

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2010 MEETING
OF THE
WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD**

Appointed Members in Attendance

Mark Rosenbury, Chairperson, Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Vicki Allen, Iowa Farm Bureau
Robert Ballou, Iowa Soybean Association
Jolee Belzung, Iowa Association of Water Agencies
Jim Gillespie, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Tom Hadden, Iowa Environmental Council
Bernie Hoyer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Kevin Jacobson, Iowa Rural Water Association (left at 11:47 a.m.)
Debra Karwal, Iowa Pork Producers
Keri Van Zante, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
Jane Weber, Conservation Districts of Iowa

Appointed Members Absent

Dennis Black, State Senator
Betty De Boef, State Representative
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

Marty Adkins, NRCS
Bill Ehm, IDNR
Tom Isenhardt, ISU
Wayne Petersen, IDALS, DSC

Call to Order

The meeting of the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on Friday, February 19, 2010, by Chairperson Rosenbury.

Approval of Agenda

Motion 2010-07 Chairperson Rosenbury called to adopt the agenda. Moved by Hoyer and seconded by Gillespie to approve the agenda, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Introduction of New Member

Rosenbury introduced Jane Weber, Conservation Districts of Iowa, to the Board. Weber is replacing Deb Ryun.

Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2010 Board Meeting

Motion 2010-08 Chairperson Rosenbury called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Moved by Belzung and seconded by Jacobson, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Approve Treasurer's Report

Motion 2010-09 Chairperson Rosenbury called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report dated February 5, 2010. Motion by Ballou and seconded by Gillespie, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Neppel is to look into the \$1 difference between the Leisure Lake Watershed refund and the amount for Lytle Creek Watershed starting balance which should be the same amount.

**Watershed Improvement Fund
Revenue & Expenses – Fiscal Year 2010 as of 2-5-10**

<u>Revenue Collected:</u>		
Intra State Transfers		\$ 5,000,000.00
Watershed Improvement Fund Refunds		\$ 544,595.24
5002-001 Little Pony Creek	\$ 21,662.75	
5028-010 Urban Watersheds of Dickinson County Lakes	\$ 52,183.35	
5037-014 Elk River	\$ 76,269.29	
5036-013 Joint Drainage District 1-10	\$ 2,727.09	
6027-013 Leisure Lake Watershed	\$ 391,752.76	
Interest		
June Interest	\$ 7,981.14	
July Interest	12,228.49	
August Interest	10,367.81	
September Interest	9,291.78	
October Interest	9,611.84	
November Interest	9,231.40	
December Interest	6,752.42	
Total Interest	<u>65,464.88</u>	
Total Revenue Collected from July 1, 2009 through February 5, 2010		5,610,060.12
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Intra State Transfers	50,000.00	
WIRB Per Diem and Expenses		
Funding Requests Approved by Board: 8-7-09 and 9-21-09	<u>2,343,428.50</u>	
Total Expenditures from July 1, 2009 through February 5, 2010		<u>2,393,428.50</u>
Revenue minus Expenditures		\$ 3,216,631.62
Fund Balance forward from FY 2009		\$ 9,614,260.37
Fund Balance as of January 18, 2010		<u>\$ 12,830,891.99</u>
Allocations and interest available less funds set aside for existing projects		
Revenues		
Appropriations		
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009	\$20,000,000.00	
State Fiscal Year 2010	SFY 2010 \$5,000,000.00	
Watershed Improvement Fund refunds		
SFY2008, 2009	\$74,568.77	
	SFY 2010 \$ 544,595.24	
Interest Accrued		
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009	\$1,260,926.18	
SFY2010 (to 2-5-10)	SFY 2010 \$65,464.88	
Total Revenue Collected through February 5, 2010		\$26,945,555.07
Expenses and Funds Set Aside		
Intra State Transfers (IDALS)		
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009	\$200,000.00	
Intra State Transfers (IDALS)	SFY 2010 \$50,000.00	
WIRB Per Diem and expenses SFY 2009	\$2,570.56	
WIRB Per Diem and expenses	SFY 2010 -	
Subtotal	<u>\$252,570.56</u>	
Funds Set Aside For Approved Projects		
State Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009	\$19,969,444.70	
State Fiscal Year 2010 (includes \$391,751.76 for Lytle Creek)	<u>\$5,012,583.80</u>	
Subtotal	\$24,982,028.50	
Total Expenses or Obligations		<u>\$25,234,599.06</u>
Funds Available as of February 5, 2010		<u>\$1,710,956.01</u>

Mississippi River Basin Initiative—Bill Ehm, Water Policy Coordinator for DNR

The MRBI is a new initiative through the USDA to address Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia. The RFP has not been released so there are no specifics on funding or program details at this time. Information will be made available to the public once the RFP is available.

