TRUST FUND RESOLUTIONS REACH HALF!
50 Conservation Boards have formally passed the voluntary resolution that supports the funding of the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Fund (IWILL) during the 2016 legislative session! Many thanks for your support. The IACCB Board of Directors also approved this resolution at their Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting with a unanimous vote. We remain optimistic that ALL 99 county conservation boards will approve this resolution prior to the start of the 2016 Legislative session on January 11<sup>th</sup>. ☺

REGISTRATION PACKET AVAILABLE!
As promised – the registration information for Winterfest 2016 is now available via the Winterfest link at the bottom of any page on MyCountyParks. Please share the information with all staff and collegiate connections you may have – Thanks!

SALARY SURVEYS DUE NOV. 16<sup>th</sup>
We have done a collective great job of amassing some 78 of 99 Salary Surveys from across the state in the last several weeks – 21 to go! If your county is not red-dotted to the left – we are awaiting your data for this FY2016 survey. The deadline for submission is this next Monday – November 16<sup>th</sup>! Should you need me to re-send your FY2015 information to update – please let me know, otherwise we would certainly appreciate receiving your information so that we can proceed with tabulations ASAP! Requests are already coming in for the updates – many thanks!

GRAEVE FEATURED IN I.S.A.C. MAGAZINE (October 2015)
“First, I have the privilege of working directly with our natural areas. As a steward I am responsible for helping heal our few remaining prairies and woodlands…….Second, I have the opportunity to share these wonderful areas with visitors and to help them appreciate the significance and value of these natural areas in today’s society” writes Chad Graeve, a Natural Resource Specialist with the Pottawattamie CCB. Chad is featured on the cover of the magazine, authored an article “Conservation in Iowa” for the edition, and was interviewed for yet another article – nice job, Chad! The Iowa County is a monthly production by ISAC (Iowa State Association of Counties). The CCDA (County Conservation Directors Association) serves as the County Conservation affiliate to ISAC. [Current CCDA Pres. is Brian Lammers (Hamilton)]
As promised – we had the “Halloween Harvest” of email addresses from the CONTACTS portion of the IACCB Portal – which has yielded some data that we thought you may like to know. The email notice for this particular newsletter was the first item to be sent out utilizing our new listings – so if you are reading it because it was forwarded to you – then YOU do not have a current accurate email address listed on the portal. (We suggest you visit with your MCP.com website County Administrator) This harvest netted us the following:

- 402 email addresses for employees – 70% of the potential 575 total
- 337 email addresses for board members – 68% of the potential 495 total
- TOTAL of 739 email addresses for our “in-house only” system – right at 69% of all possible persons (staff & board members)

As a reminder – IACCB does not share these secured email addresses with anyone – they are utilized for internal communications to keep our statewide system networked. We will ask that those of you with access to these listings via a County Administrator security level profile also respect our request not to share these addresses. IACCB does maintain a separate Excel file of CCB Contact Information that provides the CCB Director names, mailing address, phone and email address for all 99 counties – which we do share with certain DNR & INHF partners, as well as all Preferred Vendor Members of the Association. You may also further note that most IACCB group email communications are sent with everyone listed as a “bcc” contact – this to better diminish the possibility that your collective email addresses can be scooped by marketing or spam advertisers that are trying to do so.)

I hope this above information may encourage more of you to access and update your CCB’s portion of the CONTACTS portion of the Portal – IT IS USED FOR THE BETTERMENT of our statewide system. We currently have 26 CCBs that provide ONE or fewer email addresses for Conservation Board Members – 19 that provide zero (0). Broken down by Districts: District One (2 CCBs); District Two (4 CCBs); District Three (3 CCBs); District Four (7 CCBs); District 5 (5 CCBs); and District Six (5 CCBs). We recognize that not all folks may have an email address, and specifically that some conservation board members may not wish to share their addresses. We have come a loooong way with this new system, and the fact that we are at a general 70% penetration is excellent! We CAN do better – there are numerous employees and board members listed that are no longer with our CCB system, or may have departed your CCB for another; we still have about a 9% “bounce rate” – meaning that those addresses listed in PORTAL are not all accurate – we appreciate your continued diligence in assisting IACCB in maintaining this important communications tool!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2015 MEETING:

