

**Iowa Lakes RC&D
Board Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2008
1:30 p.m.
(712) 262-2083**

Present

Chair - Dan Heissel – Clay County
Curt Smith – Dickinson County
Linda Swanson – Clay County
Dr. Mark Schultz – O’Brien County
Steve Pitt – Palo Alto County
Bob Ness – Emmet County
Tammy McKeever – Clay County
Keith Edwards – DC Lyon County
Jerry Crew – Clay County
Lorna Burnside – Buena Vista County
Keith Wirtz – Palo Alto County
Pam Jordon – Dickinson County

Bill Graettinger – Emmet County

Charlene Elyea – O’Brien County
Bob Anderson - Buena Vista County
Phil Driver – Buena Vista County
Vice Chair - Howard Johnson – Osceola
County
Jeff Kestel – Coordinator
Alana Heying – Accountant
Sheriffa Jones – Historic Preservationist
Ron Drenkow – O’Brien County
Scott Osborn – O’Brien County
Dusty Embree – Emmet County
Michelle Schaefer – Emmet County
Jeff Jensen – 3rd Crop presenter

Meeting called to order by Dan Heissel, chair at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda was approved with no additions or corrections. Motion to approve agenda was made by Bill Graettinger. It was seconded by Jerry Crew. MCU

Minutes – Dan asked for any corrections or additions to minutes of previous meeting. No additions or corrections were made. There was a motion to approve minutes by Steve Pitt. The motion was seconded by Mark Schultz. MCU

Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report was given by Alana Heying and Bill Graettinger. Jerry Crew made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and it was seconded by Phil Driver. MCU

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be **APRIL 3rd AND WILL BE AT 1:00 PM.** (Notice time change.)

Agenda

1. Election of officers. Nominations for president were opened up to the floor. Dan received a unanimous vote of approval as president and since there were no other nominations will remain as RC&D president. Nominations were opened for vice chairperson. Curt Smith and Howard Johnson were nominated. After voting by paper ballot there was a tie between Howard and Curt. A coin was then flipped with Howard Johnson winning the coin flip. Nominations were then opened for Sec. Treasurer. Mark Schulz and Bill Graettinger were nominated. After voting by paper ballot Mark was elected as Sec. Treasurer. Dan thanked Bill for his many years as Sec. Treasurer. His service is greatly appreciated.

2. Jeff Jensen from Rural Advantage talked to the board about the 3rd Crop project. Michelle Scheafers provided an introduction and background information on how the 3rd crop idea has been presented in NRCS Area 2. Jeff then explained that the 3rd crop programs are part of an organization called Rural Advantage which is a non profit located out of Fairmont, MN. The 3rd crop idea original started with a water quality project that bought easements from producers which allowed them to produce various alternative crops other than corn and soybeans. One of the project goals is to strategically locate the 3rd crops on environmentally sensitive areas which will provide cropping options as well as provide environmental protection. Jeff also works hard to identify markets for 3rd crops. Several workshops are scheduled to be held in Fairmont this winter and spring. Jeff Kestel and Michelle would like the board to consider hosting similar meetings in NW Iowa for producers and NRCS employees.
3. Carbon Credit through Farm Bureau Jeff read a letter to the board that the RC&D received regarding hosting an informational meeting on the use of Carbon Credits. Jerry Crew was familiar with this program and takes part in trading of carbon credits. Jerry talked a little about how the program works and purpose of trading carbon credits. The board was interested in the concept and discussed the idea of combining a 3rd Crop workshop and the trading of carbon credits as the same meeting. Jeff Kestel will research the possibilities and provide information back to the board.
4. Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Dan Heissel has brought this project idea to the board several times as a good potential project for this area. Heartland RC&D is currently assisting in CWMA project. A grant request would need to be submitted to the US FWS to establish a CWMA in NW Iowa. If approved funding would then be available to assist in the protection against invasive species in NW Iowa. A motion was made by Jerry Crew to approve the CWMA as an RC&D project. The motion was seconded by Bill Graettinger. MCU
5. Request from Iowa League of RC&Ds Jeff provided information from the Iowa League of RC&Ds regarding a request for \$1,000 contribution from each Iowa RC&D. The funding will be used to hire an executive director for the Iowa League. This will enable the League to be more viable and better serve the Iowa RC&Ds. After much discussion it was agreed to pledge \$1,000 to the Iowa League for this purpose. A motion was made by Jerry Crew to donate \$1,000 to the Iowa League only after the League provides a job description and duties of the new position.
6. Update on Feb. 4th Iowa League meeting and Leg. Breakfast Jeff and Tammy planned to attend but because of bad weather they were unable to attend. Information received from Cy McDonald Iowa League President said that 48 people attended the dinner and meeting on Feb. 4th and there were 64 legislators at the legislative breakfast. There were indications that the legislators would support the \$300,000 appropriation for the Natural Resource Based Opportunity program. He encouraged board members to stay in touch with their legislators.
7. Obsolete TVs after switch to digital – should we take them Jeff asked the board how they felt about opening our computer recycling project up to TVs as well. The board felt we should, however, there is concern about the quantities of old TVs we may receive. Jeff will talk to our recycler about how he plans to handle TVs and what the charge may be.

