

**Iowa Lakes RC&D
Board Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2010
1:00 PM
(712) 262-2083**

PRESENT

Dan Heissel - Clay County
Linda Swanson – Clay County
Jerry Creww _ Clay County
Miriam Patten – Palo Alto County
Keith Wirtz – Palo Alto County
Steve Pitt – Palo Alto County
Bill Graettinger – Emmet County
Bob Ness – Emmet County
Bill Imhoff – Osceola County
Rob Patterson – Osceola County

Charlene Elyea – O’Brien County
Dr. Mark Schulz - O’Brien County
Rich Haack – O’Brien County
Kathy Luedke _ O’Brien County
Bob Anderson – Buena Vista County
Pam Jordan – Dickinson County
Curt Smith– Dickinson County
Jeff Kestel – Coordinator
Alana Heying – Accountant
Sheriffa Jones-Architectural Historian

Meeting called to order by Dan Heissel, chair at 1:00 PM

AGENDA:

There was a motion by Curt Smith to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Bill Graettinger. MCU

MINUTES:

Dan asked for any corrections or additions to minutes of previous meeting. There were no corrections made. A motion was made to approve minutes by Jerry Crew. The motion was seconded by Steve Pitt. MCU

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mark Schulz and Alana presented the treasures report. Alana commended the board and office staff for staying slightly ahead of the proposed 2009 budget. We did not achieve our budget projections in 2007 and 2008. We generally set a rather aggressive budget to accommodate over budget items and other unexpected expenses throughout the year. There was some discussion on our current office lease that continues to rise in cost. This is part of the reason for the RC&D planning to locate in the Service Center since their current lease is up and a move to new space is being planned. However, this process has seemed too stalled due to some funding issues with USDA. We are not sure of any potential timeframe for our office situation to change. A motion was made by Phil Driver to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Jerry Crew. MCU.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting will be April 8th at 1:00 PM in the RC&D office

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Election of Officer:

After all the executive committee members were identified as potential candidates for nomination to office a nomination was made by Jerry Crew to retain all the current officers if they were willing to

continue serving for another year. Bob Anderson made a motion that nominations cease and Bob Ness seconded the motion. All current officers agreed to serve for another year. MCU

2. Iowa Lakes Annual Plan of Work:

The Annual Plan of Work was official approved by the board. A copy had previously been sent to the NRCS Area and State offices. A motion was made by Jerry Crew to approve the Annual Plan of Work. The motion was seconded by Curt Smith. MCU.

3. Project Updates by Sheriffa and Jeff:

- i. Spirit Lake Growers Group Leopold Grant Approved:
Funding will help cover the costs of a coordinator who will help develop marketing opportunities for a local group of produce growers. They plan to open new markets with restaurants, schools and hospitals.
- ii. Iowa Wildlife Action Plan, Ed & Recreation Grant approved:
This project will teach local leaders about identifying local natural resources, understanding their environmental importance and potential benefits to their communities. The goal is to get local chamber and tourism leaders to use existing county and state conservation areas as tourism attraction rather than overlooking these areas that have already been developed.
- iii. Nature Photography Workshop:
A nature photography workshop sponsored by the RC&D, Clay, O'Brien and Palo Alto County Conservation Boards will be Feb. 20th. It will feature four professional photographers and a presentation on our Watchable Wildlife project.
- iv. Wetland Mitigation Project:
Work is continuing on this project in partnership with the other RC&Ds in the Des Moines Lobe land formation. A variety of areas are being accessed as potential sites for wetland banks. Also a legal organization is being researched that will manage the wetland mitigation process.
- v. National Scenic Byway Grants:
We are working on two NSBG applications. Jeff is working on one that will be a Statewide application for Interpretive Master Planning for each of the Iowa Byways. Sheriffa is working on an application for our Glacial Trail Scenic Byway that will assist in funding the completion of a Corridor Management Plan for the byway. Both applications are due into the Iowa DOT office on March 11.
- vi. ReNew project update from Pam:
The Renew Store is a project of the Lakes Community Land Trust with the Iowa Lakes RC&D as a partner. Recently, the store received a DNR SWAP grant of \$20,000 to expand the square footage from 3,000 square feet to 6,000. This finished space should be completed by early Spring 2010.
In less than one year, the Renew Store service has diverted over 184 tons of household/construction materials from the landfill. Additionally, they have hired AmeriCorps workers as well as other full/part-time employee.
- vii. REAP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants:
Sheriffa has submitted grants for the following RE/EE Projects: Gary's on the River and e-building, LLC. She is working with Maple Valley Grain in Casselton, ND on an EE grant and will be working with Drea's in Oto, IA. She now has a formal contract for these projects.
- viii. Mini-Wakan Historic Site Preservation Grant for \$100,000 awarded:
The Mini-Wakan State Park Historic Site Preservation Grant for \$100,000 was awarded.

- ix. National Register Nominations:
We should be hearing soon about the status of the LeMars Sacred Heart Hospital, Mini-Wakan State Park Historic District, and Spencer High School National Register Nominations.
- x. Spencer Middle School Apartments Opening:
The old Spencer High School/Middle School had its grand opening in January. According to the Mary Ann Harden, Senior Center, they have over 3,000 people through the building in one day! Apartments are beautiful and about six of them have been rented. The Seniors also seem very happy with their “new” space. The auditorium restoration project continues to move along.
- xi. Masonic Lodge Grants/Project:
Sheriffa has been assisting the Masonic Lodge with grant applications to the Renaissance Initiative, Clay County Community Foundation, and the Storefront Initiative. They have received money from the Renaissance Initiative to help with repointing and will complete a Storefront Initiative grant/loan by the end of 2010 for windows.
- xii. Scenic Byway Update:
The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway (GTSB) program continues to move along. We have received confirmation that the GIS grant and photography grant have been approved. A GPS training day with the GTSB steering committee will be held on March 2, 2010 with Deneb Woods from NE Iowa RC&D. We are also in the process of planning a summer event on the byway.

4. Legislative Breakfast-February 9th:

The Iowa League of RC&Ds Legislative Breakfast will be held in Des Moines on February 9th. Dan, Sheriffa and Jeff are planning to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Secretary Signature: _____ Mark Schulz