

Bi-Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2007
Pathfinders RC&D Area, Inc.
Pathfinders RC&D Board Room

Members present: (Designated by *)

Davis County

Dale Taylor *
Vacant
Vacant
Alternate: Max Proctor

Jefferson County

Steve Burgmeier*
Ron Blair
Jeff Fritz*
Alternate: Mary Ann Drish
Alternate: Dick Reed

Keokuk County

Richard Swanson*
Ernie Greiner*
Gary Bates
Alternate: Michael Berg
Alternate: Richard Denny

Mahaska County

Joseph Blunk
Hubert Parker
Henry Van Weelden*
Alternate: Greg Gordy
Alternate: Bryan Molyneux

Van Buren County

Dennis Gratz *
Marvin Philips*
Ron Robinson*
Alternate: Gary Adam

Wapello County

Bob Helgerson
Mike Petersen
Marlin Durlflinger
Alternate: Jerry Parker
Alternate: Don Swanson

Others present: RC&D Staff: Richard Daugherty, Forester; Lisa Phillips, Trees for CRP; Jeanette Beasley, Bookkeeper-Grant Administrator. Detra Dettmann, Pathfinders Coordinator was absent.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Philips at 6:00 pm. Chairman Philips presented the Agenda for Board approval. Motion by Fritz to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Greiner; all ayes.

The minutes of Pathfinders RC&D Executive Board meeting held June 13, 2007 were presented. Motion by Taylor to approve the minutes as presented. Second by VanWeelden; all ayes.

Treasurers Report covering the dates of October 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007 was reviewed. Motion by Greiner to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Second by Fritz; all ayes.

Budget Report of F.Y. 2007-8 was reviewed. Motion by VanWeelden to approve the budget as presented. Second by Greiner; all ayes.

Pathfinders Program Reports

Daugherty presented the Total Forestry Report, which indicated the amount of acres for TSI, Timber Sale, spring planting and acres for Trees for CRP.

Beasley presented a Community Development Block Administration report, which involves the City of Sigourney's Jordan Well Project. Also, the City of Cantril request Pathfinders involvement in the grant writing of a new proposed well to built.

Lisa Phillips presented to the board the progress that has been made on the Trees for CRP project and Mid Contract Management.

Chairperson, Marvin Philips reviewed the Coordinator's Report. Please note comments under New Business.

Old Business

Pathfinders Future Working Group

1. Renewable energy – Discussion indicated an interest in *Wind Energy*. It was the consensus of the board to look into Wind Energy as a possible project, but more support would be given with grant opportunities.
2. Local Foods – The board requested more information as to how many hours are spent on local foods including Buy Fresh Buy Local.
3. Grant Administration – A fee should be charged for grant writing as well as grant administration. Allow a Pathfinders employee write and administer grants; whenever possible.

4. Forestry – The board consensus of the Total Forestry Program is that the prices charged to customers are competitive with other forestry organizations. However, a late fee should be added to statements.

Coordinator's Time –

The board discussed the possibility for the coordinator to set up a schedule with NRCS offices in the other five (5) Pathfinders counties and be available to the public and continue if interest is shown. Start with two days per month. One half day in one county and the other half in an adjoining county.

Board Meetings –

The board discussed the location and frequency of the meetings. At this time, the board's consensus is to leave the schedule and location of the meetings as in the past; whether the meetings are held at the Tracht farm or Pathfinders Board Room. Further discussion is requested.

Tracht Farm –

1. Insurance for the farm has been tabled until September Executive Council Meeting.
2. Habitat Development – The Board requested that the Tracht Farm Committee handle the issues at the Tracht Farm and report to the board the direction that was taken on the project. Motion by Burgmeier, second by Greiner. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Tracht Farm Cabin – The weather has not been kind to the siding on the cabin. Therefore, the Farm Committee will review the possibility of staining the cabin.

Audit Reviews

The Board discussed the delay of tax reporting by Theobald, Donohue & Thompson Financial; it appears as though Pathfinders is one year behind on their tax reports. Motion by Robinson to make payment to TD&T when the audit/review/tax reporting is finished and not until the work is complete. Second by Greiner; all ayes.

Fall Iowa League Meeting

The board discussed the importance of our attendance at the Iowa League Meeting. Motion by Greiner for Pathfinders to pay for Board Members, staff and their spouses to attend the meeting as well as meals. Second by VanWeelden; All ayes.

Motion by VanWeelden to pay for two (2) employees' overnight stay at the Comfort Inn, in order to be available to work wherever needed to make this meeting a success. Second by Greiner; all ayes.

New Business

New Board Member

John Schroeder from Davis County has shown interest in filling the vacant seat (Davis County SWCD) on the Pathfinders Board. Motion by Burgmeier to accept John Schroeder as the Davis County Soil and Water District board member. Second by Greiner; abstained by Taylor; all others in attendance gave approval.

Annual Civil Rights/Equal Employment Opportunity Review was conducted. Motion by Robinson to approve the Civil Rights/EEO Annual Review as described; second by Fritz. All ayes.

Project Proposal Application –

1. **Indian Creek** – Motion by VanWeelden for Pathfinders to assist in grant writing. Second by Greiner; all ayes.
2. **Eldon Trail** – Motion by VanWeelden for Pathfinders to write a REAP grant for a 2800 foot trail extension and develop a 1500 ft square park in Eldon. Second by Greiner; all ayes.
3. **Cedar Creek Revitalization Project** – Motion by VanWeelden for Pathfinders to assist with the application. This grant if awarded will include administration for Pathfinders. Second by Greiner; all ayes.

Project Close Out - Motion by VanWeelden to close out programs: Fishing Derby and Bobwhite Buffers. Second by Greiner; all ayes.

Area Plan Objective Comments –

In order to make two of the three projects not tied to the Area Plan is to reword the objectives.

Libertyville Playground – change suggested wording to *Develop or Improve at least one youth Playground Recreational Services*. Motion by Burgmeier; second by Fritz; all ayes.

Bloomfield City Park Playground – No additional changes

Women, Land and Legacy - change suggested wording to *Help facilitate meetings to promote Economic Development with three meetings in the next five (5) years*. Motion by Burgmeier; Second by Greiner; all ayes.

Old Computer

A daycare located in Libertyville is in need of a computer. A computer would give a start to the educational value of computers to the children. Motion by VanWeelden was made to give the old computer to the daycare; second by Taylor; all ayes.

Correspondence

The Board showed no financial interest in attending the *Renewable Energy Conference or Board of Directors Training*.

Upcoming dates:

1. Pathfinders Future Meeting – Wednesday, September 5th 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Pathfinders Board Room.
2. Buy Fresh Buy Local Fairfield First Friday Art Walk - Friday, September 7th 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
3. Iowa League of RC&D's Meeting – September 13-14 in Oskaloosa.
4. Regular Board Meeting – October 10th 6:00

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m. – Motion by VanWeelden; second by Greiner; all ayes.