

SRP Annual Meeting 1/30/2011

Attending: Cindy Barrowcliff, Rick Dietz, Dick Howard, Gary Kingham, Diane Lowry, David Oliver, Don Wall, Piper Wall, John Wenck, Jeff White,

Finances: Don reported a balance of \$2,655.52. Recent transactions include a deposit in the amount of \$150 for our assistance at the 2010 Hickory Grove Triathlon and a payment to Ames Parks and Rec in the amount of \$500 for the carry-down landing at Ada Hayden. (\$500 had been earmarked for this project from the 2007 GAAR)

Rick reported that the 2010 GAAR netted \$1520 and that the GAAR Committee voted to increase the gift to the local Red Cross from \$500 (2008 and 2009) to \$1000, leaving a balance of \$877.58. These funds are held in the account of the Friends of Central Iowa Bicycling.

2011 event schedule: Reviewed schedule with the following additions and revisions in bold:

Saturday March 19 - Pancake Paddle (meet at 9am Iowa Arboretum – **need a trip coordinator**)
Saturday March 26 – Stash the Trash (Sleepy Hollow and Skunk River clean-up opportunity)
Saturday April 23 - Spring float on the South Skunk (meet at Grove Cafe)
Sunday May 1 - Story County Conservation Partner's Spring Festival (*volunteers needed*)
Sunday May 22 - Bluff Creek Triathlon (*volunteers needed – contact Piper*)
May 27-29 - South Dakota Challenge (www.sdkayakchallenge.com)
Paddling at the Park (Ada Hayden) - Wednesdays at 7:00pm Memorial Day to Labor Day
Saturday July 16 – Iowa Games Canoe & Kayak competitions in Ames
Sunday August 28 - Hickory Grove Triathlon (*volunteers needed – contact Piper*)
Sunday September 11 - GAAR (www.greatamesadventureace.org)
September 24-25 – DM IKES “do-da” (Children's Outdoor Expo - volunteers needed)
Saturday December 3rd - Waffle Float (meet at 9am Iowa Arboretum)

2011 Adopt-a-Park schedule (Sleepy Hollow clean-up): *Our contract with Story County Conservation will be renewed at the end of the fiscal year and at that time it will be necessary for all volunteers to sign a new volunteer insurance/liability form. If you need to sign for 2010/2011 you can find the form online at www.storycountyconservation.org.*

February	June - David	October - Cindy
March 26 (Stash-the-Trash)	July - Gary	November -
April – Cindy(?)	August - Diane	December - Rick
May - Rick	September - Jeff	

***** Please remember to report your volunteer hours! *****

Bluff Creek and Hickory Grove Triathlons: Piper will coordinate with Alex and provide volunteers for these events. As a result of a windy day at the Bluff Creek Tri in 2010 she will likely be looking for experienced canoeists to accompany the lifeguards.

Discussion of the block net at Ada Hayden: If the urban trout fishing program is successful this winter at Ada Hayden then it will likely continue next year. Ben Dodd, fisheries biologist with the Iowa DNR, has said that he will contact the paddlers prior to placing the net next year. Considering that the net is placed late in the season and removed when the ice goes out in the spring, there were no objections or concerns.

Skunk River Water Trails grant projects: We have only the kiosks to complete under the FTP Grant. Beyond that there are a few ongoing maintenance issues and some signs in need of replacement. Carol Williams has requested and received a six month extension on the FRT Grant. Discussion focused on hiring someone to complete the content and design for the five kiosks we had committed to. John Wenck may be interested and suggested that we apply for a Water Trails Enhancement Grant. Rick will forward our working draft to John and will let Carol know of the grant opportunity. Maintenance workdays may be scheduled later in the year.

Dam projects: Funding for the conversion project at the Ames dam in River Valley Park is about \$58,000 short. The most recent cost estimate is \$184,129 and current funding (Water Trails Grant, City of Ames commitments and other in-kind donations) is at \$127,000 - though there may be additional savings in donated labor. Lyle Hammes (COA Environmental Engineer) has suggested scaling the project back and also inquired about the Vision Iowa River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT) Program. Unfortunately he reported that this project would not qualify.

Additional funding (roughly estimated to be \$30,000) is needed to construct a fourth rock weir at South Park in Story City. Besides the RECAT program and REAP, there is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Grant that could potentially be used at any of the three dams. Rick has been in contact with John Paulin, coordinator of our local RC&D, and John seems willing to help with these projects.

Other:

Diane and Jeff will attempt to continue Greg's monthly updates. The possibility of a Facebook page or blog site was also discussed.

Piper reported that the Iowa Games canoe & kayak competitions will be held in Ames again in July 2011. Participation here in 2010 was equal to that at Grays Lake, but at a lower cost to the organization.

Jeff reported on the logjam below the Anderson Access. He had submitted a "Water Trails Site Planning and Work Crew Assistance Application" to the DNR for technical assistance and removal. Nate and Glenn surveyed the area last year and some initial cutting had begun before it was determined that a survey of an endangered heel-splitter mussel was needed. Jeff will contact ISU in hopes of recruiting a grad student to take on this task.

Jeff suggested that we plan for regular maintenance of the new carry-down access at Ada Hayden. This would involve raking and shoveling of existing material, with replacement as needed. The work could be done in conjunction with the Wednesday night paddles. Also it was suggested that a sign be installed identifying the area as a "Canoe and Kayak Launch."

Jeff also mentioned that the Skunk River Navy (SRN) had recently received an anonymous gift of \$10,000. While on the topic of the SRN we discussed the fuel and sanitary sewer leaks that were discovered last Fall (*you will find links to the reports in the "news and notes" section at www.skunkriverpaddlers.org*).