

Sustainable Natural Resources Funding for Iowa
Wednesday, May 20, 2009 -- Committee Meeting Summary
Walnut Woods State Park Lodge - Des Moines, IA
3155 Walnut Woods Dr., West Des Moines, IA (12p-4p)

Committee members:

Mark	Ackelson	Proxy-Duane Sand	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Merlin	Bartz	Present	Iowa Senate - R
Jane	Clark	Present	Sierra Club
Dan	Cohen	Present	IACCB
Dick	Dearden	Absent	IA Senate-D
Jim	Gillespie	Present	Secretary of Agriculture
Tom	Holm	Absent	Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Jon	Kruse	Proxy-Ryan Heiniger	Ducks Unlimited
Richard	Leopold	Present	IA Dept of Natural Resources, Chair
Sean	McMahon	Present	The Nature Conservancy
Carol	Miller	Present	Iowa Farm Bureau
Eric	Palmer	Absent	IA House of Representatives-D
Jerry	Peckumn	Proxy-Elizabeth Hill	Iowa Rivers Revival
Henry	Rayhons	Present	IA House of Representatives-R
Leo	Rieken	Present	Land Improvement Contractors Assoc.
Marian	Riggs-Gelb	Present	Iowa Environmental Council
Deb	Ryun	Absent	Conservation Districts of Iowa
Marvin	Shirley	Present	Farmers Union
Dave	Van Waus	Present	Pheasants Forever
Julie	Vyskocil	Absent	Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

The Chair provided opening remarks, a brief review of the SFC history, and an overview of the legislative charges. Introductions were made and new SFC appointee, Senator Merlin Bartz, and IA Farm Bureau nominee, Carol Miller, were welcomed.

Sean McMahon and Roz Lehman, coordinator of the Coalition, provided a summary of the SF Coalition's work, nka: Iowa Water and Lands Legacy.

The SFC reviewed and discussed the two parts of their legislative charge.

The first part of the charge (*the committee shall study how to provide one or more sustainable sources of funding for natural resources and outdoor recreation needs in Iowa*) has been completed through legislation being passed in two consecutive sessions under SJR-2002 and HJR-1, respectively, to constitutionally protect funding (3/8 of 1¢ of the next sales tax increase) and this ballot language will be on the 2010 ballot initiative.

The second part of the charge (the advisory committee shall advise members of the general assembly in efforts to establish or administer sustainable funding sources) was discussed. The Committee reviewed the 01/09/09 SFC report (beginning on pg 23) and discussed the range of detail for the administration of funding for the legislature. The

01/09/09 SFC report to the legislators provided a good foundation for administration of funds and the Committee established two subcommittees to evaluate further needs to support the administration of funds (funding management) and provide appropriate and adequate oversight:

Funding Management Subcommittee

Review the funding managements (pgs 23-25 of 01/09/09 SFC report) to determine the need for more detail in how the funds will be distributed and provide suggestions to the SFC. Subcommittee Members: Duane Sand (facilitator), Dave VanWaus, Carol Miller, Sean McMahon, Jim Gillespie, Rich Leopold, Deb Ryun

Advisory Oversight Subcommittee

Evaluate the SFC 01/09/09 report on the role of the advisory oversight and provide suggestions to improve or expand on: accountability (how funds will be spent), mechanisms for public input, and transparency. Subcommittee Members: Jane Clark (facilitator), Jon Kruse, Marvin Shirley, Sean McMahon, Jim Gillespie, Rich Leopold

In conclusion, important points the SFC noted were:

- The SFC will provide continual strong reiteration that the new sustainable funding source is to be ADDITIONAL to current allocations and that this new money is to ENHANCE and NOT REPLACE existing funding as stated and approved by the legislative Interim Committee.
- The protection of this new funding source (sales tax revenue) needs to be stressed and communicated that having it in the Trust Fund will secure it for the purposes intended.
- Communication and reports need to provide legislators and the public with a clear outline of what benefits this funding will provide.
- Opportunity for public input is an important component in the administration and oversight of sustainable natural resource funding.
- With oversight, the funding managers need to have flexibility in being able to address issues related to Iowa's natural resources.

The next SFC meeting will be Wednesday, 07/15/09, 12pm-4pm at the Wallace Building (502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA).

Upcoming Tentative SFC Meeting Dates:

Wed	08/19/09	12p-4p	Wallace Building - DSM
Wed	09/16/09	12p-4p	Wallace Building - DSM
Wed	10/21/09	12p-4p	Wallace Building - DSM
Wed	11/18/09	12p-4p	Wallace Building - DSM
Wed	12/16/09	12p-4p	Wallace Building - DSM