

Central IA Paddlers Board Meeting  
Nov. 3 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Greg, Dave, Bill, Rick, Bob, Nate

Nate agreed to take minutes. Robin was unavailable for minutes from last meeting.

Web site: Rick reported the site is now on IWC's host. Paul Cartwright will get two years of free membership, a calendar, and kudos for his efforts.

Newsletter, membership, and mailing were not discussed due to missing members.

Trips: Dave will offer a Wisconsin ski trip again. Armchair series coming up.

Advocacy: We discussed tomorrow's meeting with the DNR about fees. Came to a consensus on a number of points. Very useful conversation!!!

- There should be immediately appointed a water recreation and trails advisory board.
- ASAP, a water recreation & trails program should be established, including the creation of a position of a program head within the DNR. That person should work with the advisory board to set reasonable goals for the program. We could possibly start with as little as a ¼ FTE in the form of someone like Brian Soenen.
- Standards and criteria might include: working within DOT and DNR to find ways to create lower-impact and cost-effective accesses on rivers where it doesn't make sense to have a full-sized concrete boat ramp; revamping and expanding current "canoe trail" standards into full-blown water trail standards that include uniform sign, facilities, etc.; and solutions at low-head dams including safety modification.
- The DNR will have the opportunity to justify its fee on non-motorized craft, which we believe is unjustified. Minnesota is doing a lot with a \$4/year fee. However, because paddlers support the DNR's water quality goals generally and because there is only limited opposition to the current fee, we will not lobby for it to be removed. If the DNR cannot justify why these fees are levied on paddlers, we recommend all of it be used for the water recreation & trails programs. If the DNR can prove it is justifiable, we can discuss raising the fee slightly to create the program. We thought it would be a good idea for retailers also to directly be able to register boats, much as it works for cars (can either have a dealer register or go to the county recorder).
- An easy piece to ask for now is changing decal rules. We recommend that only the decal (possibly with the registration number printed right on it) needs to be posted on canoes and kayaks. This is a way to go back to the paddling community and tell them we saved them \$10 to \$10 on lettering, make their boats more attractive and look less silly when they head north.
- We'll stress the survey went out through five paddling organizations (CIP, IWC, Prairie Rapids Paddlers, Skunk River Paddlers, and the Iowa Water Trails Association) and about 500 paddlers.

- We'll look for a sympathetic legislator to show up at meetings with us. Maybe Dennis Black.
- Bill suggested the future creation of a paddling Friends group that allows people to help work on accesses, cleanups, etc.
- Consensus: the most we'd be willing to go with is \$5 per year. We will not offer that now. We're sorry the DNR has budget shortfalls, but Minnesota has 5,000 miles of water trails with a \$4/yr fee.

Treasurer:

Greg asked what some recent reimbursements were for. Linn, \$96, fall party mailing; John H., \$85, newsletter mailing; Dave, \$83, survey mailing.

Expo:

We agreed shorter shifts with more people is a good idea. SRP, IWC, CIP joint booth which is at the store, rather than the Legion Hall, so we can have snack samples, plus more time and reasons to talk to people. We'll also have displays at the Legion hall that point people to the store, and send one person over during each 10-minute break at the Legion Hall. Nate had contacted Jeff and Casey about all this, plus having cooking demos. At our booth, we'll have cookbooks and calendars (discounted by then??). Greg and Dave will come up with some kind of "felt board" display (technology that befuddled Nate) plus we'll have a laptop computer with a photo slide show.

Dave Kraemer moved that we express deep appreciation for Bob Johansen continuing to so graciously host our meetings, including his food preparations. THANKS, BOB!

**Next Meeting is Thursday Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.!!!**