

# Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

**When:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Scott County Secondary Roads Department, 950 Blackhawk Trail, Eldridge, IA 52748

**Present:** Heidi Woeber, Kyle Bennet, Amy Kay, Diane Holst, Curtis Lundy, Rob Ewoldt, Brian Ritter, Jon Burgstrum, Roger Kean, Bob Bryant, Ralph Johanson (telephone)

**Absent:** Joyce Singh

## Call to order and welcome

Jon Burgstrum called the meeting to order at 10:00. Roll call was taken and introductions were made.

## Approval of previous minutes, setting of the agenda, old business

This was the first meeting of the Steering Committee so there was no old business. The agenda was distributed and approved by consensus.

## Main Motions (discussion)

**Motion:** Moved by Ewoldt and seconded that Diane Holst would be Chairperson. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Motion:** Moved by Ritter and seconded that Heidi Woeber would be Clerk. The motion carried with all in favor.

## Discussion on procedures for open meetings and the Mission Statement of the Steering Committee

Burgstrum explained the procedures for open meetings and public participation. Burgstrum provided the mission statement to attendees to provide a clear idea of what our role is for IRVM in Scott County. Lundy asked if there was a larger meeting room at the same location for public attendance. Burgstrum replied yes.

## Update of 2016 Financial Activity (report-Lundy)

Lundy provided a summary of private citizen donations. He explained that a portion was spent on the 2016 vegetation survey and that a portion of the past grant award would be spent in the summer of 2017 on additional vegetation survey work (gravel road prairie inventory) to be performed by Leland Searles. Additional monies are also expected from donors for this purpose. Ewoldt asked about the purpose and scope of the surveys. Kean explained the need for baseline information as a starting point for the IRVM process in Scott County (knowing where we are in order to know where to go and how to measure success). Lundy provided an overview of the vegetation survey process. A total of 260 species were identified including Glade St. John's-Wort (*Hypericum dolabriforme*). Ewoldt asked for the number of Scott County roadside miles converted into acres. Ritter offered that there are 2148 acres of roadside in Scott County.

## General Discussion and Comments

Burgstrum discussed the interest of some landowners to participate in IRVM had resulted in 8 acres being identified for seeding. Burgstrum has requested 20 acres of seed from UNI for 2017. How to seed these sites (inter-seeding) and how much preparation to do for the sites was discussed. Woeber offered technical assistance from the USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program for this purpose if needed. The importance of working with landowners who want to mow their ditches was discussed. Holst asked about ROW signs and if they are present. Burgstrum said they are not. Kean discussed the importance of using the term Roadside Management rather than Ditch Committee as providing more clarity to the many and varied purposes of IRVM (water quality, erosion control, native preservation and restoration, drainage).

## Roadside Specialist Position Status (report-Burgstrum)

Burgstrum explained that the job description is done and explained the duties of this position. Holst commented that the position is already on the Board of Supervisor's agenda to be considered for approval. Burgstrum pointed out that this requires only a slight increase in the budget for Scott County Secondary Roads. Burgstrum and Holst explained the necessity for showing success by showing less spraying, less mowing, less erosion, and an increase in acres in native vegetation. Burgstrum explained how a percentage (25%) of the Roadside Specialist's position would be dedicated to Scott County Parks. The goal for that position's start date would be the beginning of May. There will also be a Roadside Technician position advertised which will be part-time.

## Future Grants and Needs (discussion)

Burgstrum explained that the deadline for the Living Roadways Trust Fund (LTRF) grants was June 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year's grant would be used for veg surveys this summer. Burgstrum asked for committee input on identifying equipment needs for the IRVM. The group discussed a hydro-seeder. A 20% cost-share is required. Attendees discussed applying for a "Riverboats" grant or a "Bi-State" grant to meet the cost-share. Burgstrum, Kean and Bryant were going to meet separately to discuss equipment needs. Further discussion at the next meeting was proposed.

## Next Meeting and Adjourn

It was suggested that the next meeting be in April in order to review grant application. Burgstrum related the need to discuss and establish term limits for the committee. The next meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on April 19, 2017 at same location. No other items were introduced for discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.