- Election of Board of Directors Officers for 2016
- Authorized expenditure of $5,000 to support passage of funding for the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund
- Passed IACCB Resolution supporting the funding of the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. (Unan.)
- Authorized establishing an IACCB Strategic Planning Committee to review all training, workshops & conferences.
- Authorized Hazleton to negotiate a long-term contract for the hosting of IACCB’s MyCountyParks.com website with Informatics, Inc.
- Approved a District 2 IACCB Ballot for the selection of a Board Member representative to the IACCB Board of Directors.
- Authorized Hazleton to review and recommend financial management options – to include relocation of banking. Hazleton and Vavroch designated as managers of IACCB finances and signators for financial transactions.
- Authorized Hazleton to work with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in negotiating a 2016 Lobbyist Contract, and to consider a multi-year contract as possible.
- Instructed Hazleton to solicit Letters of Application for appointment to the DNR’s REAP Grant Review Committee.
- Asked Hazleton to provide an update on the Iowa TLC (Trust for Local Conservation) at the January board meeting.

IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The FY2016 IACCB Board of Directors held a regular meeting on November 2nd in Des Moines in conjunction with the 2015 Summit Series. A current listing of representatives to the Board of Directors follows, as well as some of the meeting highlights. The Board generally meets 4-5 times a year and will next meeting again in January. (Newly elected officers for the 2016 Board of Directors are listed on the adjacent picture)

2016 IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

District 1 – Mike Brandrup, Hamilton CCB
District 2 – Balloting for election of candidate
District 3 – Darrell Frerichs, Clay CCB
District 4 – Chris Ruhaak, Pottawattamie CCB
District 5 – Mike Runyan, Monroe CCB
District 6 – Larry Wilson, Johnson CCB
CCDA – Anticipate a new appointment next week (Curt Weiss, Muscatine has completed two 3-year terms)
IACCB – Tom Buckley, Lee CCB
IACCB – Mark Vavroch, Poweshiek CCB
IACCB CEO – Tom Hazleton (Ex-Officio Member)

SAD NEWS TO SHARE

(from Iowa DNR)

Willy Suchy, 58 - Wildlife Research Supervisor, passed away suddenly on the evening of November 11th. Additional details were not available at “press time”. Please keep the Suchy family and wildlife bureau staff in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days.

2016 IACCB Officers

President – Mike Runyan, Monroe
Vice Pres. – Mike Brandrup, Hamilton
Secretary – Chris Ruhaak, Pottawattamie
Treasurer – Mark Vavroch, Poweshiek

CONTACTS HARVESTED

Some Quick Statistics

[Table of Quick Statistics]

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CCB “FRIENDS & FOUNDATIONS” LAUNCHES

Some 70 participants from 33 counties across the state came together on November 3rd for the inaugural conference for County Conservation Friends and Foundation organizations. The audiences were very engaged with all presenters at this informal setting, and the consensus of participants was this was an excellent opportunity to learn & network!

MOBILE APP FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION?

Some discussions have continued on this subject. Those of you that utilize APPS in your own lives can perhaps perceive the value of having one for your Nature Center operations, “captive” audiences at campgrounds/cabins/parks & events, etc. I am looking to form a study-committee of sorts to further explore the feasibility of proceeding with this effort from a statewide perspective. To go forward, this would necessarily be an interest-driven AND funded concept with scope determined by participants. If you have looked into or been a part of developing an APP, then you are aware of the financial piece of the puzzle.

I have been in consultation with Bluebridge, a development company we encountered at the Iowa Tourism Conference to gain additional insight into this realm of park and program user interface. If you need a ballpark – if there are 20 CCBs involved there would be an annual cost of $375 to $750 depending on the scope of the app. If your CCB is interested in pursuing this prospect, I am developing a list that could perhaps meet on a conference call early in 2016, and perhaps squeeze in some time at Winterfest for exploratory discussions. If we are going anywhere with this, we need to get the ball rolling sooner rather than later. Let me know if I should add you to the list! Thanks!

SESSIONS INCLUDED:

- Volunteer Risk Management
- Successful Fund-Raising Ideas
- Volunteer Recognition
- Grants and Big Gifts
- Visioning the Next Event

Attendees can anticipate a follow-up newsletter (epilog) from the conference, as well as a solicitation to form a steering committee to maintain and nurture this network, and to plan the next gathering! 😊

1. Overview of general fundraising session;
2. Steve Estenson, Risk Manager for Linn County answers questions during general session on volunteer liability;
3. Keri VanZante (Jasper), Dawn Snyder (Woodbury) and Diana Demeyer (Iowa) served on the panel for discussion of successful fund-raising events.

