

Iowa Whitewater Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2009, 6:30 pm
Caribou Coffee, Des Moines

Members present: Lyle Danielson, Julie Mankel, Debbie Neustadt, Piper Wall. Peter Komendowski participated by cellular phone during annual meeting discussion.

Others present: John Wenck.

Previous meeting's minutes: Approved minutes of meeting on November 21, 2008.

Treasurer's Report: Julie said that a couple memberships and paddling instruction registrations came in. Otherwise not much activity. She cannot finalize financial statements until a couple problems with journal entries related to retained earnings are corrected. John suggested that Michael Sharp's secretary might be a resource. Lyle will work with Julie to resolve the issues.

Annual Meeting Preparation: Lyle was concerned that insufficient preparation had occurred for the annual meeting. Peter did not think that postponement was necessary and volunteered to provide updated invitation text by the next day. Adam Brooks will speak about his adventure on the Pacific Crest Trail. The board agreed to keep the dinner price the same as last year. Julie agreed to answer requests for information. Lyle will update the website and submit to event calendars on Iowa Environmental Council, KCCI-TV, WHO-TV and the Des Moines Register. John will send invitation text to SRP, CIP, IRR and others.

Raccoon River Water Trail: John provided an update on improvements planned along the water trail that seeks to open sections of the river that are unusable due to low head dam danger downtown. The City will build a portage around the Scott Street dam, and a grant application will be submitted for other portions of the development. John asked IWC to provide funding for portage trail signs to help reduce the amount to be requested in the grant. Approximately \$1,700 is available from the IWC DNR water trail grant; however Lyle indicated that the signs must be invoiced before the grant expiration date. Debbie moved and Piper seconded to provide \$2,208 for the signs and posts, contingent on purchase before the grant expiration date. The motion was approved unanimously. John will work follow up with the City.

River Run Garbage Grab: John provided a brief update about changes on the event organizing committee and plans for 2009. He requested that IWC provide sponsorship support again this year. Previous year's funding level was \$500. Piper moved and Julie seconded to provide \$500 for the 2009 event. The motion was approved unanimously.

MLK Extension and Interchange: John asked the board to reaffirm its support of Neighborhood Natural Recreation Preservation Project (NNRPP) in opposition of the proposed project. Construction of the proposed interchange and the MLK extension will adversely impact five recreational trails and wildlife habitat. The board's position remains unchanged. Lyle will work on and submit an updated statement.

Club Affiliations: Lyle requested and received board approval to renew affiliations with American Whitewater (\$75) and Iowa Environmental Council (\$150). Julie will process the renewals.

Paddling Instruction Update: Piper celebrated the receipt of registrations for paddling classes at ISU State Gym pool. Piper is head instructor, and Lyle will assist as much as possible. The board agreed to compensate the ACA-certified instructor in the same manner as last year. Piper is still working on corporate sponsorship for her Dry Land Rolling DVD.

Current Legislative Session and IEC Lobby Day: Piper and Julie may be able to participate at the IEC Lobby Day on February 10th at the Iowa state house. The board acknowledged the difficult economic climate and rebuilding after our historic floods, however the board agreed that it is important to defend funding in the DNR of \$200,000 for dam safety projects and to work to restore the one million dollars that the governor redirected to the JumpStart program. Lyle presented a letter from Larry Gullet asking support of a legislative proposal that would require registration of all canoes and kayaks in Iowa. Currently only

those boats longer than 13 feet require registration. After discussion the board decided that it will not take position to support the measure.

Miscellaneous Business:

- Lyle delivered the IWC and DNR low head dam simulators to Regal Plastics for retrofit modifications on Jan 16th. New pumps and plumbing fittings have arrived.
- Piper has submitted forms to Iowa Games administration for a Whitewater Slalom event at Story City. This event will not conflict with the Canoe & Kayak event at Gray's Lake in Des Moines.
- IWC will not have enough volunteers to participate directly at CanoeSport Outfitters Paddlesport Expo (February 13-15). John will represent the DNR at the event and will be displaying a low head dam simulator. IWC will loan its digital picture frame, which contains several videos related to dam safety, to help enhance the DNR display booth.
- Piper announced that a public meeting will be held on January 26th at the Ames Public Library regarding possible modifications at the 13th Street Dam in Ames.

The annual meeting will preempt the February board meeting. Lyle will work with the board to set a date for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Lyle Danielson.