8. O'Brien County Ag Expo March 7th O'Brien County SWCD would like us to split the \$100 fee. Last year they paid the entire amount and we had a RC&D display. A motion was made by Jerry Crew to pay \$50 to the SWCD for our share. The motion was seconded by Phil Driver. MCU.
9. New Projects Update Sheriffa told the board about two 9006 Energy grant/loan projects she is assisting with. One is an Energy Efficiency request for Joyce and Kevin Zubrod from Sutherland and the other is a Renewable Energy grant for Gary Hoefling of Spencer. Other projects include working with the Friends of the Auditorium and the Spencer School District on the old Middle School; the Lakes Community Land Trust; completing a Technical Assistance Network report for the Mini-Wakan Picnic Shelter in Spirit Lake; completing a survey for a house in Perry, Iowa; continuing to assist Jim Frederick on the Iowa Great Lake Water Quality Report; and will speak at the IBBIA Conference in March. The two 9006 Energy Grants, the Mini-Wakan Picnic Shelter and the Perry, Iowa survey project are all paying projects!! A few of the grants she is working on include applying for a Clay County Community Foundation Grant, Palo Alto County Gaming Development Commission Grant, and Iowa Community Cultural Grant. Sheriffa also told the board that she has been invited to be a part of Leadership Spencer, which helps to inform and further develop community leaders. The cost is \$140.25. A motion was made by Pam Jordan for Sheriffa to attend the Leadership Spencer series. The motion was seconded by Curt Smith. MCU.

Sheriffa and Jeff also explained to the board that with these new projects that the RC&D is getting paid for with Sheriffa being the project leader that some liability and insurance issues were brought up. Sheriffa spoke with John (Jeff's cousin) an attorney from Storm Lake who suggested that Sheriffa come up with a list of tasks as well as financial responsibilities that she is doing as an employee of the RC&D. Sheriffa passed out a list of 15 tasks and three financial responsibilities. A few board members requested some changes. Sheriffa will make these changes and update the board at the next meeting.

10. Friends of the Auditorium request for use of the RC&D as a fiscal agent The Friends group is working on their 501c3 application but until then they are requesting that the RC&D assist by acting as their fiscal agent and use our 501c3 status to provide contributors a tax deductible donation. A motion was made by Phil Driver to act as the Friend's group fiscal agent. The motion was seconded by Bob Anderson. MCU
11. Estherville Elks Club request for use of the RC&D as their fiscal sponsor The Elks are applying to the Emmet County Community foundation for funding, however, since they are not a 501c3 they are not eligible to receive the funding. The RC&D can act as their Fiscal Sponsor and receive the funds and administer the grant on their behalf. A motion was made by Phil Driver to act as the Elks Fiscal Sponsor. The motion was seconded by Bob Anderson. MCU
12. Request for assistance from The Northwest Iowa Center for Photography Dan Ruf contacted Jeff about the RC&D being the applicant for a Humanities Iowa Grant. Similar to what we did last year for their project called Portraits of the Land. They want to put on a show portraying landscapes of Iowa. A motion was made by Bill Graettinger to approve the request for assistance. The motion was seconded by Charlene Elyea. MCU
13. Subscription to Spencer Daily Reporter The RC&D staff requested that the board subscribe to the local paper for \$85 per year. A motion was made by Jerry Crew to get a one year

subscription. The motion was seconded by Bill Graettinger. MCU

14. Amend 12/7/07 minutes regarding Sheriffa's appointment Jeff explained to the board that we did not have a formal motion to hire Sheriffa and to clean up the minutes it would be good to make a motion so that it was documented by the board regarding Sheriffa's appointment. A motion was made by Steve Pitt hire Sheriffa, retroactive to 12/7/07 meeting. The motion was seconded by Phil Driver. MCU

15. Dues

a. Iowa League of RC&Ds dues \$200

b. National Association dues \$450

After some discussion about the importance of paying the State and National dues a

Motion was made by Bill Graettinger. The motion was seconded by Pam Jordan. MCU

16. Review and approve Annual Plan The board reviewed the annual plan that had been sent out prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Jerry Crew to approve the Annual Work Plan. The motion was seconded by Steve Pitt. MCU

17. North Central Association of RC&Ds Councils Conference Jeff passed around the brochure for the conference. The conference had been brought up at prior meetings as well. It will be in Rochester, MN and the theme is Renewable Energy. Dan asked that anyone interested in attending to contact the RC&D office.

18. New Project Ideas

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Secretary Signature:

_____ Bill Graettinger