Additionally successful was the New CCB Employee School for the 20 participants from 10 counties across the state. This 2nd annual event had some great presenters that were all eager to meet and visit with our new staff: Tammie Krausman, Iowa DNR; Diane Dannen, IPERS; Anita O’Gara, INHF; Shawna Lode/Amy Zeigler, Iowa Tourism; & Tom Hazelton. Participants also received their own copies of the New CCB Employee Manual and the Board Member Handbook, PLUS numerous handouts, newsletters and other documents from all presenters! IACCB is pleased to be able to sponsor this excellent annual training exercise at no cost to participants. We appreciate the participation from these following CCBs for supporting this opportunity for their new staff: Benton, Cerro Gordo, Des Moines, Harrison, Humboldt, Kossuth, Linn, Mitchell, Woodbury & Worth.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL ANNOUNCES HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Keep Iowa Beautiful offers five $1,000 scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 2016! Students across Iowa who plan to enroll in an Iowa college or university majoring in community, sociology or environmental science-related fields are eligible to apply. For additional information, visit www.keepiowabeautiful.com / (515) 323-6507
IACCB STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the IACCB Board of Directors is in the process of organizing a committee to take an in-depth look at the number and type of workshops, conferences, seminars, etc. that are being offered across the CCB system. The demographics of potential attendees will be an important aspect of this review, and it is anticipated that a statewide survey to all staff and board members will be one result of this effort. All CCB affiliate groups (IACCBE, CCDA, IAN, CCPOA, AFIRM) will be asked to provide a representative to this committee. Looking forward, IACCB would like to be positioned to provide attractive training and educational opportunities that meet the interests and demands of our industry.

Stay tuned……more to come! 😊

DISTRICT 3 – Dickinson CCB – 11/10/15

Thanks to the Dickinson CCB for hosting the most recent District 3 meeting earlier this week! It’s always rewarding to visit their beautiful nature center at Kenue Park to see what’s new & innovative. We were treated to a great local specialty luncheon and another fantastic networking opportunity – the #1 bestest thing about these regional District meetings!

I.S.A.C. MEETING NEXT WEEK in Cedar Rapids

’Twill be great to connect with 36+ of our CCB Directors next week as the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) holds their annual Fall School of Instruction at the Cedar Rapids Convention Center on November 18-20. The Conservation Affiliate (Directors) have their own specific agenda over the three days in addition to the numerous sessions offered up by ISAC. Some of the CCDA sessions include instruction in: REAP Grant Scoring Criteria; Targeting Floodplain Lands Needing Permanent Conservation Protection; New Tools to Promote Land Protection and Donation; Monarch Butterfly Project/WRP Rules & Changes, as well as addressing several administrative items about our statewide county conservation system in general.

Looking forward to seeing everyone once again! 😊

REAP GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED

As many of you know – Mark Peterson (Woodbury) has stepped down from the REAP Grant Review Committee following 26 years of diligent service. Mark will be retiring in mid-2016 and we wish him all the best! With his departure, the IACCB Board of Directors is soliciting letters of application to serve on this important committee. Our process will be to review applications at the January 2016 Board of Directors meeting, and then to recommend a candidate to Director Chuck Gipp of the Iowa DNR for appointment to the committee. Applicants for this position should demonstrate involvement and experience with the REAP Grant program, and possess a thorough understanding of the criteria. Experience in writing grants and being involved in grant processes is important, experience in reviewing grants is welcomed. Letters of Application for this position should be addressed to the IACCB Board of Directors and may be emailed or snail-mailed to: IACCB@mycountyparks.com / IACCB, 1775 Mackenzie Drive, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411. Deadline 1/8/16.

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Stay tuned……more to come! 😊 😊

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES


1. WOODBURY Co. – Resource Naturalist
2. LOUISA Co. – Park Ranger/Technician
3. DICKINSON Co. – Naturalist
4. TEMPORARY POSITIONS – 3 opportunities listed on website

Full Time Employment
Seasonal/Part-Time – Listed on website