

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 09:30-11:00 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, John Arter, Amy Kersten, Jon Burgstrum, Roger Kean

Absent: Brittany Ackerland, John Maxwell, Tony Knobbe

Guests: Mark Ridolfi

Call to order, welcome, and introduction of Amy Kersten

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 9:37. Roll call was taken and introductions were made. Amy Kersten, resident of the City of Davenport, was introduced to the group as a private committee member. Amy K. offered her skills as a grant writer to the group.

Approval of previous minutes

Meeting minutes from December 6, 2018, were discussed. No corrections were suggested. Curtis L. 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. recommended providing a breakdown of the equipment total, the grant, and the amount from Scott County, in the report. This will be more transparent and recognize all parties that have contributed to that purchase. The fire equipment has been purchased and Brian B. listed the types of equipment purchased thus far. Brian B. stated that prescribed fire signs and two-way radios were the two remaining items related to fire equipment needs. Jon B. said that it may be possible to purchase the radios with current funds. Curtis L. suggested that the committee approve a motion to move forward with preparing grant requests for a sprayer. There was no objection. The motion was approved by Brian R. with Dennis T. second. Amy K. offered her experience toward preparation of a grant application for the RDA grant. Roger K. suggested the potential to split the amount between two RDA grant cycles. Jon B. will move forward with requesting approval for the grant request from the Scott County Board. Heidi W. also suggested providing a grant request to the Local Area Conservation Fund for the sprayer. The sprayer is \$20,649 with injection tanks and on a trailer. The trailer, rather than a unit mounted on a truck frame, will make the sprayer more flexible for sharing its use within the Secondary Roads Department and with Scott County Conservation Board.

Discussion on IRVM Education and Outreach

Brian B. provided information about the August 8, 2019 workshop on invasive species. He also announced he is the featured speaker at the May 21st luncheon forum for the Partners for Scott County Watersheds. Dennis T. expressed interest in participating in the Invasive Species Workshop. Brian B. updated the group on the status of the IRVM website. The history section has now been added. The Donation option is not quite done and the IT specialist is working on upgrading maps on the website. Brian B. updated the committee on the "Adopt-A-Prairie" option from the website. There are 21 new "adopters" for a total of 30 "AAP" participants. Jon B. stated that Brian B. comes in with new enrollees in the program continually. Brian B. was congratulated on this success. Brian B. also shared a handout he uses for native plant identification. Brian B. will also coordinate with Dave Murcia from the Wapsi Center about doing outreach at the Scott County Fair and also at Bald Eagle Days. Heidi W. reiterated Brian R.'s earlier suggestion about 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. agreed to run that option to IT.

Discussion on committee vacancy

There are no current vacancies on the committee.

Open Discussion

Dennis T. and Brian R. mentioned having the interim meeting before the November meeting to identify priority areas for the IRVM program. Dennis T. will send out an invitation for this meeting for those interested. This is related to identifying focus areas for landscape conservation efforts related to IRVM (target zones). Joyce S. asked about progress on contacting utility right-of-way companies. Heidi W. indicated that no progress had been made getting to the right individual but will reach out again.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting is set for November 12th at 10:00am at the Secondary Roads building. Move for adjournment by Brian R. and seconded by John A.

Distribution: Committee

Recorder: H.Woeber