

### RESOLUTION #3

**Petition to allow any bona fide member of a State Association of Conservation Districts, or its equivalent, nominated by that state association, to represent that state as a voting member of the National Association of Conservation Districts**

**Whereas**, the enabling legislation for conservation districts was and remains a responsibility of individual States; and,

**Whereas**, the State of Wisconsin, along with its 49 sister states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, adopted enabling legislation establishing conservation districts; and,

**Whereas**, individual states vary significantly in the organization and authorities delegated to conservation districts, including state delegation of authority to county government in four states - California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin; and,

**Whereas**, 17 states, including Wisconsin, allow district members (both county land conservation committee supervisors and department employees in Wisconsin) to receive compensation beyond travel expenses; and,

**Whereas**, in 2012, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association merged its existing state association of county land conservation supervisors with the state association of county land conservation department employees; and,

**Whereas**, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association is much stronger as a result of this merger in advocating for locally led conservation; and

**Whereas**, both supervisors and employees have equal membership in the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, professional land conservation staff (county employees) are not currently allowed to be members of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); and,

**Whereas**, the National Association of Conservation Districts is an inclusive association that recognizes, embraces, and celebrates the diversity of state and local approaches to land and water conservation;

**Now therefore, be it resolved**, that the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association petitions the National Association of Conservation Districts to amend its by-laws to allow any bona fide member of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, or any other member of a state association of conservation districts, to participate as a full NACD member including as a voting member of NACD committees or as a Board member of NACD.

Adopted this date March 17, 2017

Board of Directors - Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association