

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2015
WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING**

Appointed Members in Attendance

Jane Weber, Chairperson, Conservation Districts of Iowa
Robert Ballou, Iowa Soybean Association
Jake Hansen, IDALS, Division of Soil Conservation
Susan Heathcote, Iowa Environmental Council
Steve Hopkins, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Carrie Keppy, Iowa Pork Producers
Carol Sweeting, Iowa Association of Water Agencies
Lisa Walters, Iowa Rural Water Association

Appointed Members Absent

Bruce Bearinger, State Representative
Dave Coppess, Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Larry Gullett, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
Rita Hart, State Senator
David Johnson, State Senator
Jarad Klein, State Representative
Greg Rinehart, Iowa Farm Bureau

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 10:04 a.m., on Friday, April 17, 2015, by Chairperson Weber.

Approval of Agenda

Additions:

- 8) d) 1248-023 Dry Run Creek Watershed progress report; and
- 9) a) 1112-004 Price Creek Watershed amendment request.

Motion 2015-40 *Moved by Ballou and seconded by Hopkins to approve the amended agenda and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of January 23, 2015 and February 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Revise the table for Motion 2015-20 to show Ballou and Gullett abstained from voting.

Motion 2015-41 *Moved by Hansen and seconded by Hopkins to approve the amended January 23, 2015 and the February 27, 2015 meeting minutes and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Treasurers Report

**Watershed Improvement Fund
Iowa Infrastructure Account (Appr D81)
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance - March 2015**

Fund Cash Balance - February 28, 2015	3,385,168.45
 <u>Revenues</u>	
Intra State Transfers - New Appropriation	-
Animal Agriculture Compliance Fund Penalties	19,643.72
Interest	493.40
Refunds	
None	-
Total Refunds	-
TOTAL REVENUES	20,137.12
 <u>Expenditures</u>	
Intra State Transfers	-
WIRB Per Diem and Expenses	-
Project Expenses	126,727.49
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	126,727.49
 Change in Fund Balance	 (106,590.37)
 Fund Cash Balance - March 31, 2015	 \$ 3,278,578.08

**Watershed Improvement Fund
Iowa Infrastructure Account (Appr D81)
Unobligated Funds Available as of April 14, 2015
*(Amounts are for the entire life of the program)***

Total Revenues <i>(Includes Appropriations, Interest, and Animal Ag Compliance Fund Penalties)</i>	27,746,034.98
Transfers to IDALS-DSC for Admin	(250,000.00)
WIRB Board Per Diem and Expenses	(12,793.72)
Projects Awarded and Funds Obligated	(26,306,594.78)
14XX-00X Projects Awarded 1/23/15 <i>(contracts not complete)</i>	(999,861.00)
 Unobligated Funds Available as of April 14, 2015	 \$ 176,785.48

**Watershed Improvement Fund
Appropriation D70
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance - March 2015**

Fund Cash Balance - February 28, 2015		2,699,854.15
 <u>Revenues</u>		
Refunds		
None		
Total Refunds		
TOTAL REVENUES		
 <u>Expenditures</u>		
Project Expenses	10,610.07	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		10,610.07
Change in Fund Balance		(10,610.07)
Fund Cash Balance - March 31, 2015		<u>\$ 2,689,244.08</u>

**Watershed Improvement Fund
Appropriation D70
Unobligated Funds Available as of April 14, 2015
*(Amounts are for the entire life of the program)***

Total Appropriations		3,000,000.00
Projects Awarded and Funds Obligated		<u>(3,000,000.00)</u>
Unobligated Funds Available as of April 14, 2015		<u>\$ -</u>

Motion 2015-42 Moved by Hopkins and seconded by Hansen to file the treasurers report and the motion was unanimously approved.

Project Updates Selected From January 23, 2015 RFA

Neppel informed WIRB of the 1413-005 Iowa Great Lakes and 1415-007 Lake LaVerne projects revised budgets. Two to three contracts remain to be drafted. All contracts have an April 1, 2015 start date, with the exception of 1415-007 Lake LaVerne (March 16, 2015).

Final Reports

Project Name	Discussion
9018-011 Rathbun Lake Watershed	<p>The final report is acceptable. There is slippage (\$131,041.03) that will revert back to account D81.</p> <p>Motion 2015-43 Moved by Hopkins and seconded by Heathcote to approve the final report and the motion was unanimously approved.</p>

Status of 1407 University Branch Dry Run Creek application

The applicant has incorporated the changes identified by the stream team in its proposal. With the slippage of funds from 9018-011 Rathbun Lake, there are adequate funds available to fully fund this project.

