Staff will investigate the operational impact of the proposal and determine costs and budget impact.
3. **Executive Committee Review.** The proposal along with corresponding operational impact information will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and determination of its congruence with the current strategic plan and operational priorities.
4. **Executive Committee Authority.** The Executive Committee has the authority to decide to move the proposal forward, if it needs more study, to postpone a proposal until resources are available, or to table the proposal.

If the Executive Committee determines that the proposal is not feasible, or needs to be delayed, it will not move forward for board consideration at this time. However, the proposal and reasoning will be included in the Executive Committee minutes.

5. **Board Review.** If the Executive Committee determines that MACD has the resources and capacity to implement the proposal it will be forwarded to the board for consideration, discussion, and vote for approval.
6. **Reporting.**
 - a. **Sponsoring Districts.** Sponsoring districts will be advised of the status (and reasoning) of all proposals after Executive Committee or Board consideration.
 - b. **Membership.** Membership will receive a report from MACD each year of all Operational Proposals presented. Potential impact and proposal status (move forward, delay, not feasible).