

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

When: Thursday, December 6, 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, Joyce Singh, Brittany Ackerland, Diane Holst, Jon Burgstrum, Roger Kean

Absent: Ralph Johannsen **Guests:** Dennis Tarasi, Tony Knobbe

Call to order, welcome, and introduction of Dennis Tarasi

Diane H. called the meeting to order at 10:07. Roll call was taken and introductions were made. Dennis Tarasi, St. Ambrose University, was introduced to the group as a future committee member and replacement for Brian Ritter as a private member. Brian R. will begin a new term as a public member.

Approval of previous minutes

Meeting minutes from October 2, 2018, were discussed. No corrections were suggested. Heidi W. motioned for approval of the minutes and Brian R. seconded.

Update of Grant Funding and Donations (Burgstrum and Burkholder)

Brian B. provided the IRVM Donations/Expense Summary. Jon B. explained that the funds are used solely for Brian B.'s attendance at the IRVM conference, seed, and planting equipment. Diane H. suggested adding continuing education to the list of acceptable usage of funds. The fire equipment has been purchased. Brian B. stated that the City of Davenport is interested in a 28-E agreement with the county and he would be the operator to provide consistency on the equipment. The contract would pay for time and rental hours for the hydro-seeder. Brian R. mentioned that the Waste Commission has a hydro-seeder. City of Clinton will probably not pursue a contract as long as their hydro-seeder is operational. Joyce S. asked if there was a conflict with a donor being on the steering committee. Committee present did not think there was a conflict.

Discussion on IRVM Education and Outreach

Brian B. provided cost estimates for signs with specific SC IRVM information and landowner name (adopted by...) included on sign. There is additional cost to signs with landowner name and IRVM. Jon B. suggested paying for the additional signage with grant money. Diane H. asked about the need and/or benefits of the landowner signs. Program benefits including education, outreach, and building advocacy for the program were discussed. Brian R. made a motion to agree that going forward the IRVM portion of the signs would be paid for with grant funding and the name portion shall be paid for by the landowner, Brittany A. seconds, all in agreement. D. Holst suggested changing "sponsored by" on the sign to "adopted by" before the landowner name. This change will be made to application form; everywhere "sponsor" is used "applicant" will be used instead. Also, criteria for sign, cost of purchasing a landowner sign, a place for an email address, and priority language (if you adopt to steward a ROW) will be added to form. A suggestion to have an organization steward a ROW will be an option for applicants who do not wish to monitor, care for or maintain their ROW. The committee reviewed and discussed changes to the history document of IRVM written by H.Woeber. H.Woeber will provide a recent version for all to mark up. Tony K. suggested using personal testimonials by donors and enrollees on the webpage to generate public interest in IRVM. Brian R. suggested having information about the metrics of the program on the webpage to show success over time: ROW acres and miles converted to natives, number of landowners enrolled, inventory information (species and numbers). Brian B. provided information defining the 1) process by which citizens can request site "enrollment" and 2) outlining suitability criteria for potential new sites, for inclusion on the webpage. An education seminar for landowner's interested in enrolling in the SC IRVM will be offered annually. Those willing to commit to management of a ROW will be prioritized as stated above. Brian B. stated that he expects the donation and application link to be on the webpage this winter. Once the webpage is ready, news coverage can progress.

Discussion on committee vacancy

Ralph Johannsen has not responded with interest in continuing on the committee and will be contacted to move forward with a replacement. Diane H. is coming off the committee at end of year. Brian R. will become a public member and Dennis Tarasi will replace him as a private member. Brittany A. will come on the committee in the new year. Amy Kersten and Tony Knobbe will begin terms on the committee as well. Jon B. reminded everyone of the need for gender balance.

Open Discussion

Brian R. suggested identifying focus areas for landscape conservation efforts related to IRVM (target zones). He suggested natural areas and utility right-of-ways as a couple of examples. Brian R. and Dennis T. suggested meeting over the winter to discuss identifying these high priority zones. H. Woeber suggested forming a couple of sub-committees for the purpose of working on education and outreach and developing conservation focus areas. H.Woeber offered to identify contacts from utility companies. Jon B. suggested meeting twice a year instead of 4 times. Curtis L. stated that three times might be preferable due to the December meeting being dominated by vacancy discussions and preparation for reporting to SC Board of Supervisors. No decision was made regarding a future meeting schedule.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting is tentatively set the second week of April at 10:00am at the Secondary Roads building. Move for adjournment by Brittany A. and seconded by Brian R.

Distribution: Committee

Recorder: H.Woeber