

SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY DIVISION[27]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 27—Chapter 1
“State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 161A
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 161A.4A

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 14, 2026
9 to 10 a.m.

Borlaug Conference Room
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Soil Conservation and Water Quality Division no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: colin.tadlock@iowaagriculture.gov

Purpose and Summary

The proposed rulemaking establishes the operation of the State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee within the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and farmer representation regions by county for the Committee. This proposed rulemaking combines the content of 27—Chapters 1 and 2 into a single chapter. 27—Chapter 2 is proposed to be rescinded in a concurrent rulemaking (RA 26-108, IAB 6/24/26).

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

• **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

No costs are incurred by the public to comply with this proposed rulemaking.

• **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

This proposed rulemaking will not provide an additional benefit to any persons. This is simply an editorial change to streamline the chapters applicable to the State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:

• **Quantitative description of impact:**

There will be no significant impact associated with this proposed rulemaking.

• **Qualitative description of impact:**

There will be no significant impact associated with this proposed rulemaking.

3. Costs to the State:

● **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

There will be no associated costs borne by the agency or other agencies.

● **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There will be no effect on State revenues in association with this proposed rulemaking.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

Not applicable.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

Not applicable.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

● **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

Not applicable.

● **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

This change is editorial in nature, and no other alternatives were explored.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

● Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

● Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

● Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

● Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

● Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

This proposed rulemaking will have no impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 27—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

27—1.1(161A) Scope.

1.1(1) This chapter governs the conduct of business by the state soil conservation and water quality committee.

1.1(2) This chapter delineates the regional boundaries from which the six farmer members of the state soil conservation and water quality committee shall be appointed. The three members representing the mining industry, cities and towns, and tree farming shall be selected from the state at large.

PART 1
OPERATION OF STATE SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

27—1.2(161A) Time of meetings. The committee meets quarterly. The chairperson or a majority of the committee may establish meetings at more frequent intervals.

27—1.3(161A) Place of meetings. Meetings are held in the Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa, or at other locations as appropriate. The meeting place will be specified in the agenda.

27—1.4(161A) Notification of meetings. The director of the soil conservation and water quality division shall provide public notice of all meeting dates, locations, and tentative agenda.

1.4(1) Form of notice. Notice of meetings is given by posting the tentative agenda and by distribution upon request. The agenda lists the time, date, place, and topics to be discussed at the meeting. The agenda shall include an opportunity for the public to address the committee on any issue related to the duties and responsibilities of the committee, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

1.4(2) Posting of agenda. The tentative agenda for each meeting will be posted on the first floor of the Hoover State Office Building and on the department's website at iowaagriculture.gov, normally at least five days prior to the meeting. The agenda will be posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case as much notice as is reasonably possible will be given.

1.4(3) Distribution of agenda. Agenda will be mailed to anyone who files a request with the director. The request should state whether the agenda for a particular meeting is desired or whether the requester desires to be on the division's mailing list to receive the agenda for all meetings of the state soil conservation and water quality committee.

1.4(4) Amendment to agenda. Any amendments to the agenda after posting and distribution under subrules 1.4(2) and 1.4(3) will be posted but will not be mailed. The amended agenda will be posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case as much notice as is reasonably possible will be given. The committee may adopt amendments to the agenda at the meeting only if good cause exists requiring expeditious discussion or action on such matters. The reasons and circumstances necessitating such agenda amendments, or those given less than 24 hours' notice by posting, shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

1.4(5) Supporting material. Written materials provided to the committee with the agenda may be examined and copied as provided in the public information rules of the department. The director may require a fee to cover the reasonable cost to the division to provide the copies, in accordance with rules of the department.

27—1.5(161A) Attendance and participation by the public.

1.5(1) Attendance. All meetings are open to the public. The committee may exclude the public from portions of the meeting only in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.

