

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2009 MEETING
OF THE
WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD**

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Appointed Members in Attendance

Jolee Belzung, Chairperson, Iowa Association of Water Agencies
Mark Rosenbury, Vice Chairperson, Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Vicki Allen, Iowa Farm Bureau
Robert Ballou, Iowa Soybean Association
Jim Gillespie, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Tom Hadden, Iowa Environmental Council
Kevin Jacobson, Iowa Rural Water Association
Deb Ryun, Conservation Districts of Iowa
Keri Van Zante, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards

Appointed Members Absent

Bernie Hoyer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Debra Karwal, Iowa Pork Producers
Dennis Black, State Senator
David Johnson, State Senator
Betty De Boef, State Representative
Dolores Mertz, State Representative

Staff and Guests

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

Call to Order

The meeting of the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) was called to order at 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2009, via teleconference by Chairperson Belzung.

Approval of Agenda

Motion 2009-068 Chairperson Belzung called to adopt the agenda. Moved by Ryun and seconded by Hadden to approve the agenda, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes from the April 24, 2009 Board Meeting

Neppel noted that an incorrect date in the header was discovered on the draft meeting minutes distributed. The error has been corrected.

Motion 2009-069 Chairperson Belzung called for a motion to approve the April 24, 2009 meeting minutes as corrected. Moved by Ryun and seconded by Jacobson, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Review and Take Action on the Plan of Work and Budget for 8024-014 Duck Creek Watershed

This application was tentatively selected for funding at the February 27, 2009 WIRB meeting contingent upon the applicant providing a quantifiable budget and submitting a summary budget. The Board discussion centered on the budgeted costs for installing the riparian buffers. The plan of work did not clearly identify the priority areas to install the riparian buffers. A suggestion was made to require the applicant obtain bids. Neppel noted that the grant agreement between the WIRB and the applicant does specify that public contracting requirements are to be used. It was noted that the overall project has very good cash and in-kind match to the Watershed Improvement Funds being requested.

Motion 2009-070 Chairperson Belzung called for a vote to approve the budget and plan of work for 8024-014 Duck Creek Watershed. Moved by Ryun and seconded by Hadden to approve. Ayes: Belzung, Ballou, Gillespie, Hadden, Jacobson, Allen, Ryun, and Van Zante. Nays: Rosenbury. The motion was approved.

Funding Request Forms

Motion 2009-071 Chairperson Belzung called for a motion to approve the 8013-013 Muchakinock Creek Watershed funding request for \$167,000. Moved by Ballou and seconded by Rosenbury, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Final Project Report

The final report for the 5046-014 Elk River project was reviewed by the Board. Neppel stated that the WIRB had received a final report from this project and reviewed it at the February 27, 2009 meeting. However, there were errors noted in the tables and the WIRB decided not to accept the report. Neppel submitted suggestions for improvement to the project staff including requesting pre- and post-project maps. The final report was revised to include these maps, environmental benefit calculations and other improvements. The Board expressed concerns about the low accomplishments achieved relative to the goals established at the beginning of the project. It was noted that heavy rainfall in 2008 prevented practices from being implemented. It appears several factors adversely affected this project including lower than anticipated landowner interest, aggressive goals, and changes in requirements of other programs being utilized to leverage funds. It was noted that the applicant will return \$76,269.29. Funds not requested by the applicant from the WIRB total \$99,377.00 for a total reversion to the Watershed Improvement Fund from the closing out of this project of \$175,646.29.

Motion 2009-072 Chairperson Belzung called for a motion to approve the final report for 5046-014 Elk River. Moved by Hadden and seconded by Ryun, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourn

Chairperson Belzung adjourned the teleconference at 8:45 a.m.



Jolee Belzung, Chair
Watershed Improvement Review Board