

Iowa Whitewater Coalition Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2007, 6 p.m.
Caribou Coffee, Des Moines, IA

Board members present: Lyle Danielson, John Wenck, Julie Mankel, Debbie Neustadt, Gerry Rowland, Nate Hoogeveen

- I. Minutes approved.
- II. Julie presented the treasurer's report, which was accepted and is attached.
- III. Black Hawk County update (information only, no action):

City has said CF would do a project if a local group comes up with matching funds for a grant for an improved whitewater area at Clay Hole. Lyle asked if that meant the project was likely dead for this year. Peter thought that was likely, and pointed out that Waterloo and Cedar Falls are moving forward with an overall water trail right now, including portages. He believes that Waterloo city leadership is probably actually more interested in getting a whitewater project going right now. He also mentioned that Elkader has a contingent of citizens interested in removing a dam.

Apparently Steve Weliver and Ty Graham had asked questions regarding money IWC committed to a Cedar Falls/Waterloo area whitewater project in 2005. The money was contingent upon a project being done. Peter suggested that IWC, when formally approving a project, has local volunteers work through the board by offering a formal presentation about a specific project.

- IV. DNR safety program update

Nate presented about changes in the River Programs – namely, that the program will rely less on AmeriCorps and more on full-time staff. Because the Iowa General Assembly added a \$200,000 fund for dam safety infrastructure and signage, DNR suggested, and the Water Trails Advisory Committee approved, the idea of eliminating the \$50,000 dam safety grant fund and moving that money into a position that could directly aid construction of boat accesses, portage trails, install dam warning signage, etc.

- V. Discussion RE DNR request for additional Drowning Machine brochures:

Nate explained that supplies at DNR are nearing depletion. 10,000 copies were printed last winter at a cost of \$1,470, and DNR has been distributing to county recorders, canoe rentals & shops. There are approximately 1,500 left. Nate requested Iowa DNR logo printed on the brochure since DNR is distributing them. John asked whether the DNR could contribute more dollars, such as half the cost of the print run. An agreement in principal was developed

for Iowa DNR to pay half the cost (~\$725), the Prairie Meadows logo would be removed, and the DNR logo would be added, but Nate moved to table after a discussion about how information could become more Iowa-specific with Iowa examples, and how this may dovetail with work Barbara Mack might be doing with IWC.

VI. Team to build new dam models

Lyle said he'd experimented with the model, and with two pumps in the 700-800 gallon per minute range, the model looks much more impressive than with lower flows. Regal Plastics can continue to build the main parts of the model, but we might as well have a team of us plumb it and add the pump ourselves, as we have developed that expertise. Nate, John, and Lyle agreed to form a committee to host a dam-model building party. John suggested these could also be sold on eBay.

VII. Dam safety DVD project

Lyle said that since there's good video (Quasqueton, KCCI footage of rafters) that it might be good to do a video of John doing his PowerPoint presentation and adding some of that footage in to underscore the point. Could use open DNR grant funds for it as part of the educational program for the production of DVDs.

John brought up the idea of Public Service Announcements, which was discussed. Peter said these get used much less now that the FCC no longer requires broadcasters to dedicate a percentage of their time to PSAs. He added that he'd be willing to put together an estimate through his company (ME&V) for what it would take to produce a high-quality video, possibly HD, and that a partnership with Iowa Public Television might be sought as they need HD shows. It could also be produced onto DVD for handouts and presentations.

Nate motioned to empower Peter to put together a budget so that it could be shopped around to potential funders. Gerry seconded. The motion carried, with 5 ayes and one abstention.

VIII. Collaboration with ISU journalism

Barbara Mack had e-mailed and talked individually with a Nate and John, as well as Robin Fortney of Central Iowa Paddlers, about the need for a media-savvy campaign against dams. Barbara has determined the number of deaths simply unacceptable, and the amount of public education unacceptable. She has indicated that university resources could be brought to bear. John motioned that a committee of IWC plus Robin (Peter, Lyle, John, Nate, Joe Waneck, and Ann Cannon) meet with her before the next board meeting, and that the DVD discussion be part of that broader discussion.

IX. Additional items:

Gerry asked for kudos to be given to Lyle for the Web site. All agreed that kudos were in order for Lyle's excellent work.

Peter mentioned the idea of doing the annual fundraiser earlier, perhaps in November.

X. Meeting adjourned.