

Minutes

IDDA Board of Directors Meeting

February 29, 2012

Pocahontas, IA

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by President Harlan Hansen. Other board members in attendance were Phil Condon, Paul Beneke, Ken Chalstrom and Don McGregor. Also present was executive director John Torbert.

The minutes of the 1/25/2012 board meeting were approved as written on motion by McGregor and second by Beneke.

Financials reports through 1/31/2012 were presented by John Torbert. After discussion, the reports were accepted a presented on motion by Chalstrom and second by Condon.

John reported that he had scheduled a county visit to Buena Vista County but had cancelled it due to weather concerns. It will be rescheduled.

John provided the board with an update on the CFS program and presented financials through that program through Jan. 31, 2012. John also reported that the IDDA unemployment account had been charged as a result of a claim filed by one of our CREP Field Specialists – Ike Petersen. The claim has been contested as it is obviously in error. Mr. Petersen is still employed by IDDA. The claim was supposed to go against the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources.

John reported that there were no new developments in the Calhoun County railroad case. We are still awaiting the Supreme Court Decision. John reported that there was a new development in the New Farmers Drainage District case. The state Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) had NOT approved the decision of the administrative law judge in the case. This action puts the state's case in doubt. John reported that the DNR was supposed to hold a meeting on the case soon to determine their next course of action. John has spoken with Chuck Gipp, deputy director of the DNR about the case. John also reported that there had been another court decision on a railroad issue in Franklin County. It is unclear at this time as to the impact of that decision.

John reported to the board on legislation we are following. Specific bills discussed were SSB 3138 relating to collection of assessments by county treasurers and SF 2233 which changes the definition of wetland. Also discussed were the appropriations bills for CREP and for Ag drainage well closure. John also reported on a proposal by Rep. Deyoe that would equally spread the cost of drainage improvements on a per acre basis instead of a basis on benefit received. The board did not favor such an approach.

John reported that he had received correspondence from the attorney general's office regarding transfer of levee district to a city. It was decided that we would forward the names of drainage attorneys to the attorney general's office.

John reviewed the agenda for the Iowa Water conference in Ames that he will be attending in early March.

John reported that he had contracted with the Best West Starlite for the 2012 annual meeting. It will be held on December 7. Meal prices are unchanged.

John requested permission to attend the Ag Drainage Task Force meeting in Dundee, Michigan in mid-April.

The next IDDA board meeting will be on April 4 in Pocahontas County.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Torbert, CAE