Review and Select Applications for Funding

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>FUNDED</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
9029 Otter Creek Watershed	\$500,000	\$500,000	There are errors on the summary budget. Line item revenue column does not add up to all of the funding sources (e.g., line items 3, 5, and 6). The City of West Union letter of support pledges support of up to \$2 million dollars but the summary budget shows support in the amount of \$900,000. If the City of West Union can supplement an additional \$1.1 million dollars, does the applicant need WIRB funding?
9027 Iowa Great Lakes Watershed	\$439,375	0	Did not stay in the 6 page limit rule. Under goals on page 5, they show nutrient and pesticide management but it does not show up in the budget for the practices. Like to see projects where staffing and salaries are funded with other resources. On page 4, conservation cover, there is a \$50 per acre financial incentive to boost enrollment (one time deal). The results do not address sediment and will the applicant get the project completed in the five year time limit? On page 1, the primary pollutant is sediment and the amount of sediment reduction is not addressed.
9028 Tributary B Four Mile Creek Watershed	\$169,800	\$169,800	The cost for mobilization is \$48,000. WIRB is asked to fund 100% of the costs for practices going on City of Ankeny property and the park.
9032 Miller Creek Watershed	\$255,300	\$255,300	There are errors on summary budget funding sources do not equal total in revenue. Two additional letters of support were received last week basically covering EQIP and NRCS funds, and the District indicating IFIP will be available. Sediment reductions specified may be a little high. Miller Creek flows to the Des Moines River. The Rathbun Lake Watershed is in southern Monroe County.
9030 Goff Creek Watershed	\$500,000	0	The applicant notes a Cooperative Watershed Grant in the amount of \$100,000: is it applied for annually? There is no letter of support from I JOBS funding.
9033 Camp Creek Watershed	322,500	322,500	Board was concerned about easements funded through WRP in another project. Can project be done without easements? Should WIRB fund easements? Polk County Conservation Board may take on the management of easement and maintenance. The summary budget shows the landowner contributing 50% of the costs and 20% of easement cost is used for BMPs. This will be a test case for managing easements and maintaining the improvements for the life of the improvements.
9031 Duck Creek Watershed	\$500,000	\$400,000	The applicant is proposing the use of underground retention tanks. How do they work? Peterson – the tanks can be made of plastic or concrete, but it is the storage capacity that is important. The tanks are designed and placed under permeable pavement to capture run-off and therefore avoid flooding.

Motion 2010-10 Motion by Hadden and seconded by Belzung to fund \$400,000 of the 9031 Duck Creek Watershed request due to limited funds of the WIRB, and the motion was approved.

Motion 2010-11 Motion by Ballou and seconded by Karwal to fund requested amounts from 9029 Otter Creek Watershed, 9028 Tributary B Four Mile Creek Watershed, 9032 Miller Creek Watershed, and 9033 Camp Creek Watershed, and the motion was approved. Hadden abstained from voting on 9033 Camp Creek Watershed and Belzung abstained from voting on 9028 Tributary B Four Mile Creek Watershed.

Letters to Applicants

9027 Iowa Great Lakes Watershed - spell "phosphorous" correctly, inconsistencies in goals, include lake vegetation restoration as part of the results and explain the results; and the narrative must six pages or less.

9030 Goff Creek Watershed - Did not include a letter of support for IJOBS.

9031 Duck Creek Watershed – The results must be the same as stated in the application although the WIRB is only funding \$400,000.

After discussion, the WIRB concurred that all applications need to follow the minimum qualifications stated in the RFA. Applications not meeting the minimum criteria will be disqualified and will not be reviewed by the WIRB.