1.5(2) Participation.

a. Items on agenda. Presentations to the committee may be made at the discretion of the chairperson.

b. Items not on agenda. Iowa Code section 21.4 requires the committee to give notice of its agenda. The committee will not take action on a matter not on the agenda, except in accordance with subrule 1.4(4). Presentations to the committee on subjects not on the agenda may be made at the discretion of the chairperson. Persons who wish the committee to take action on a matter not on the agenda should file a request with the director to place that matter on the agenda of a subsequent meeting.

c. Meeting decorum. The chairperson may limit participation as necessary for the orderly conduct of agency business.

1.5(3) Use of cameras and recording devices. Cameras and recording devices may be used during meetings provided they do not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting. The chairperson may order the use of these devices be discontinued if they cause interference and may exclude those persons who fail to comply with that order.

27—1.6(161A) Quorum and voting requirements.

1.6(1) Quorum. A majority of the voting members of the committee constitutes a quorum.

1.6(2) Voting. The concurrence of a majority of the committee members is required to determine any matter before the committee for action, except for a vote to close a meeting, which requires the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the committee present.

27—1.7(161A) Conduct of meeting.

1.7(1) General. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise provided in these rules. Voting shall be by voice or by roll call. Voting shall be by voice unless a voice vote is inconclusive, a member of the committee requests a roll call, or the vote is on a motion to close a portion of a meeting. The chairpersons shall announce the result of the vote.

1.7(2) Voice votes. All committee members present should respond when a voice vote is taken. The response shall be aye, nay, or abstain.

a. All members present shall be recorded as voting aye on any motions when there are no nay votes or abstentions heard.

b. Any member who abstains shall state at the time of the vote the reason for abstaining. The abstention and the reason for it shall be recorded in the minutes.

1.7(3) Provisions of information. The chairperson may recognize any agency staff member for the provision of information relative to an agenda item.

27—1.8(161A) Minutes, transcripts, and recordings of meetings.

1.8(1) Recordings. The director shall record by mechanized means each meeting and shall retain the recording for at least one month. Recordings of closed sessions shall be sealed and retained at least one year.

1.8(2) Minutes. The director shall keep minutes of each meeting. Minutes shall be reviewed and approved by the committee and retained permanently by the director. The approved minutes shall be signed by the director and the committee chairperson.

27—1.9(161A) Officers and duties.

1.9(1) Officers. The officers of the committee are the chairperson and the vice chairperson.

1.9(2) Duties. The chairperson shall preside at the meetings and shall exercise the powers conferred upon the chairperson. The vice chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson when the chairperson is absent or when directed by the chairperson.

27—1.10(161A) Election and succession of officers.

1.10(1) Elections. Officers shall be elected in an odd-numbered calendar year during the second quarterly meeting of the committee and shall assume office effective July 1.

1.10(2) Succession.

a. If the chairperson does not serve out the elected term, the vice chairperson shall succeed the chairperson for the remainder of the term. A special election shall be held to elect a new vice chairperson to serve the remainder of the term.

b. If the vice chairperson does not serve out the elected term, a special election shall be held to elect a new vice chairperson to serve the remainder of the term.

PART 2
REGIONS OF REPRESENTATION FOR STATE SOIL CONSERVATION AND
WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE FARMER MEMBERS

27—1.11(161A) Regions of representation. The farmer members of the state soil conservation and water quality committee shall be selected from the northwest, north central, northeast, southwest, south central, and southeast regions of the state.

1.11(1) Northwest region. The northwest region shall contain the counties of Buena Vista, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Ida, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Sioux, and Woodbury.

1.11(2) North central region. The north central region shall contain the counties of Boone, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Marshall, Mitchell, Story, Tama, Webster, Winnebago, Worth, and Wright.

1.11(3) Northeast region. The northeast region shall contain the counties of Allamakee, Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Jackson, Jones, Linn, and Winneshiek.

1.11(4) Southwest region. The southwest region shall contain the counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby, and Taylor.

1.11(5) South central region. The south central region shall contain the counties of Appanoose, Clarke, Dallas, Decatur, Jasper, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Polk, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Union, Warren, and Wayne.

1.11(6) Southeast region. The southeast region shall contain the counties of Cedar, Clinton, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Scott, Van Buren, Wapello, and Washington.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 161A.