

**Iowa Lakes RC&D
Board Meeting Minutes
October 2nd, 2009
9:00 AM
(712) 262-2083**

PRESENT

Dan Heissel - Clay County
Jerry Crew – Clay County
Tammy McKeever – Clay County
Linda Swanson – Clay County
Bill Graettinger – Emmet County
Bob Ness – Emmet County
Miriam Patten – Palo Alto County
Keith Wirtz – Palo Alto County
Joel Horsley – Palo Alto County
Steve Pitt – Palo Alto County
Bill Imhoff – Osceola County

Ron Spengler – Osceola County
Charlene Elyea – O’Brien County
Dr. Mark Schulz - O’Brien County
Bob Anderson – Buena Vista County
Dale Arends – Buena Vista County
Phil Driver – Buena Vista County
Pam Jordan – Dickinson County
Jeff Kestel – Coordinator
Alana Heying – Accountant
Sheriffa Jones-Architectural Historian

Meeting called to order by Dan Heissel, chair at 9:02 AM

AGENDA:

There was a motion by Jerry Crew to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Tammy McKeever. MCU

MINUTES:

Dan asked for any corrections or additions to minutes of previous meeting. Some small corrections were made. There was a motion to approve minutes by Jerry Crew. The motion was seconded by Dale Arends. MCU

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mark and Alana reviewed the treasures report with the board. Alana also presented the proposed 2010 Iowa Lakes RC&D budget to the board. The board will review the proposed budget and approve at the December board meeting. A motion was then made by Steve Pitt to approve the treasures report. The motion was seconded by Bob Graettinger. MCU

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting will be December 3rd and will be the RC&D’s Christmas Lunch meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Sheriffa’s Salary:

The board discussed raising Sheriffa’s salary from the current amount of \$15 per hour to \$20 per hour. Sheriffa requested to the board that to help cover the increase in salary she would cut her current paid time off amount from 12 hours per month to six hours per month saving the board approximately \$1,200 per year. There was a considerable amount of discussion by the board and all was positive regarding Sheriffa’s value to the board and to the Iowa Lakes RC&D program. Everyone felt the raise was justified. There was a motion by Bob Ness to increase Sheriffa’s salary to \$20 per hour with six hours of paid time off per month effective Jan. 1, 2010. The motion was seconded by Bill Graettinger. MCU

Sheriffa thanked the board and commented that one way the board could help her with income producing projects would be by promoting the USDA/RD Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy grant programs to farmers and other small businesses. Sheriffa has been providing grant writing services for fee to help businesses with this program.

2. Wetland Mitigation Project:

Jeff discussed this potential project with the board. With the help of Warren Johnson and Duane Sand a Conservation Innovation Grant was approved to incubate one or more Wetland Mitigation sites in Iowa. The Des Moines lobe glacial area has been identified (with the help of several RC&D coordinators) to be a prime area to work on this project due to the many drainage issues in this area. The purpose is for mitigating agricultural land not urban development type projects. It will help agriculture landowners to mitigate small wetlands on their property. A meeting to discuss possibilities is scheduled for Oct. 22 in Dakota City. Jeff has invited county engineers and drainage engineers in the RC&D counties as well as some DCs.

3. Natural Resource Based Opportunity Grant:

Jeff informed the board that there is a RFP out for this grant. The deadline for applications is Oct. 23. Jeff reviewed the grant opportunities through this program and asked the board to identify opportunities that they might be aware of for this funding.

4. Project updates from Sheriffa and Jeff:

a. Project Application Requests needing approval:

i. The Market in Spirit Lake

The RC&D is providing assistance with the development of a cooperative of local producers that are trying to open up new markets for locally grown food. Funding from the Leopold Center and USDA/RD Value Added Ag program is being requested. A motion was made by Steve Pitt to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Bob Anderson. MCU.

ii. Byway Transportation Enhancement Grant/Resolution

Jeff explained that this grant is being submitted by the Iowa Lakes RC&D to support part of the statewide byway project. Funds from this project will be used in the Glacial Trail byway as well as all other byways in the state. The Transportation Enhancement grant is for completing visitor intercept surveys on all the state byways. It will establish baseline visitor information, customer satisfaction information, visitor numbers and accountability for federal and state funds being invested in the byway program. A motion to approve this request was made by Mark Schulz. The motion was seconded by Phil Driver. MCU.

iii. Storm Lake Watershed Management Plan assistance

This request came from the Buena Vista SWCD for assistance submitting a funding request to develop a Watershed Management Plan for Storm Lake Watershed. Also if funding is approved the RC&D would manage the development of the Watershed Management Plan. A motion to approve this request was made by Dale Arends. The motion was seconded by Jerry Crew. MCU.

iv. Spencer Masonic Lodge

Steve Waller asked Sheriffa to work with the lodge on submitting the grants listed below. These two grant requests will provide needed funds to replace/repair windows and re-point the brick on all sides for the Spencer Masonic Lodge.

