

Minutes  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Iowa Drainage District Association  
April 30, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by President Ralph Christiansen. Board members present included Ralph Christiansen, Harlan Hansen, Ron Smith, Ken Chalstrom, Myron Amdahl, Don McGregor and Phil Condon. Also present was John Torbert Executive Director and Julie Fridolfson – Secretary/Treasurer.

Julie presented the minutes of the February 27, 2008 meeting; they were approved on a motion by Ron Smith and seconded by Harlan Hansen. All voted aye.

John reported on county visits; he has visited Palo Alto County and Emmet County during the last month.

Julie reviewed the financial reports (Administrative, Litigation and CFS Grant Fund) showing activity, both summary and detail, through the end of March 2008. It was moved by Harlan Hansen and seconded by Phil Condon to accept the financials as presented. All voted aye.

John gave an update on the CFS grant. The budget year started Dec 1, 2007 and goes through November 30, 2008. John presented the Board with the detail and summary budget figures. A lot of progress has been made this last month. People were contacted, interviews were held by John and Dean Lemke and 6 new CREP employees have been hired at the rate of \$30.00 per hour. The new employees are Lannie Miller, Eddie Peterson, Jay Lynch, Robert Powers, Gerald "Ike" Petersen, and Mark Sandvik. John has contacted the new employees and a two day training session has been set up in Fort Dodge at the Starlight Best Western.

The CREP program is starting to pick up. This is the first time that there is a waiting list for construction on the CREP sites. The state has increased the incentives and is paying 3 times more than before for the easements. All the CREP money is obligated at this time but July 1<sup>st</sup> more money will be forthcoming from state and federal appropriations.

John went over the CFS financial reports with the board in more detail. It was moved by Ken Chalstrom and seconded by Myron Amdahl to accept the CFS financials as presented. All ayes.

Legislative report –

HF-2554 This bill did pass and has been signed by the governor. This is the bill that would raise the limits of the repair costs in Iowa Code Section 468.126 to \$20,000; it is currently \$15,000. This change will become effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2008.

John also reported on an amendment that was filed late in the session to another bill that would have effectively precluded the formation of new drainage districts. IDDA was able to get the amendment withdrawn.

John and Ralph went over to Monona County in mid April to a meeting that was held with the New Farmers Trustees, Bob Brinton – Drainage Attorney, Don Refer of B & W Spraying of Algona, Iowa and Mr. Refer's attorney. The Trustees of the drainage district had the case reviewed by Drainage Attorney Bob Brinton of Clarion, Iowa and he informed the Trustees that

in his opinion he thought there was a good case against the State of Iowa. The Trustees considered their options and decided to authorize Bob Brinton to represent the New Farmers Drainage District in their case with the DNR.

John informed the Board that the Barthels have lost their case again. Don Etler has suggested that the litigation fund be a collection point for the donations that will come in to help out the Barthels. It was discussed by the Board of Directors and it was moved by Don McGregor and seconded by Phil Condon to amend the budget to add a line item for expenses and incomes to the Barthel case in the amount of \$1,200. The money will be put in Edward Jones with the annual donations to the litigation fund. All voted aye.

IDDA Web Site – The new web site is up and running. John had the computer person in the Pocahontas Courthouse set up a computer so that the Board could view the web site at this meeting. The address for the IDDA website is the Iowadrainage.org. The web site was reviewed and comments were very positive about the work put into this and the furthering of our cause that should come from the added exposure we will receive.

John gave an update on the Anti-degradation issue. This issue continues to move forward, though we have not heard whether the language suggested by the Two Rivers Levee and Drainage Association had been accepted by the state. John is hopeful that we hear something by next meeting.

The Iowa Plan update – John stated that it continues to move along. Dean Lemke has been contacted by National Farm Bureau and was asked to come up with language for the National Farm Plan. John has enclosed proposed legislation in the board packets.

The next meeting date has set for May 28, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted  
Julie A. Fridolfson  
IDDA Secretary/Treasurer