Project Progress Reports

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
6025-012 Rathbun Lake Watershed, Progress Report	No report submitted.
7013-004 Rathbun Lake Watershed, Progress Report	No report submitted.
7043-017 North Fork Maquoketa, Progress Report	The Board discussed the Fish Index of Biological Integrity (FIBI). The FIBI is based on the number and diversity of individuals in the fish family and their tolerance to environmental conditions. It indicates how narrow or widespread the tolerance is for the water quality conditions at the family level.
8008-004 Rathbun Lake Watershed	No report submitted.
9008-005 Hewitt Creek, Plan of Work	The applicant plans to submit a proposal to the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative. Neppel will review the plan of work and submit comments to the Board.
9012-009 Little River Lake, Plan of Work	No discussion. Neppel will review the plan of work and submit comments to the Board.

Amendment Requests

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
8005-002 Silver Lake (request to change practice funding criteria)	Applicant wants to increase the incentive rate for the wetland reserve. The applicant wants to pay more for incentives and expand the program to allow 30-year easements in addition to permanent easements.

Board requested applicant to resubmit the amendment request at the April 2010 meeting showing how budget will change and the affect on watershed.

Action on Funding Request Forms

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>FUNDED</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
7043-017 North Fork Maquoketa (report received 1-28-10)	\$58,999	\$58,999	No discussion.
9008-005 Hewitt Creek (plan of work received 2-17-10)	\$57,312	\$57,312	No discussion.
9012-009 Little River Lake (plan of work received 1-14-10)	\$48,800	\$48,800	No discussion.

Motion 2010-12 *Motion by Belzung and seconded by Hadden to approve, and the motion was approved.*

The Board will consider funding requests from Rathbun Lake Watershed and all other projects only when progress reports are submitted and up-to-date.

Final Project Reports – No new reports were received

Follow-Up - Saylor Creek spent about 78% of the total project amount as stated in the application budget. WIRB will only fund its percentage of the original costs and all funders should benefit equally on savings. The Attorney General's office is working on stronger language in future agreements.

Motion 2010-13 *Motion by Karwal and seconded by Allen to adjust the grant agreement template to state WIRB will fund a percentage of actual costs and not the entire amount granted when the budgeted funds are not completely spent, and to request return of the 22% of remaining funds for the Saylor Creek project. The motion was approved.*

WIRB Presentations—Iowa Water Conference March 8 by Bob Ballou and Legislative Committees TBD

Motion 2010-14 *Motion by Hadden and seconded by Hoyer to approve mileage reimbursements for eligible Board members to the Iowa Water Conference and project annual review meetings, and the motion was approved.*

Administrative update—Neppl

- a) The 2009 WIRB Annual Report was delivered on February 1, 2010.
- b) Annual project reviews are being conducted on projects funded by 319, WPF and WSPF programs at meetings held in February and March, 2010. The Board is encouraged to participate in the meetings where a WIRB-funded project also exists.
- c) Ballou attended two annual project review meetings. 1) Bear Creek, Jones County, the project targeted about one-third of the watershed. They thought they achieved only 5% sediment reduction and not the 30% sediment reduction goal. Smaller trees were removed to establish grass along the streams. The cost was about \$1,000 per acre. In the future, the group wants to look at uplands where they think other problems are occurring. 2) Lake McBride, Johnson County, 1,400 feet of shoreline was repaired that was eroded next to a county road. The applicants were exceedingly pleased with the money they received from WIRB. They used some other financial resources to investigate state parks, and they were discouraged to find state parks are not getting the erosion problems repaired.
- d) Belzung and Ballou have resubmitted their names to governor's office to continue on the WIRB. Jacobson's term will end this year and he is not seeking re-appointment.
- e) WIRB appointment – Jane Weber, Scott County, Conservation Districts of Iowa.
- f) HF763 allows all WIRB interest to be used for administrative support, and it is up for Senate confirmation. HSB700 allows permanent funding for conservation and its impact on WIRB is unclear.
- g) Neppl gave Board members a petition letter supporting the Watershed Improvement Fund to review. Weber stated that due to time constraints, the letter should be signed today by the Board. She was willing to deliver it to her legislator today. The Board members present agreed and the letter was finalized and delivered by Weber.
- h) Iowa Department of Natural Resources booklet – Neppl presented Board members with the 2009 Watershed Improvement Success Stories booklet. The booklet is for informational purposes only. Several WIRB-funded projects are featured in the booklet.

Future Meeting Dates (Ankeny Public Services Building, 220 West First Street, Ankeny, Iowa):

April 30, 2010 (possibly a teleconference) – open RFA

June 15, 2010 - RFA deadline

June 30, 2010 meet to discuss RFAs

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.



Mark Rosenbury, Chair
Watershed Improvement Review Board