1. Renaissance Initiative Grant
2. Spencer Storefront Grant

A motion to approve this request was made by Linda Swanson. The motion was seconded by Miriam Patten. MCU.

v. Spencer VFW Renaissance Initiative Grant

Steve Waller recommended to the Spencer VFW that they hire Sheriffa to write a Renaissance Initiative Grant to help with costs associated with their updated kitchen. Sheriffa has submitted this application already.

vi. Renewable Energy Grant for Gary's on the River Development

Sheriffa has been working with Dave Jacobson on this project. They are requesting assistance to make and apply for USDA/RD Renewable Energy funding for a ground source heating system. A motion to approve this request was made by Tammy Mckeever. The motion was seconded by Miriam Patten. MCU.

vii. TAN

1. Spencer: Curiel Reynolds School of Visual Arts: A TAN project has been requested by Amelia Painter, who is working with Tony Curiel. Tony purchased the Reynolds School from the Spencer School District and is looking for assistance that might be available if the building is deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Story City: Charlson Building: A TAN has been completed for the Charlson Building in Story City. Sheriffa worked with the Story City Main Street Organization to complete the research for this project.

A motion to approve this request was made by Steve Pitt. The motion was seconded by Phil Driver. MCU.

viii. Emagine Internet Marketing: Tax Credit Applications & grant writing assistance.

Sheriffa worked with Angie Mayer and Emagine Internet Marketing who recently purchased the old Farmer's Trust and Savings Bank at 4th and Grand in Spencer. Sheriffa assisted the business in applying for state and federal historic preservation tax credits and will be completing the paperwork for the HSPG application through the State Historic Preservation Office. The first floor of the building will be used by Edward Jones and provide business incubation space. The second floor will become the offices of Emagine Internet Marketing.

A motion to approve this request was made by Dale Arends. The motion was seconded by Tammy Mckeever. MCU.

ix. Other Projects:

None to report for Buena Vista, Emmet, O'Brien and Osceola.

Clay County- Spencer, Old Middle School –Toured the facility and have submitted a grant to the Office of Energy Independence for geo-thermal for the auditorium. The County Survey is finished. A ribbon cutting was held for J&G Regional Services (Gary Hoefling) who Sheriffa worked with last year to apply for USDA/RD Renewable Energy grant funds. She is now working with David Jacobsen to do a similar grant application for geo-thermal for the Gary's on the River development.

Dickinson County- Sheriffa is working to complete the Spirit Lake, Mini-Wakan State Park National Register Nomination & HSPG Application. **Palo Alto County-** the County Survey is complete. **Plymouth County-**the National Register Nomination for

LeMars, Sacred Heart Hospital National Register Nomination. **Story County**-The TAN project in Story City has been completed. **Other Projects**-the Glacial Trail Scenic Byway, which goes through the corners of Clay, O'Brien, BV, Cherokee counties; a stakeholder meeting was held on September 23, 2009 to identify others that may be interested in getting involved and also to inform the local communities and citizens.

5. J&G Enterprises Grand Opening:

Sheriffa assisted Gary Hofling to organize and market his grand opening. The RC&D assisted Gary in getting USDA energy funds to build his Green building. There were 500 or more attending throughout the day. Breakfast and dinner was served. Newspapers, radio, and TV were present along with legislative and USDA officials. It was a very good promotion for his business, the RC&D and USDA energy program. Rich Haack suggested that we do a press release to promote the energy program and Iowa Lakes RC&D throughout our RC&D area.

6. Report on Iowa League of RC&Ds Meeting at Honey Creek:

A brief rundown of activities at the League meeting was provided.

7. Updates on Solar Pumping & Computer Recycling:

Jeff updated the board on changes to one of the solar pumping systems installed. Del Roskins originally installed a system to run year round on a pasture that he did not own. Del recently lost the pasture lease because of an increase in rent cost. Del took the solar pumping system out to possibly reuse on another pasture. In the meantime the RC&D received another request for solar pumping assistance from Eben Salton which we did not have funding for. Jeff connected Eben up with Del and since their pumping requirements were similar Eben was able to purchase the system from Del at the reduced amount similar to what Del originally purchased it for. Both producers were happy and we still have an operating solar pumping system.

Jeff reported that there has been no slowdown in both requests for assistance with recycling computer waste or in requests for refurbished computer systems.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Secretary Signature: _____ Mark Schulz