

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

When: Thursday, February 17, 2022, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Where: Virtual Webex Meeting

Present: Brian Burkholder, Heidi Woeber, Joyce Singh, Brian Ritter, John Arter, Amy Kersten, Tony Knobbe, Curtis Lundy, John Arter,

Absent: Dennis Tarasi and John Maxwell **Non-voting Members/Guests:** Roger Kean, Angela Kersten

Call to order, welcome, and introductions

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 10:05. Roll call was taken.

Approval of previous minutes

Meeting minutes from July were discussed. Brian R. motioned for approval of the minutes and Amy Kersten seconded.

Update on Committee Members Renewal and Replacement (Burkholder)

A replacement for Brittany Ackerland is still needed. Brian R. suggested Kelsi Denoyer from EICC/Nahant. She will be asked to join.

2022 Bio Blitz and March Webinar Series (Ritter)

Brian R. provided information about the 2022 blitz which is planned for Sunderbruch Park in Scott County. In March there is a BI-CAN webinar series featuring Brian Burkholder which will be good outreach for the IRVM program and educating the public about the importance of native species in the landscape. This series will be hosted by University of Illinois-Extension. Woeber mentioned that these activities constitute outreach and education opportunities for the IRVM program and Adopt-A-Prairie.

Open Discussion

John Arter asked about brush clearing and if Scott County will try to establish plantings there. Burkholder said they try to eradicate and replace with beneficial plantings. Arter asked how areas are chosen and Burkholder said they know which areas need work and target those areas. Burkholder said sites for seeding are planned on a couple of state roads this spring (Maysville and Highway 61). There are also 3 or 4 good high visibility sites planned for seeding first thing this spring. Burkholder said Scott County is known widely for its program and especially Adopt-A-Prairie where 54 applicants have applied and 38 are seeded. About 1/3 of those sites are hitting 3rd year. Burkholder mentioned a site on Utica Ridge "S" curve will also be done. Ritter mentioned a potential partnership with Muscatine County on a roadway. Burkholder said he was interested in a partnership with continuous native vegetation along Great River Rd.

Lundy asked for an update on equipment. Burkholder is still waiting for truck availability for purchase. The new sprayer is highly efficient by reducing the time he spends spraying shoulders along paved Roads. Amy Kersten offered to create a flyer or work on website and provide information about current landowner projects. Kean pointed out that flyers exist that have been created for special events. Burkholder said he would provide his "Top 6" landowner sites and Arter provided some pictures to be used. More pictures and comments/quotes by landowners could be shared in new flyer. Woeber suggested a marketing/outreach sub-committee might be helpful so Burkholder isn't inundated by extra workload "do-outs". Amy Kersten, Woeber, Arter, and Knobbe are interested in participating in a outreach effort and Amy Kersten will work on an initial outreach effort before reaching out. Knobbe suggested a QR code might be helpful on yellow signs. A cost comparison of, for example, spraying costs pre-IRVM and post-IRVM was suggested. Angela Kersten said this might be difficult since coverage was different (contracted spraying was every two years and consisted of blanket spraying vs. spot/targeted spraying).

Next Meeting and Adjourn

Brian B. suggested setting a time for the next meeting due to the need for the Webex meetings to be set up well in advance by Scott County. Meeting in April was discussed and no objections were made to April. Amy Kersten said she will be out of town after the 28th. Brian B. will send out possible dates for the next meeting for approval. Move for adjournment by Brian R. and seconded by Amy K.

Distribution: Committee

Recorder: H.Woeber