

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2011 TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
OF THE  
WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD**

**Appointed Members in Attendance**

Mark Rosenbury, Chairperson, Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Robert Ballou, Iowa Soybean Association  
Jolee Belzung, Iowa Association of Water Agencies  
Jim Gillespie, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Kerry Van Zante, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards  
Lisa Walters, Iowa Rural Water Association  
Jane Weber, Conservation Districts of Iowa

**Appointed Members in Absent**

Larry Alliger, Iowa Farm Bureau  
Dennis Black, State Senator  
Tom Hadden, Iowa Environmental Council  
Steve Hopkins, Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
David Johnson, State Senator  
Debra Karwal, Iowa Pork Producers  
Jarad Klein, State Representative  
Roger Thomas, 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 8:31 a.m. on Friday, December 2, 2011, by Chairperson Rosenbury.

**Approval of Agenda**

Add 8008-004 Rathbun Lake Watershed to Reports on Practices In-Progress for Ending Projects and 7014-005 Maple River to Amendment Requests.

Delete Final Project Reports from the agenda.

**Motion 2011-82** *Chairperson Rosenbury called to adopt the amended agenda. Moved by Walters and seconded by Weber to approve the amended agenda, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

**Approve the Minutes From the November 4, 2011 Meeting**

The following changes are noted:

- Approval of Minutes – change the title date from August 12 to September 9, and
- Amendment Request 9028-014 Tributary B – change November 31 to October 31.

**Motion 2011-83** *Moved by Belzung and seconded by Weber to approve the amended November 4, 2011 meeting minutes, and the motion was unanimously approved.*



**Watershed Protection Fund  
Revenue Bonds Capitals II Fund (DT4)  
Revenue & Expenses  
Fiscal Year 2012 as of November 22, 2011**

Revenue Collected:

Appropriations	SFY12	\$	-
Watershed Improvement Fund Refunds		\$	-
Total Revenue Collected from July 1, 2011 through November 22, 2011			-

Expenditures:

Funding Requests Approved by Board			
8/12/2011	SFY12		658,039.00
11/4/2011	SFY12		<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Expenditures from July 1, 2011 through November 22, 2011			<u>668,039.00</u>
Revenue minus Expenditures		\$	(668,039.00)
Fund balance forward from SFY2011		\$	1,777,729.00
Fund Balance as of November 22, 2011 (Treasurers Office)		\$	<u>1,111,690.00</u>
Appropriations	SFY11	\$	2,000,000.00
Total Funds Available		\$	2,000,000.00
Expenses and Funds Set Aside			
Funds Set Aside For Approved Projects (7-23-2010 and 11-5-2010)	SFY11	\$	2,000,000.00
Total Expenses or Obligations		\$	2,000,000.00
Funds Available as of November 22, 2011			<u><u>0.00</u></u>

The Treasurers Report shows an available balance of (626,692.16) in the D81 Infrastructure Account after deducting the funds set aside for existing projects. There is approximately \$300,000 due now and \$800,000 estimated slippage and invoices from projects ending within three months.

The DT4 Capital Revenue Bonds II Account has a \$0 balance after deducting funds set aside for funded projects.

**Motion 2011-84** *Moved by Gillespie and seconded by Van Zante to approve the treasurers report, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

**Report on Practices In-Progress for Ending Projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
8008-004 Rathbun Lake Watershed	The report was received on November 30, 2011. The Judd Dent and Steve Kyner practices are finished awaiting billing or are under construction. The Sponsler Family Farms terrace project was obligated on November 15 and plans to begin construction soon. The applicant plans to complete this practice this fall. The Board previously allowed in-progress practices with earth being moved to be completed.

**Motion 2011-85** *Moved by Ballou and seconded by Gillespie to approve the Judd Dent and Steve Kyner as in-progress practices The Sponsler Family Farms practice is subject to construction beginning with earth being moved before January 31, 2012 to receive WIRB funding for the practice. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Neppel updated the Board on the November 18, 2011 memo to applicants whose projects are ending and fall under the three-year project-length limitation. The 7031-011 Brushy Creek project has two practices that may be in-progress but did not respond to the memo; 8009-005 Storm Lake was granted a continuance at the November 4, 2011 WIRB meeting; and 8004-001 Summit Lake has two potential in-progress practices but did not respond to the memo.

