

**Iowa Lakes RC&D
Board Meeting Minutes
December 3rd, 2009
1:00 PM
(712) 262-2083**

PRESENT

Dan Heissel - Clay County
Linda Swanson – Clay 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
Charlene Elyea – O’Brien County
Dr. Mark Schulz - O’Brien County

Rich Haack – O’Brien County
Bob Anderson – Buena Vista County
Dale Arends – Buena Vista County
Pam Jordan – Dickinson County
Curt Smith– Dickinson County
Jeff Kestel – Coordinator
Alana Heying – Accountant
Sheriffa Jones-Architectural Historian
Scott Osborn – DC

Meeting called to order by Dan Heissel, chair at 1:40 AM

AGENDA:

There was a motion by Dale Arends to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Curt Smith. 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 Steve Pitt. The motion was seconded by Keith Wirtz. MCU

TREASURER’S REPORT:

A motion was made to approve the budget for 2010 as presented at the October Meeting made by Bob Ness. The motion was seconded by Bob Anderson. No Discussion. MCU

Alana informed the board that the C.D.s matured since the last meeting. It was decided to keep two at Farmers Bank for another 18 months. There is about \$17,000 in two separate C.D.s at 1.7%; there is a one time no penalty withdraw. There is another \$14,000 C.D. at Northwest Bank in an eleven month 1.9% C.D. A total of \$30,900 is in C.D.s.

The money market account is depleted because of a payout towards the private land stewardship program. Additionally, the YTD budget gap has narrowed...we aren’t quite as far out of balance as what was projected. Pam Jordan made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Bill Imhoff. MCU.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting will be February 4th at 1 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Kathy Koskovich:

Kathy with Iowa DNR was going to talk about the private lands conservation program. We will table this item since she was not able to attend at the last moment.

2. Wetland Mitigation Project:

Jeff discussed this project with the board. 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 farmed wetlands on their property. We are looking for Prior Converted wetland area to develop a wetland bank on, then wetland credits will be marketed. Dan suggested that Jeff send out a memo to County Conservation Directors in regards to creating wetland banking and if they have a need or interest.

3. Appointment sheets:

Jeff decided to do these a little differently than last year. He did separate sheets for each county's SWCD and supervisors. We'll work out the county representative later. Please get these nominations back to the office by the February meeting.

4. Project updates from Sheriffa and Jeff:

a. Projects:

- i. Prairie Planting exercise at Spencer Middle School with 150, 7th graders:
- ii. Renew Store: Pam Jordan said that the Renew Store is on schedule to meet their budget and that contributions of building materials for resale are coming in very steady and they have steady traffic of buyers coming in also.
- iii. Storm Lake Watershed Project: we are still working with them on an application for funding to complete their Watershed Management Plan and should have more updates at the February meeting.
- iv. Private Land Stewardship project will be completed with a final report to FWS on Dec. 31. This has been a great project with demand for these services exceeding what we had for funding.
- v. Representatives from some of the past years' projects were at the luncheon: Mini-Wakan State Park, Emagine Internet Marketing, Friends of the Auditorium, Jacobsen Homes Corp., J&G Regional Services, Little Sioux Prairie Co., Renew Store, The Market, Scenic Byway, Gordon Garrison and Chris Mercer (USDA/RD).

Clay County- Spencer, Old Middle School –Building should be finished by December 31st and will soon have tenants moving in!

Dickinson County- Sheriffa is working to complete the Spirit Lake, Mini-Wakan State Park National Register Nomination & HSPG Application. **Plymouth County-**the National Register Nomination for LeMars, Sacred Heart Hospital National Register Nomination. Also working with the Coop to submit an EE Grain Dryer Grant to USDA RD. **Other Projects-**the Glacial Trail Scenic Byway, grants for photography and GIS have been approved. Our logo has also been approved we will work with DOT to determine the signage placement.

5. Photography Agreement for Scenic Byway:

The photography grant for the Scenic Byway was awarded. Dan has signed the grant contract. The contract was then sent onto Limestone Bluffs who is administering the grant. We will get a signed final copy after DOT signs. This grant will help us get professional quality photos to use in most of

the marketing materials for the byway. Charlene Elyea made a motion to approve the grant contract with DOT/Limestone Bluffs. The motion was seconded by Miriam Patten. MCU.

6. Legislative Breakfast-February 9th:

The Iowa League of RC&Ds Legislative Breakfast will be held in Des Moines on February 9th. At least one board member and/or Sheriffa should try to attend as Jeff cannot attend this.

7. Photo workshop-February 20th:

Jeff and Charlene have been working on planning a photo workshop, which will highlight local professional photographers. This workshop will tie in with our Watchable Wildlife project that will be the keynote portion of the meeting. We hope to draw approximately 130 people to the workshop. The subject matter will deal primarily with nature photography. The workshop will be held on February 20th at Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg. Jeff will make sure that the extension (4H) offices are notified of the workshop.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Secretary Signature: _____ Mark Schulz