

Minutes
Board of Director's Meeting
Iowa Drainage District Association
January 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Board members present included Harlan Hansen, Ken Chalstrom, Myron Amdahl, and Phil Condon. Also present was John Torbert Executive Director, Julie Fridolfson – Secretary/Treasurer and Paul Beneke – Pocahontas County Supervisor.

Julie presented the minutes of the October 29, 2008 meeting; they were approved on a motion by Phil Condon and second by Ken Chalstrom. All voted aye.

John stated that there is a vacancy on the Board as Ralph Christiansen is no longer eligible to serve. According to the By-Laws of the association, a vacancy is filled by appointment of the Board of Directors. It was moved by Ken Chalstrom and seconded by Phil Condon to appoint Paul Beneke to fill the Ralph's vacancy on the Board. All voted aye.

John reported on county visits; he has visited Humboldt County and Hancock 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 2008. It was moved by Ken Chalstrom and seconded by Phil Condon to accept the financials as presented. All voted aye. The Board also stated that they would like to dispense with the detail CFS report and only have the summary report given to them monthly.

Legislative report – John stated that he has had a discussion with Senator Bartz and he is concerned that there should be a way for drainage districts to have their classification schedules set up so that all people pay the same per acre. Julie stated that she thought that was already in the Iowa Code and would look for it and get back to John before his next meeting with the Senator. (Found the Iowa Code section that covered this under Iowa Code 468.184 paragraph 7)

John gave an update on Monona County, New Farmers Drainage District (NFDD) case. Bob Brinton – Drainage Attorney has kept John up to date on the progress of this case. The hearing will be in front of the Administrative Law Judge next week in Des Moines. John will attend the hearing and testify on behalf of the NFDD. He will keep the Board up to date on what goes on.

John gave an update on the Anti-degradation issue. John stated that our exemption to clean dredge ditches is going away, but there is language in place to allow dredge ditch cleaning or and repairs to the drainage facilities. Any drainage improvements may trigger an anti-degradation review. John will continue to clarify this situation.

The Iowa Plan update – The Farm Bureau has become actively involved in the promotion of the Iowa plan. Dr. Stewart Melvin is also helping with the promotion of the Iowa Plan. John shared with the board and email that Rick Robinson of the Iowa Farm Bureau had sent to the NRCS. John will update the board on this at a future meeting.

John went over the Minnesota Iowa Drainage Forum that he and Harlan Hansen attended in Minnesota at Cabelas. John stated that the meeting was very informative and is always very well attended.

John went over the annual IDDA meeting with the Board. He stated and the Board agreed that the meeting in December was a great success and that we should continue to have it in Fort Dodge at the Starlight Best Western.

Election of Officers – A new President and Vice-President of the IDDA Board of Directors needs to be elected. It was moved by Phil Condon and seconded by Myron Amdahl to elect Harlan Hansen as the President of the IDDA Board of Directors. All voted aye. It was moved by Phil Condon and seconded by Ken Chalstrom to elect Myron Amdahl as the Vice-President of the IDDA Board of Directors. All voted aye.

John stated that as per our By-Law amendment put in place on December 5, 2008, we need to designate Julie Fridolfson as the Secretary/Treasurer for this calendar year. It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Phil Condon to designate Julie Fridolfson as Secretary/Treasurer for the IDDA. All voted aye.

John has been contacted by Calhoun County, Iowa concerning a problem they are having with the railroad company that runs through their area. The railroad is trying to force the county to pay for drainage work that is clearly the responsibility of the railroad. John suggested that we assist them in the problem with the railroad from our mutual protection fund. After some discussion, it was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Ken Chalstrom to approve helping Calhoun County with the railroad issue with up to \$5,000 from the mutual protection fund. This amount would be subject to review at a later date if more is needed as this is an important issue with the railroads in all counties. All voted aye.

John stated that there is a meeting out of state that he would like to attend as he has attended this meeting for the last couple of years. This meeting will be held in Champaign, IL and is the annual meeting for the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts. It will be in January 2009 later in the month. It was moved by Phil Condon and seconded by Ken Chalstrom to approve John for out of state travel to this Drainage Conference in Illinois. All voted aye.

John stated that he would like to have Ralph Christiansen – former President of the IDDA, become an honorary member of the IDDA. It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Phil Condon to have Ralph Christiansen become an honorary member of the IDDA by resolution of the Board. Roll call vote: Myron Amdahl – aye, Phil Condon – aye, Harlan Hansen – aye, Paul Beneke – aye, and Ken Chalstrom – aye. The Board will invite Ralph Christiansen to the next meeting and present him with this honor.

The next meeting date has set for February 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.
Respectfully Submitted
Julie A. Fridolfson
IDDA Secretary/Treasurer