



IOWA STATE RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION



FOURTH QUARTER MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2005

President Wayne Marker called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Present at the meeting: Ray Dietrich, Paul Porter, Bill Mullan, Craig Swartz, Randy Paper, Roger Howland, John Klopfenstien and Bill Besgrove. Members present Frank Wolverton.

Minutes read by Wayne Marker. Motion to approve minutes by John Klopfenstien, 2nd by Ray Dietrich with a change to Paul Porter's pistol report. *"Paul believes cost may be part of the problem and not very many competitors want to use hardball ammo in their guns."* Be changed to. *"Paul believes cost may be part of the problem and not very many competitors want to use **factory** hardball ammo in their guns"*. Approved.

Treasurer's report presented by Bill Besgrove. Balance Sheet attached. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by John Klopfenstien, 2nd Bill Mullan. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion concerning items to be placed on the new website. All disciplines would have their own section. A member's only area. Newsletters to be placed in the member's only area. A picture of the trophy and the winner's name to appear in their respective disciplines section. History of the Association. In the future take a look at setting up a paypal account for members to pay online.

Roger Howland presented certificate awards to be given to each class winner in their respective shooting discipline. Motion to accept design of certificate by John Klopfenstien and a 2nd by Ray Dietrich. Approved

Bill Mullan reported on DNR Range proposal:

The need for public shooting ranges in Iowa is well recognized and has received a lot of lip service for the past two decades but little else. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the past advocated the building of a shooting range in each county. Surveys of existing ranges were carried out.

We are all familiar with at least some of the DNR ranges in the state. The Butch Olofson Range north of Des Moines has had a troublesome past and an uncertain future. The range at Princeton is little more than a garbage dump. The Banner Mines Range has been "improved" and now is not open without an attendant. None of these ranges adequately serve the needs of all shooters.

The DNR is now proposing to build a few ranges in various locations in the state. They are taking the position that a shooting range requires an attendant. They cite information from the State of Missouri to justify this position. However, Missouri has a number of ranges that do not have an attendant

Des Moines County has been operating a shooting range for over 25 years without an attendant. Initially this range had a 25-yard pistol and 100 yard rifle range. The range now has 25 yard/meter, 50 yard/meter, 100 yard/meter, and 300 yard/meter facilities.

To use this range, a shooter had to take a safety course, pass a test and pay \$25 a year for a membership. The shooters themselves policed the operation with no accidents. There were some complaints from adjacent landowners but these were all satisfactorily resolved.

I believe that the ISR&PA should become very vocal and let the DNR know what the needs are. A shooting range does not need paid attendants babysitting shooters anymore than a lake or river needs some one watching boats launched.

Attached is a copy of the letter to Jeff Vonk regarding the Des Moines County range.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ray Dietrich announced the 3-P Air Rifle State Championship date had been set for March 4, 2006 at the West Liberty Gun Club.

Bill Besgrove submitted a new life membership card for board approval. Motion to accept by Craig Swartz and a 2nd by Paul Porter. Approved.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS:

President Marker appointed Frank Wolverton as Public Relations Chairman.

Motion by Bill Besgrove to have President Marker reserve a M-1 rifle from the CMP for a raffle some time in 2006. 2nd by Ray Dietrich. Approved.

Election committee Chairman Mullan submitted recommendations for election ballots of Directors. Motion to accept ballot recommendations by Roger Howland and a 2nd by John Klopfenstien. Approved.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Besgrove, 2nd Paul Porter. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Submitted by Bill Besgrove

Included:

Balance Sheet

Letter to Jeff Vonk

September 30, 2005
18 High Point
Fort Madison, IA 52627-3120

Mr. Jeff Vonk, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
502 East Ninth Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Dear Mr. Vonk,

Your appearance at the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Fiftieth Anniversary meeting was a very welcome addition to an excellent program. Your statement that we need to get the using public to take ownership of our projects to ensure success struck a very responsive chord with me. I firmly believe this was brought home very clearly in the afternoon session that I attended.

Mr. Jeff Bergman, Director, Des Moines County Conservation Board gave us several examples of this. The most outstanding example is the Shooting Range at Big Hollow Park.

This range, which has been operated by Des Moines County for over 25 years, just recently dedicated the revamping of the existing range and the addition of a 300-meter range. I feel that this range is one of the outstanding shooting facilities in Iowa for two reasons: The physical facility is one of the best public facilities in the state and equal to many private shooting clubs. The cost to the Des Moines County taxpayers has been minimal. The management and operation of the range has become the responsibility of the shooting public that uses.

A group of users formed a committee called "Friends of the Range". They have raised substantial amounts of money for the improvement of this facility. This is an outstanding example of taking ownership in a facility and project. This range is operated without a paid attendant. Approximately 600 people are authorized to use this range. Authorization is granted by completion of a mandatory safety-training course and the payment of annual fee of \$25.00.

There have been no serious safety problems in the operation of this range. The shooters are charged with the responsibility of safe use as well as clean up and minor maintenance. This range has also been widely used by all facets of the law enforcement community and for Hunter Education Training

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has suggested that it is necessary to have an attendant present when publicly owned shooting facilities are in use. I submit to you that the Des Moines County experience proves that

this is not necessary.

The Big Hollow Shooting Range, Des Moines County is a model for other counties and the State of Iowa. I suggest that you take a very close look at the facility and method of operation in planning shooting facilities for the state.

Yours truly

Wm. H. Mullan
Member, Lee County Conservation Board
Chief Hunter Education Instructor, Lee County
Vice President, Iowa State Rifle and Pistol Association