

Good Morning - First lets deal with the acreage issue. The acreage being drained is the basis for the IDDA dues assessments. The information we have on acres drained in your county pre-dates my employment with IDDA so I really don't know how the number of 168,000 acres was obtained or what the source was. The acres reported are all on the honor system so if you say it is 110,000 acres, that is the number we will use. Based on that number, your membership dues would be \$2,750 and litigation fund contribution (which is voluntary) would be \$1,375. The dues are set by the IDDA Board of Directors so there is nothing I can do to change the dues amount without going to the board.

In terms of benefits, let me first say that IDDA is the ONLY organization in the state that represents drainage districts. It is our one and only focus. Of course we get assistance from other ag related organizations on some issues but no one else has our singular focus.

Benefits would include -

- 1) Lobbying - IDDA has two part-time contract lobbyists in addition to myself who work to represent our views in the legislature. With our representation, we have someone at the Capitol virtually every day the legislature is in session. Lobbying can include sponsoring bills supported by our membership to change drainage law or, stopping legislation that would be detrimental to drainage interests.
- 2) Relationships - IDDA maintains strong relations with state and federal agencies that could impact drainage. This includes the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service, EPA and others. We also have strong ties to other ag groups such as the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Iowa Corn Growers Association and the Iowa Soybean Association. We also have strong ties to ISAC.
- 3) Annual Conference - IDDA sponsors an annual meeting held each December where current drainage topics are aired and discussed. We have a separate break out session for drainage clerks. This meeting is also an excellent networking opportunity.
- 4) Topical meetings - If an important issues merits it, we will pull together a meeting on that topic. For example, we were the only association in the state that put together a full one day conference on the Waters of the United States proposal by EPA.
- 5) Legal assistance - IDDA retains an attorney that can provide legal assistance on drainage issues on a limited basis.
- 6) Newsletter - IDDA publishes a quarterly newsletter highlighting current issues.
- 7) Website - This is regularly updated and contains information of importance to association members.
- 8) The mutual protection fund exists to protect drainage rights in the courts. Recently, that fund raised more than \$300,000 in the successful legal effort to stave off the Des Moines Waterworks lawsuit. As a member county, you would potentially have access to those funds should the need arise (disposition of the funds is decided by the IDDA board)
- 9) Drainage law book - Several years ago, IDDA published a drainage law book which is a complete and separate collection of state drainage law. These are free to our members. The book is updated as necessary

Back when IDDA initially was incorporated on March 16th, 1990, Hardin County was one of the counties that helped form the organization. We would love to have you back in the fold so to speak.

Please call or email if you have additional questions. thanks John

John T. Torbert, CAE
Executive Director
Iowa Drainage District Association
jtorbertidda@gmail.com
515-221-1961 (business)
515-707-7451 (cell)
515-598-7897 (fax)