

**SWICO Board Minutes**  
**April 17, 2011 – Corning, Iowa – Happy Hollow Country Club**

**Board Members Present:** Alec Turner, Martin Olive, George Maher, Kenner Baxter, Russ Joyce, Bob Jansen, Steve Adams, Bill Henderson, Joe Blankenship, Dale McAllister, Karen Bender

President Joe Blankenship called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion by Maher to accept the agenda with a second from Jansen passed unanimously.

A motion by Baxter to approve the minutes from the March board meeting with the correction to remove Steve Adams name from board members in attendance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Olive passed unanimously.

Baxter submitted a treasurer's report reflecting regular expenditures for SWICO. She reported that there was \$10,758.89 cash on hand. She noted that a payment for maintaining the SWICO.org domain name for the website was for five years instead of one to take advantage of the discount for a multi-year purchase. A motion by Olive to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Jansen passed unanimously.

Lynn reported that the majority of dues had come in with a little more than \$2,000 still outstanding. She felt those dues would come in. She stated that the need at this point was for new members. She stated that she would work with Lori to make a presentation to the Pottawattamie Supervisors, but thought that business and industry memberships were key to sustainability. Blankenship stated that he was still working on First National Bank in Glenwood and George stated that he would work on Johnson Controls. Baxter stated she would approach Rolling Hills Bank.

RCDI grant update: Lynn requested that the board give her "permission to inquire" on the bank accounts so that she could check balances when necessary for the grant account. A motion from Baxter with a second from Bender to allow Lynn permission to inquire on the bank accounts at Bank Iowa in Red Oak in the SWICO name passed unanimously. Maher will contact the bank and tell them that she has hat privilege. Lynn will begin providing financial reports to the subcommittee and board at the meetings.

Baxter reported that all of the Buy Iowa product had been safely moved to the new Red Oak Tech building which had a space donated from Southwestern Community College to serve as a distribution center. Lynn will be providing day-to-day website maintenance and shipping product which reduces the costs to the program and the buyer.

The board had discussion on the service providers for facilitation, Don Macke and Milan Wall, for the RDC program. A proposal for services had been submitted with a date to begin targeted for May 17, 2011. Anyone from the SWICO membership or invited by a member throughout the membership area can participate. Henderson asked if there were other, qualified sources for this type of facilitation. Lynn did not know of anyone in Iowa with this specific area of expertise. Don and Milan, it was reported, would work through the spring and summer with a group in a phased plan to accomplish a review of work accomplished, how the support program for entrepreneurship may be refocused to enhance, augment current local needs and engage new stakeholders. The total cost for their services will be \$11K and come from remaining grant funds. A motion by Baxter with a second from Olive to accept the proposal at a cost of \$11K for facilitation by Macke and Wall passed unanimously.

The board had discussion on the legislative session and pending bills of interest. Olive reported the Local Farm and Food Program funding had been removed by the House due to an amendment from Rep. Drake. The Senate appropriation file had included \$75K for a statewide local farm and food coordinator for one year. Baxter said that she would contact Jack Drake about the legislation and see what his reasoning was. Olive had placed a call and left a message with Drake and suggested that he work with Lynn and Baxter to get the latest information to determine what the next steps would be to engage Coalition members in advocacy.

Adams voiced his concern over the legislation pending to move the Iowa Department of Economic Development into a private/public partnership. Adams cited the case of the defunct private/public partnership for housing funds created in Branstad's last tenure as governor which had collapsed into a series of legal battles. He was also concerned about some of the programs having to do with the clean water program being taken from the Iowa Finance Authority and placed under the new "IDED." He stated that IFA had worked for twelve years with the DNR to get those programs in prime shape and running smoothly. He also voiced concerns that there would no longer be any southwest Iowa leadership represented at IFA or IDIED with all the transitions. The board had discussion and it was agreed that Turner

and Adams would identify leadership in southwest Iowa to propose to the governor as appointments to the new IED board. Lynn will put the nominees on the agenda for next month.

With no other business before the board, Henderson made a motion to adjourn and Turner made a second to the motion which was passed unanimously. Board was adjourned at 5:45 PM