Motion 2015-44 *Moved by Hopkins and seconded by Hansen to approve the project for funding and accept the revisions made by the applicant and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Progress Reports

Project Name	Discussion
1103-002 Rathbun Lake Watershed	The applicant is making good progress and 75% of the WIRB funds are obligated or spent.
1221-010 Rathbun Lake Watershed	There are no concerns about this project.
1318-007 Rathbun Lake Watershed	The project is in the engineering phase and practices are obligated.
	Motion 2015-45 <i>Moved by Sweeting and seconded by Keppy to approve the 1103-002, 1221-010 and 1318-007 Rathbun Lake progress reports and the motion was unanimously approved.</i>
1248-023 Dry Run Creek	There are no concerns about this project. The documentation looks good, money was expended and management practices are the main focus. Neppel is holding several GAX requests until the Board has approved this report. Motion 2015-46 <i>Moved by Heathcote and seconded by Hopkins to approve the progress report and the motion was unanimously approved.</i>

Administrative Update

1112-004 Price Creek Amendment - The applicant requests moving \$37,500 originally allocated for a waste management system to cover crops (\$25,000) and grazing practices (\$12,500). Although both practices will help eliminate runoff to Price Creek, the Board agreed the applicant could obtain funding for cover crops through another program. The WIRB wanted to emphasize to the applicant that the \$25,000 remains in the project and they would consider additional amendments to utilize funds for grazing management practices.

Motion 2015-47 *Moved by Ballou and seconded by Sweeting to approve the amendment in the amount of \$12,500 for the grazing system and the motion was approved.*

Board	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Ballou	x		
Hansen	x		
Heathcote	x		
Hopkins		x	
Keppy		x	
Sweeting	x		
Walters	x		
Weber	x		
Totals	6	2	

Payments - Neppel informed WIRB he is holding 10 payments for 1248-023 Dry Run Creek Watershed until the progress report is approved and 38 payments for 9008-005 Hewitt Creek Watershed until final reports are completed. 1248-023 Dry Run Creek Watershed progress report was approved today under Motion 2015-43, so Neppel can process the payments.

Board Appointments – Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Iowa Soybean Association and Iowa Farm Bureau need appointments. Weber, Gullett and Heathcote have submitted paperwork for reappointments. Official approvals may be sent before the new term begins on May 1st.

SSCC Tour – June 23, 2015. The tour begins in Waterloo. A WIRB tour is not planned for this year. After discussion, it was suggested to have a meeting or two this summer and fall to tour a project the same day. Clear Creek and Price Creek are two potential sites.

Iowa Children's Water Festival - May 14, 2015. Walters informed the WIRB that volunteers are needed at the festival. You can download registration forms from their website -<http://www.iowachildrenswaterfestival.org/>

WIRB Funding – Heathcote informed WIRB there is no news on funding from legislature.

Project Update Form - Neppel reviewed the status of the active projects. He has posted the form on Googledocs.

Mahaska SWCD Legal Action - Hansen received a request from staff of the Iowa Attorney General's Office to assemble WIRB facts and information for the restitution order. Approximately \$177,000 (\$165,000 in funds, plus \$12,000 in interest) in district and WIRB funds was identified by staff of the Iowa Auditor's Office. Approximately \$30,950 was from grants funded by I-JOBS and \$131,050 from grants funded by the D-81 account. Project documentation was seized as evidence by staff of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation before DSC staff could review it. DSC has records showing amounts awarded to Mahaska SWCD but no knowledge of any outstanding invoices, etc. It has not been decided how any returned money will be credited.

Next Meeting(s)

Neppel will send out Doodle Polls for future meeting dates in May, July and September.

Chairperson Weber organized a subcommittee to review the RFA documents. Heathcote, Keppy and Hopkins are members of the subcommittee and Heathcote is the chair.

Adjourn

Motion 2015-48 *Moved by Heathcote and seconded by Sweeting to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. and the motion was unanimously approved.*



Jane Weber, Chairperson
Watershed Improvement Review Board



Mary J. Baker, Minutes Recorder for the
Watershed Improvement Review Board