

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2009 MEETING
OF THE
WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD**

Appointed Members in Attendance

Jolee Belzung, Chairperson, Iowa Association of Water Agencies
Robert Ballou, Iowa Soybean Association
Tom Hadden, Iowa Environmental Council
Bernie Hoyer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Debra Karwal, Iowa Pork Producers
Leah Maass, Iowa Farm Bureau
Mark Rosenbury, Vice Chairperson, Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Deb Ryun, Conservation Districts of Iowa
Keri Van Zante, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards

Appointed Members Absent

Betty De Boef, State Representative
Jim Gillespie, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Rob Hogg, State Senator
Kevin Jacobson, Iowa Rural Water Association
David Johnson, State Senator
Dolores Mertz, State Representative

Staff and Guests

Mary J. Baker, IDALS, Division of Soil Conservation
Jerry Neppel, IDALS, Division of Soil Conservation

Technical Experts

Marty Adkins, NRCS
Bill Ehm, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Thomas Isenhardt, Iowa State University
Wayne Peterson, IDALS, Division of Soil Conservation

Call to Order

The meeting of the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on Friday, February 27, 2009, at the Ankeny Public Services Building, 220 West First Street, Ankeny, Iowa, by Chairperson Belzung.

Approval of Agenda

Motion 2009-037 Chairperson Belzung called for the vote to adopt the agenda as amended. Moved by Ballou and seconded by Hadden to approve the agenda, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2009 Board Meeting

Motion 2009-038 Chairperson Belzung called for a vote to approve the January 23, 2009 meeting minutes. Moved by Hoyer and seconded by Maass, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Motion 2009-039 Chairperson Belzung called for a vote to approve the Treasurer's report effective through January 19, 2009. Moved by Ryun and seconded by Karwal and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Watershed Improvement Fund
Revenue & Expenses
Fiscal Year 2009**

Revenue Collected:		
Intra State Transfers		\$ 5,000,000.00
Watershed Improvement Fund Refunds		\$ 17,068.77
Interest		
June Interest	\$ 52,516.48	
July Interest	26,210.06	
August Interest	23,976.87	
September Interest	27,611.30	
October Interest	40,759.90	
November Interest	22,839.53	
December Interest	30,419.12	
January Interest		
February Interest		
March Interest		
April Interest		
May Interest		
Total Interest		<u>224,333.26</u>
Total Revenue Collected from July 1, 2008 through February 17, 2009		5,241,402.03
Expenditures:		
Intra State Transfers	50,000.00	
Pay Requests Approved by Board	4,064,200.81	
Total Expenditures from July 1, 2008 through February 17, 2009		<u>4,114,200.81</u>
Revenue minus Expenditures		\$ 1,127,201.22
Fund Balance forward from FY 2008		\$ 9,695,418.02
Fund Balance as of February 17, 2009 (FY2009)		<u>\$ 10,822,619.24</u>

Allocations and interest available less funds set aside for existing projects

Revenues			
Appropriations			
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, and 2008		\$15,000,000.00	
State Fiscal Year 2009	SFY2009	\$5,000,000.00	
Watershed Improvement Fund refunds			
Lyon SWCD	SFY2008	\$57,500.00	
5018-007 Storm Lake, 6010-005 Holiday Lake, 6018-010 Storm Lake	SFY2009	\$17,068.77	
Interest Accrued			
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, and 2008		\$915,627.02	
SFY2009 (to date)	SFY2009	\$224,333.26	
Total Revenue Collected through February 17, 2009			\$21,214,529.05
Expenses and Funds Set Aside			
Intra State Transfers (IDALS)			
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, and 2008		\$150,000.00	
Intra State Transfers (IDALS)	SFY2009	\$50,000.00	
WIRB Per Diem and expenses (as of 1-31-09)	SFY2009	\$1,466.13	
Subtotal		\$201,466.13	
Funds Set Aside For Approved Projects			
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, and 2008		\$14,610,172.00	
State Fiscal Years 2009 (9-12-08)	SFY2009	\$3,504,531.00	
Subtotal		\$18,114,703.00	
Total Expenses or Obligations			\$18,316,169.13
Funds Available as of February 17, 2009			\$2,898,359.92

