

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by President Ralph Christiansen. Board members present included Ralph Christiansen, 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 November 21, 2007 meeting; they were approved on a motion by Ken Chalstrom and seconded by Myron Amdahl. All voted aye.

John reported on county visits; he has visited Boone County and Webster 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 December 2007. It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Don McGregor to approve the financials as presented. All voted aye.

John gave an update on the CFS grant. The budget year started Dec 1, 2006 and goes through November 30, 2007. It has now been one year since the CFS grant was started. John presented the Board with the detail and summary budget figures. The grant has a 5% increase in CFS items figured into it and the 5% went into effect on December 1, 2007. Line items increased are John's and Julie's salaries bill to the state and the salaries for the CFS employees. John went over the remaining CFS contract expenses for the remaining two years left on the grant. Dean Lemke and Secretary of Agriculture Northey want the CFS program expanded and would like IDDA to administer this program. This would include adding 4 or more CFS employees to the current staff now. A proposed budget from IDDA to the State was presented to the Board for their review. This proposed budget would amend the original CFS contract and explains all of the proposed expenses and figures. John requested the Board review this proposal and would like their approval before submitting this to the State. Also John would like the Boards approval to sign the amendment if all is approved.

It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Ken Chalstrom to have John submit the proposed budget and have him sign the CFS budget amendment to proceed with the new CFS budget (budget amendment). All voted aye.

Legislative report – All is quiet at this time.

Don McGregor requested a change to Iowa Code Section 468.126. He would like the \$15,000 figure for repairs without a bid letting and hearing changed to \$20,000. He stated that there are quite a few repairs where \$15,000 will not totally get the job done. Don would like John to discuss with Dolores Mertz – State Representative, having her staff write an amendment up to this code section. It was moved by Don McGregor and seconded by Ken Chalstrom to have the repair/bid letting \$15,000 figure in the Iowa Code section 468.126 changed to \$20,000. All voted aye.

The Annual Conference was discussed – The Board stated that the conference went very well and would like to have it held at the same facility next year. John will schedule the next conference for December 5th, 2008 at the Starlight in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

John stated that the drainage district maintenance exemption is on the EPC table again. There has been an Anti-Degradation petition filed by the Sierra Club, Hawkeye Fly Fisherman Association and others with the IDNR. The EPC met earlier this month, the petition was presented to the EPC Board. John stated that the petition was temporarily put on hold for now as new rules may be brought to the EPC by summer.

IDDA Web Site – The new web site should be up and running by the end of February 2008.

John stated that he would like to attend the Hypoxia task force meeting in Chicago on the 28th and 29th of February. And, he would also like to attend the Drainage Task Force meeting at Purdue University in Indiana and would like approval for out of state travel. It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Don McGregor to approve out of state travel for John. All voted aye.

The Iowa Plan update – John stated that progress is being made. John stated that there is language in the farm bill that supports the Iowa Plan.

Discussion was held on the issue ongoing in Monona County about the ditch spraying. It was moved by Don McGregor and seconded by Ken Chalstrom that if any response by IDDA is needed that Ralph Christiansen will have the Board power to act on its behalf. All voted aye.

The next meeting date has set for February 27, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Julie A. Fridolfson
IDDA Secretary/Treasurer