

Minutes
IDDA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Webster County Courthouse
Fort Dodge, IA

President Keith Dencklau called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board members present were Scott Jacobs, Jeff Quastad, Barry Anderson, Roger Tjarks and Keith Wirtz. Also present was IDDA Executive Director John Torbert.

Election of Officers- On motion by Anderson and second by Wirtz, it was determined that Keith Dencklau would serve as President for 2021 and Rick Pedersen as Vice-President.

Minutes - The minutes of the 9/24/20 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tjarks and second by Wirtz

County Visits – John reported that he has visited the following counties since the last board meeting -Dickinson, Hancock, Humboldt, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Webster, Worth and Wright. He has visits to Calhoun and Hamilton counties planned.

Financial Reports – John reviewed the *December 2020* financial report

Expenses of \$96,645.56 or 47.67% of budget
Income of \$176,050.37 or 82.10% of budget

The financial reports were accepted on motion by Quastad and second by Anderson.

John further reported that he does not think income projections will be met on the RCPP grant and the CREP grant. Further, annual meeting budgeted amounts will be incorrect due to the cancelled meeting. He stated that he would be bringing a budget amendment to the board to reflect these changes – probably at the March meeting.

WFS Update –John provided a financial report for the WFS through the end of December which was the year-end financial report for the program.

FWS update – John reported that he had updated the IDDA legislative priorities as a result of discussions at the annual business meeting in December. Our priorities now reflect that we support the NACo position on this issue.

RCPP/IAWA grant – John provided the board with a memo outlining progress to date on the grant. Subcontracts – of which IDDA will be one – have still not been signed due to the fact that the national NRCS office has yet to sign off on the grant.

Legislative Report – John provided the board with information received from Don Etler and Ivan Droessler raising concerns about the IDDA legislative priority on raising the threshold before which an engineering report would be required to the competitive bid threshold. The board reviewed the information. John also stated that the bill that would accomplish this is still in drafting.

John also reviewed some information that Doug Struyk had received that would amend 468.126 of the Code and provide new language as to what would happen if drainage trustees abandon a plan to annex new land into the district. The board reviewed the proposal and noted that they are not in favor of it.

Request from Pottawattamie County concerning how interest on drainage warrants is treated for tax purposes – Doug Struyk joined the board telephonically to brief them on this issue. Apparently, there is a lack of clarity on how this interest money should be treated for tax purposes. Doug said he has had several discussions with multiple drainage clerks on this issue and that counties are not handling this in a uniform manner. Pottawattamie County was asking that IDDA provide financial assistance to retain an attorney to get a written opinion from the IRS. After discussion, the board approved the request on motion by Quastad and second by Tjarks.

BC/BS health and dental rates – John reviewed these rates that will take effect on March 1st. Health insurance rates will go down 7.87% and dental rates will go up 2.96%.

Next Meeting Date – The next board meeting will be Wednesday, March 17th at the Calhoun County Courthouse in Rockwell City.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Torbert

John T. Torbert, CAE
Executive Director