Review and Select Applications for Funding From the January 30, 2009 RFA

- 8027 Competine Creek **2009-040 Motion** Moved by Ryun, seconded by Rosenbury to approve the application for funding, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 8025 Remsen Source Water Protection Project **2009-041 Motion** Moved by Ryun and seconded by Hadden to approve the application for the amount of \$160,800, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 8018 Walnut Creek **2009-042 Motion** Moved by Hoyer and seconded by Maass to approve the application for funding, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Technical expert Adkins stated the applicant will use the SCI model as a measure of soil quality. The SCI is a prediction tool to estimate whether applied conservation practices will result in maintained or increased levels of soil organic matter. The model combines the effect of organic material or biomass factor; field operations factor; erosion factor; and other physical conditions (e.g. soil texture).*
- 8021 Sands Timber **2009-043 Motion** Moved by Ryun and seconded by Karwal to approve the application for funding, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 8019 Staff Creek and Beaver Creek **2009-044 Motion** Moved by Ryun and seconded Maass by to approve the application for funding, and the motion was approved. Voting yea: Chairperson Belzung, Ballou, Hadden, Hoyer, Karwal, Maass, Ryun, and Van Zante. Voting nay: Rosenbury.
- 8024 Duck Creek Watershed **2009-045 Motion** Moved by Ryun and seconded by Ballou to approve the application for funding, contingent on receiving a quantifiable budget and submitting a summary budget, and the motion was approved. Voting yea: Chairperson Belzung, Ballou, Hadden, Hoyer, Karwal, Maass, Ryun, and Van Zante. Voting nay: Rosenbury.
- Board will discuss submitted budgets in teleconference at a later date.*
- 8023 DMACC Lake Watershed **2009-046 Motion** Moved by Hadden and seconded by Rosenbury to approve the application for funding, and the motion was approved. Voting yea: Chairperson Belzung, Ballou, Hadden, Hoyer and Rosenbury. Voting nay: Maass, Karwal, Ryun and Van Zante.
- Board discussion included making the lake deeper for fishing; has an nutrient assessment be completed and does it show how the proposed practices will impact the nutrients; water filtration will occur from the Prairie Trails Development; and the benefit of a 2009 completion date.*
- 8020 Boone River Watershed **2009-047 Motion** Moved by Maass and seconded Hoyer by to approve the application for funding, and the motion was not approved. Voting yea: Maass. Voting nay: Chairperson Belzung, Ballou, Karwal, Hadden, Hoyer, Ryun, Rosenbury and Van Zante.
- Ryun will draft the non-fund letter to the applicant.*
- 8022 Beaver Creek Watershed **2009-048 Motion** Motion by Hadden and seconded by Hoyer to approve the application for funding. Voting yea: Chairperson Belzung, Hadden and Hoyer.

Voting nay: Ballou, Karwal, Maass, Rosenbury, Ryun and Van Zante.

The Board discussed the beneficial collaboration between the Cities of Johnston and Ankeny, who are addressing waterway issues in their respective areas. The project is a good idea but the applicant did not follow assessment factors in the written application.

Van Zante will draft the non-fund letter to the applicant. Technical expert Adkins requested the Board request the applicant include information on how operation and maintenance of the proposed practices would be implemented.

8026 North and South Skunk River Basins

2009-049 Motion Moved by Maass and seconded by Hoyer to approve the application for funding, and the motion was unanimously not approved.

Hoyer will draft the non-fund letter to the applicant.

Review and Take Action on Final Project Reports

5007-003 Hewitt Creek

2009-050 Motion Moved by Rosenbury and seconded by Hadden to accept the final report and to approve the release of final funds, and the motion was unanimously approved. Hoyer volunteered to obtain water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate report from applicant.