**Amendment Requests**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
7014-005 Maple River Junction	The request is a reallocation of the estimated versus actual costs. The project is complete. The ledger is under review and the applicant needs to submit the final report narrative. The overall project costs are higher than estimated.

**Motion 2011-86** *Moved by Weber and seconded by Belzung to approve the amendment request, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Grant Agreement Template Changes**

The changes include the Board's guidance to ensure partner dollars are included, the deletion of the IJOBS language, and changes to the final report language.

The Board asked Neppel to confer with the staff from the Iowa Attorney General's Office on language in IV.C.5. regarding termination and send the staff opinion to the Board.

**Motion 2011-87** *Moved by Belzung and seconded by Walters to approve the changes and authorize Neppel and Rosenbury to work with staff from the Iowa Attorney General's Office on language in IV.C.5. regarding termination language.*

### **Annual Report Template**

The report summarizes accomplishments of active projects cumulatively.

**Motion 2011-88** *Moved by Gillespie and seconded by Weber to accept changes to the Annual Report Template, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Budget Ask– Strategy to Move Forward**

1. CDI is hosting the Legislative Conservation Partnership Day (January 25). The Board can set up table with displays and brochures. The Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners meet at the Wallace Building about 9:15 a.m. Neppel will work with Deb Kozel to get the Board on the agenda of the Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Sub-Committee meeting. Neppel has a WIRB display and will forward it electronically to Board for their review and recommendations for changes.
2. Water Day (January 17) – The Iowa Rural Water Association lobbyist is setting up the table and displays for the Association. Linda Kidman and Emily Piper are event contacts for set up. Lisa Walters will contact them to see if WIRB may participate in that function.
3. The Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Sub-Committee and the House Agriculture Committee are two legislative committees the Board historically has provided progress updates and requested continued funding.

The Governor's proposed budget may not be available until the first week the Legislature comes into session. Rosenbury requested WIRB members representing organizations or associations send a letter to the Governor in support of a five million dollar budget appropriation for WIRB.

Ballou is going to distribute the letter and information to Iowa Soybean Association leadership. Belzung has not talked to the leadership but she will encourage the Iowa Association of Water Agencies to send the letter. Rosenbury will send the draft support letter out to Board members so they can submit it to their organization or association.

### **Administrative Update**

Neppel received an email from staff at the Governor's office regarding Board members who are termed out or ineligible to run next year. Neppel checked the Administrative Rules and Iowa Code and there are no terms limits for members but there are term limits for chair and vice chair. Belzung thought there was three-term limit. Neppel will re-check the administrative rules to confirm this. (UPDATE: there is a three consecutive term limit for appointed members, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 103)

Neppel will submit a report on the appropriations from the different funds that support the Watershed Improvement Fund. This report is due January 15, 2012. The annual WIRB progress report specified in Chapter 466A is due January 31, 2012. Project progress reports and project annual reports are due January 15, 2012.

### **Conservation Partnership Day and Water Day**

**Motion 2011-89** *Moved by Walters and seconded by Belzung to allow reimbursement of reasonable expenses while attending these meetings, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Final Reports – Kettle Creek, Maple River Junction and Duck Creek. Neppel reviewed the Duck Creek narrative with the applicant and the final report will be returned in one to two weeks. Neppel will visit the Kettle Creek applicant for clarification of the final report. The Maple River Junction applicant submitted the WIRB ledger, but it has not been reviewed yet.

Neppel asked for guidance how to encourage timely submission of final reports. Some of these projects owe money to WIRB. Mark volunteered to review these situations with Neppel.

### **Future Meetings**

January 26, 2012, Ankeny Public Services Building  
March 9, 2012, conference call  
April 20, 2012, conference call

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

  
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Mark Rosenbury, Chair  
Watershed Improvement Review Board