



Annual Meeting 2006

~ Promoting river safety, education, and recreation ~

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On Sunday, February 12, 2006, the Iowa Whitewater Coalition held its annual meeting at Camp Wesley Woods southwest of Indianola, Iowa. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past year, to look forward to the opportunities in 2006 and beyond, and to renew our spirits with food and fellowship.

Nate Hoogeveen opened the meeting to review the past year:

- Outings: IWC sponsored three adventure trips to Brigg Falls and Soldier Creek, the Winnebago River, and Wisconsin's Wolf River Section IV and the Wausau Recreational Whitewater Release.
- Training: 13 Iowans attended Missouri Whitewater Assn clinics in April; Grays Lake Tuesdays; Swiftwater Thursdays at Commerce Ledges; and an awesome Swiftwater Rescue Clinic with Walter Felton and Dee Tucker.
- Advocacy: joined Central Iowa Paddlers, Skunk River Paddlers and Prairie Rapids Paddlers to support increased boat registration fees. Effort led to creation of a DNR "water trails" program and showed paddlers they can make a real difference.
- Reconnecting the Rivers: IWC developed a plan in June with 4 target areas, and stuck with it. Wrote grant applications. Produced a short video. Worked with community (\$25,000 from Principal, \$25,000 from Des Moines) to fund Des Moines whitewater feasibility study. Received \$10,000 from Prairie Meadows and was awarded \$10,000 from DNR Water Trails for IWC programs. Outreach efforts included the video premiere in December and continue with area Rotary Clubs. Bringing new people to more active roles and hosting Iowa Rivers Revival (March 4-5, 2006).

Nate also looked forward into 2006:

- Continue on strategic plan for Reconnecting the Rivers.
- Whitewater feasibility study for Des Moines and the \$100,000+ design phase.
- Outreach – narrow focus to a handful of low head dams on the Des Moines River.
- Environment - Don Propst's clean-up of 180-miles of the North Raccoon River and John Wenck's "Paddle the Entire Des Moines" trip.
- Safety and Training - ACA instructor Max Wellhouse is taking the Safety Chair role and expanding it.
- Advocacy - Support clean water standards in Iowa. Work with policy makers regarding low head dam safety. Facilitate committee work on the Des Moines River Water Trail in Polk County.

Max Wellhouse, Don Propst, and John Wenck presented more information regarding their endeavors.

The business portion of the annual meeting concluded with nomination and election of new board officers:

- Bo Geigley, Secretary
- Julie Mankel, Treasurer
- Max Wellhouse, Boating Safety
- John Wenck, Vice President
- Lyle Danielson, President

The IWC expresses its appreciation for the service of outgoing officers Nate Hoogeveen, Scott Bandstra and Bruce Hindrichs. Thankfully they all intend to stay active with IWC activities.

The meeting concluded with potluck fellowship and kayaking videos.