5011-005 Yellow River

2009-051 Motion Moved by Rosenbury and seconded by Hadden to require the applicant to resubmit the final report detailing the sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus load reductions. The Board requests Neppel to confirm the allocation of dollars spent in Table B is consistent with the WIRB grant agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

5021-008 Clear Creek

2009-052 Motion Moved by Ryun seconded by Maass to accept the final report, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5024-009 Muchakinock Creek

2009-053 Motion Moved by Ryun and seconded by Rosenbury to authorize the completion of the in-progress activities and to submit the final report with a project area map, and the motion was unanimously approved. Neppel informed the Board that there is currently no project manager. He spoke to the office assistant who stated the project was not complete and she was under the impression a final report should be submitted in order to collect the final payment.

5028-010 Urban Watersheds of Dickinson County

2009-054 Motion Moved by Hadden and seconded by Rosenbury to accept the final report and authorize sending invoice for remaining funds, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5037-014 Elk River

Neppel informed the Board there are two ledgers: 1) other funding and 2) WIRB funding. There are errors in the final report tables. Neppel will contact the applicants for more information. The board decided not to accept the report.

Action on Funding Request Forms

6017-009 Saylor Creek

2009-055 Motion Motion by Hadden and seconded by Ballou to approve the \$111,850 funding request, and the motion was approved. Belzung abstained from voting.

7011-003 Keg Creek

2009-056 Motion Motion by Rosenbury and seconded by Maas to approve 90%, or \$450,000, of the funding request, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Memo Received From Projects Nearing End of Three-Year Grant Agreement

5035-012 Clear Lake

The applicant requests that it be allowed to complete the installation of three grit chambers started last fall but unable to completed due to inclement weather. The WIRB previously approved a grant agreement extension to February 28, 2009.

2009-057 Motion Motion by Ryun and seconded by Hadden to approve finishing in-process practices, and the motion was unanimously approved.

WIRB Policies and Legislative Update

Chairperson Belzung and Vice-Chairperson Rosenbury gave presentations to three legislative committees. Belzung presented to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Sub-committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. Rosenbury presented to the House Agriculture Committee. Belzung distributed the legislative language proposed by the WIRB to allow the WIRB more flexibility to provide administrative support to the program.

SF4 – Chairperson Belzung updated the Board on the status of this legislation which will allow projects to be up to five years in length and allow the WIRB to extend projects an additional five years.. The issue is still in committee.

HF69 – Hoyer informed the Board the economic stimulus money is going into the clean water and drinking water funds. This includes a requirement that 50% of the economic stimulus money is available in the form of forgivable loans or 0% based loans. If products are available, a minimum 20% has to be set aside for green infrastructure projects (water or energy).

Board Correspondence

Neppel received one letter of support February 19 for application 8025 Resmsen Source Water Protection Project from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Source Water Protection.

Administrative Update

Neppel sent the Board the application for 6027-13 Leisure Lake. Neppel stated he received a call approximately ten days ago from the Jackson County Environmental Health staff, who wants the Board to consider changing from a lagoon system to a cluster of septic systems. Neppel informed the Jackson County Environmental Health staff this change requires an amendment. Neppel has received telephone calls from the Jackson County staff, the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist—Filed Operations (who supervises the RC&D coordinator) , and the utility management organization, as well as a visit from State Representative Tom J. Schueller. There is nothing on paper to report but Neppel expects to receive letters. There are concerns being raised if this project will be able to be completed by December 31, 2009.. In the last progress report submitted in January, the applicant was planning to bid the project this spring. The applicant may have to condemn land in order to obtain land for the lagoon. The Watershed Improvement Funds are necessary to leverage other funds and to keep the project affordable to the homeowners. The Board will review the status of this project when more information is received.

Board Appointments

Chairperson Belzung informed the Board that Senator David Johnson was reappointed to WIRB Board until January 10, 2011.

Neppel stated that Representatives Mertz' and De Boef's terms to the WIRB expired at the beginning of the legislative session.

Future Meeting Dates

April 24, 2009

August 7, 2009

September 18, 2009 (application selection)

November 6, 2009

December 18, 2009

All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Ankeny Public Services Building, 220 West First Street, Ankeny, Iowa, and begin at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn

Chairperson Belzung adjourned the meeting at 1:31pm.



Jolee Belzung, Chair
Watershed Improvement Review Board