

Minutes
Board of Director's Meeting
Iowa Drainage District Association
February 24, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 p.m. Board members present included Harlan Hansen, Paul Beneke, Ken Chalstrom, Don McGregor and Phil Condon. Also present was John Torbert Executive Director and Julie Fridolfson – Secretary/Treasurer.

Julie presented the minutes of the November 13 and December 4, 2009 meeting; they were approved on a motion by Don McGregor and seconded by Paul Beneke. All voted aye.

John stated that since this is the first meeting of the year that the Board needs to elect officers for the upcoming year. It was moved by Ken Chalstrom and seconded by Don McGregor to have Harlan Hansen continue as the President and Myron Amdahl as Vice-President of the IDDA Board of Directors. All voted aye.

John reported on county visits; he visited Hancock County in January and Webster and Sac Counties during the month of February. The weather this winter has made travel around the state difficult at best.

Julie reviewed the financial reports (Administrative and Litigation Funds) showing activity, both summary and detail, through the end of January 2010. It was moved by Paul Beneke and seconded by Phil Condon to approve the financials as presented. All voted aye.

John reported that the New Farmers Drainage District in Monona County has decided to hire the same attorney as the spraying company is using. An appeal is being worked on for the next step in the judicial process.

CFS update – John stated that we are two months into the new budget year and all is going very well. We have just signed a new contract to continue with the CFS grant for one more year with the Department of Agriculture – IDALS. A copy of the contract was provided to the board.

Calhoun County – The railroad has filed an appeal to the decision that they are responsible for fixing tile and repairing drainage district within their right-of-way. IDDA has paid Calhoun County \$5,000 to help with the lawsuit and the Board would be open to a request for further help as this is a decision that will affect all counties in the future.

Anti-degradation review – The new anti-degradation policy has been set and the exemption for drainage district cleanouts is still included. This will allow the counties to continue to clean out their dredge ditches without having to get a permit.

Discussion was held about the December 2009 annual meeting. It was agreed that everything went very well and we should continue to hold the meeting at the same location. A contract has been signed for December 3, 2010.

Legislative report –

SF – 2316 This bill is related to flood plain management. Vicki Stoller of the Two Rivers Levee and Drainage Association was included telephonically in the discussion of this bill. It was moved by Don McGregor and seconded by Ken Chalstrom to go on record that the IDDA is opposed to this bill. All voted aye.

SF-2273 This bill is relating to drainage districts and modifying the amount of bid security required to be submitted by bidders. This would change the bid security amount required from 10% to 5%, but the limit of \$10,000 is removed. It also raises from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars the threshold amount that must be met before bids are taken on drainage improvements. This bill has now passed the House and will be on the Senate calendar soon.

HF – 2246 The bill provides for restoration and repairs of damages to drainage district or levee district improvements. This bill will be going into interim study.

HF – 2217 This bill is related to the bidding procedures for drainage and levee districts, and including provisions for effective dates. This bill will be going into interim study.

HF – 2256 This bill provides an appropriation to reimburse the governing body of a drainage district for repairs associated with a lake owned by the department of natural resources. This bill is also going into interim study.

HF – 2206 This bill is relating to agricultural drainage wells and it will extend the date for complying with certain requirements and including effective date provisions. IDDA is registered in favor of this bill. This bill is out of committee and John will keep us posted of its progress.

SF – 2317 This bill would authorize the creation of a watershed management authority. IDDA is now registered as undecided.

According to the Auditor's review of our association that was conducted last year, there are \$1,930 in restricted funds that are in the litigation account. This money was given to the IDDA to help with a previous lawsuit and the restriction is no longer valid. It was moved by Don McGregor and seconded by Paul Beneke to change the status of the \$1,930 to unrestricted and allow it to be used for any other litigation concerns that may arise. All voted aye.

John asked the Board for permission to travel out of state to an Ag Drainage Management Conference in St. Louis, MO on the 2nd thru the 4th of March. It was moved by Paul Beneke and seconded by Phil Condon to approve John's out-of-state travel to the Drainage Conference in St. Louis, MO. All voted aye.

It was moved by Don McGregor and seconded by Phil Condon to designate Julie Fridolfson as the Secretary-Treasurer for 2010. All voted aye.

The next meeting date has set for March 31, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

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