

# Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

**When:** Tuesday, October 2, 2018, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

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

**Present:** Brian Burkholder, Heidi Woeber, Curtis Lundy, Brian Ritter, Roger Kean, Jon Burgstrum, John Arter, Joyce Singh, Amy Kay, Brittany Ackerland

**Absent:** Ralph Johannsen, Diane Holst                      **Guest:** Bob Bryant

## Call to order, welcome, and introduction of Brittany Ackerland

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 10:07. Roll call was taken and introductions were made. Brittany Ackerland, City of Davenport, was introduced to the group as a replacement for Amy Kay. Jon B. mentioned that Brittany would replace Amy and a discussion ensued as to whether she would start a new term or backfill Amy's term.

## Approval of previous minutes

Meeting minutes from June 19, 2018, were discussed and Curtis L. pointed out some duplications in the attendance record. No other corrections were suggested. Brian Burkholder motioned for approval of the minutes and Amy K. seconded.

## Update of Grant Funding and Donations (Burgstrum and Burkholder)

Brian B. provided the IRVM Donations/Expense Summary. Jon B. explained that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and that all donations are in, so beyond this year there are no donations expected. Funds are used solely for Brian B.'s attendance at the IRVM conference, seed, and planting equipment. Jon B. discussed continuing to solicit donations as a committee and formally on the Scott County (SC) IRVM webpage. It was generally agreed that donations solicitation should continue and that the webpage might highlight the story of IRVM in SC and the history of donated support. Brian B. stated that he would be working on the webpage this winter. Heidi W. offered to write up something about IRVM based on introductory paragraph in the SC IRVM Plan. The total funds available currently are \$10,500. Jon B. stated that the LRTF grant requests for the pull behind hydro-seeder and for fire equipment were awarded for \$24,000 and \$1500, respectively. SC is willing to pay the remainder of the purchase price on the hydro-seeder. Brian B. stated that the City of Davenport would still be interested in a 280 agreement with the city which would pay for time and rental hours for the hydro-seeder.

## Update on Seeding Comparison Sites (Burkholder and Burgstrum)

Brian B. discussed the difference between matting and hydro-seeding on 4 different project sites. Brian B. provided a comparison chart for review. Jon B. indicated it does show a cost savings for handling the spraying and plantings "in-house" and would be appropriate to share with supervisors as a cost-comparison.

## Discussion on IRVM Education and Outreach

The group discussed possibility of a county ordinance if people mow planted sites (time and county money is at stake) and it was agreed that it wasn't time to be concerned yet and a more suitable response might be increasing education and outreach about the program. Brian B. indicated that only one landowner had been a problem so far and a sign had been present on site. Signs for IRVM sites were discussed including the possibility of specific SC IRVM sites and having the landowner's name (as a steward) included under the IRVM sign. The committee discussed generating public interest in IRVM, and 1) defining the process by which citizens can request site "enrollment" and 2) outlining suitability criteria for potential new sites. An education seminar for landowner's interested in enrolling in the SC IRVM was briefly discussed – owner involvement and maintenance is seen as a key component of success for a site. Brian B. stated that he had planted 30-40 sites this year and hoped to continue to plant/add 30-40 sites per year. Curtis L. requested an explanation of the two items listed above – 1) process/protocol for landowners and 2) site criteria (Call Brian, visit site, criteria for deeming the site suitable [ditch clean/slope/wet ditch, adjacency] etc.) and Brian B. indicated that he would write this up for the next meeting. John A. suggested that a "push" could be put on IRVM searches on the SC website to get interested people to the page faster. Brian B. stated that he will work on the webpage this winter. Once the webpage is ready, news coverage by Alma Gaul or Mark Ridolfi would be beneficial. Brian B. shared Chris Henze's interest in an IRVM Invasive Species workshop in SC planned for June. Brian R. and Heidi W. shared that BI-CAN is planning an invasive workshop for August. It was agreed that the two groups might discuss joining efforts on a single workshop and that it might be a good forum for landowner information about IRVM and plant identification.

## Discussion on committee vacancy

Ralph Johannsen has not responded to repeated attempts to contact about his interest in continuing on board. Amy K. is replaced by Brittany A. John A. suggested Shane Knuckey but has not heard back. Little progress has been made so far. Brian R. will reach out to some people and update next meeting. Jon B. reminded everyone of the need for gender balance. Curtis L. shared the official board roster (attached to these minutes). Current members:

Heidi Woeber	Thru 2020	Brittany Ackerland	Thru 2018
Diane Holst	Thru 2018	Joyce Singh	Thru 2019
Curtis Lundy	Thru 2020	Brian Ritter	Thru 2018
John Arter	Thru 2020	2 Vacant positions.	

## Next Meeting and Adjourn

Jon B. brought up next meetings and timing of future meetings (fall –October, and spring, possibly April, and early December). The next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Secondary Roads building. Move for adjournment by Brian R., seconded by Amy K.

**Distribution: Committee**

**Recorder: H.Woeber**