

Minutes
Board of Director's Meeting
Iowa Drainage District Association
September 30, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Board members present included Harlan Hansen, Myron Amdahl, Paul Beneke, Ron Smith, and Don McGregor. Also present was John Torbert Executive Director and Julie Fridolfson – Secretary/Treasurer. Also present were Don Reffer – B & W Control Specialists, Roger and Carol McCandless and Karen Haveman from Monona County – trustees of the New Farmers Drainage District.

Julie presented the minutes of the June 25, 2009 meeting; they were approved on a motion by Don McGregor and second by Ron Smith. All voted aye.

John reported on county visits; he visited Boone County, Greene County, O'Brien County, Two Rivers Levy District, Woodbury County and Pocahontas County during the last month.

Julie reviewed the financial reports (Administrative and Litigation Funds) showing activity, both summary and detail, through the end of August 2009. It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Paul Beneke to approve the financials as presented. All voted aye.

The New Farmers Drainage District Trustees were introduced. They are here to provide us with an update on how the law suit is going with the IDNR. Roger McCandless and Karen Haveman went over the situation as it now stands and stated that no satisfaction has been found thus far. It has been appealed to the next level which is still an administrative level in the IDNR. New Farmers drainage district is 9 miles long and it only receives surface water not tile water as our dredge ditches in central Iowa. There is a gate located at the end (outlet) that opens and closes – this area in the levy is not meant for aquatic life. The Trustees have decided to change attorneys and will be retaining Craig Lavin out of Davenport, Iowa. They will keep the Board updated on the progress of this issue.

Don Reffer of B & W Control Specialists went over information that he has received stating that there could be a permitting process for the ditch spraying in the future. This would greatly increase the paperwork for his job and could hurt the counties that have been maintaining their ditches on a rotational basis.

CFS update – John went over the CFS budget with the Board. Charlie Kiepe has retired, and he was the only CREP employee left of the original three that were hired at the beginning of the grant. He will not be replaced but the area he covered will be split between the CREP employees in that area. The CREP employees have been very hard at work. There is now a three year waiting list to build a new CREP site. IDDA has hired an engineer from the State (IDALS) to help Mike Bourland with the engineering of the CREP sites. John told the Board that we will be holding training in Algona for the CREP employees, John, Julie and the IDALS staff on the 23rd of October, 2009.

Calhoun County update – John stated that the railroad has now sued the County to have them pay for the repairs and lost train time. More updates to come.

Anti-Degradation - John stated that the language is still present that exempts drainage from the anti-degradation process. He will let the Board know if anything new comes about.

John stated that the annual meeting agenda has been set for December 4th.

Nominating Committee – Don McGregor, Paul Beneke and Ken Chalstrom are up for election. The by-laws state that a nominating committee will be set up and the members for this year will be Myron Amdahl, Ron Smith and Julie Fridolfson. They will present their report at the next meeting.

Hypoxia Meeting – A meeting was held for the Hypoxia Task Force to show them some of the practices that the people in Iowa have been using to help reduce the nitrates and phosphorus in the waters. They were given a tour of the CREP sites and shown many other practices that are in use at this time in Iowa. The response to this meeting has been very positive.

John is requesting out of state travel to a meeting in Minnesota. It was moved by Myron Amdahl and seconded by Don McGregor to approve the out of state travel for the attendance of a meeting in Minnesota. All voted aye.

John has sent a letter to Senator Grassley and Senator Harkin about the Clean Water Act and that IDDA is opposing this new legislation.

The next meeting date has set for November 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Julie A. Fridolfson

IDDA Secretary/Treasurer