

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

When: Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

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

Present: Brian Burkholder, Brittany Ackerland, Heidi Woeber, Dennis Tarasi, Curtis Lundy, Brian Ritter, John Arter, Amy Kersten,

Absent: Joyce Singh, Jon Burgstrum, John Maxwell **Guests:** Roger Kean, Bob Bryant, Darrell Inskeep

Call to order, welcome, and introduction of Darrell Inskeep

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 10:07. Roll call was taken and introductions were made. Darrell Inskeep, GIS Analyst, Scott County, was introduced to the group as an advisor for collector information and the website. Brian B. shared that Jon Burgstrum will be retiring as of December 31st.

Approval of previous minutes

Meeting minutes from April 9, 2019, were discussed. Dennis T. noted he was incorrectly listed as absent. Brian R. motioned for approval of the minutes and Curtis L. seconded.

Update of Grant Funding and Donations (Burkholder)

Brian B. told the committee that the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) provided approval for a \$15,000 grant toward the purchase of a sprayer. The process, including supervisory board approval and bid process, will take approximately 4 months. The sprayer should be purchased well before next summer. Brian B. also provided information on changes in grant process and personnel changes at LTRF (Mark Pingnot is no longer there. Brian B. says there are no items on his current wish list. There was discussion about having some help hired for Brian B. through grants. Roger K. indicated he thought that someone could be hired by Secondary Roads to do some of the work.

Discussion on IRVM Education and Outreach

Brian B. provided information about the May Forum (PSCW) and said that there was a good turnout with a couple of sign-ups for the "Adopt-A-Prairie" program. The group discussed the Invasive Species Day and talked about charging a nominal fee next time to cover costs and potentially ensure attendance. Brian R. mentioned the prairie tour event this June that BI-CAN is working on and generated some discussion about potential sites to visit in Iowa. Brian B.'s upcoming event is Bald Eagle Days with the Wapsi Center. A public outreach event was discussed for the Eldridge Library again – possibly in February. Heidi W. suggested promoting it newspapers, perhaps the North Scott Press, too.

Progress of the Collector Program/SAU Student Researcher

Darrell I. and Brian B. discussed the herbicide application map being developed for Scott County. This map will illustrate roadside spraying and highlight areas sprayed. Darrell I. is also working on a planting map which will delineate where there is turf versus natives planted, etc. There are values entered for every ¼ mile of roadside. Heidi W. brought up an earlier suggestion about having information about the metrics of the program on the webpage to show success over time: ROW miles converted to natives and maybe number of landowners enrolled. Dennis T. talked about a student that is willing to do a research project this coming spring/summer. Having the student do some more thorough inventories in areas where rare species were identified was discussed. Bob Bryant discussed working with the student to help with identification skills. Dennis T. will provide additional information.

Discussion on committee vacancy

Brian B. will reach out to Joyce Singh to see if she is interested in renewing her term which is set to expire. Committee agreed that it was beneficial to give committee members an option to renew their terms if desired. A discussion of other potential board members ensued; Spin Williams, Mindy Williams, etc... Brian R. suggested a farmer/landowner in Scott County on the committee would be valuable.

Open Discussion

Heidi W. mentioned a prairie seeding coming up at Lewis Machine Tool in Eldridge – she will send out information when a date is set.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting is set for January 21st at 9:00am at the Secondary Roads building. Move for adjournment by Brian R. and seconded by Curtis L.

Distribution: Committee

Recorder: H.Woeber