

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

When: Monday, October 23, 2023, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: Wapsi Center

Present: Brian Burkholder, Adriana McBride, Brian Ritter, John Arter, Amy Kersten, and Dennis Tarasi. **Absent:** Judith Lee, Curtis Lundy & John Maxwell.

Non-voting Members/Guests: Roger Kean & Angie Kersten

Guest: Bob Bryant

Call to order, welcome, and introductions

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Recorder replacement for Heidi Woeber

Nobody volunteered to take minutes. Brian B. will ask again at the next meeting.

Approval of previous minutes

Motion by Amy Kersten, second by Brian Ritter, all voted yes to approve past minutes from April's meeting.

2023 Native Garden Tour

Discussion of the 2023 Native Garden Tour that was held on July 22, 2023: Had a good turn-out. Next year target one area. Condense the location. Brian B. handed out seeds from Tall Grass Prairie Center. Talk to a few people about Native Roots program in Davenport and remind them of maintenance. Consensus was that there were too many sites. Sites were on both sides of the river. Think a dozen or so people attended each site.

2023 BiCAN/Hawkeye CWMA Kreiter Farm workshop

Kreiter Farm invasive species workshop on August 10, 2023: Had a 115 attendees. Great turn-out and a lot of good feedback. Planning to put the workshop on every other year. Brian B. has drone photos that Darryll Inskeep took. Feedback that the sessions were good, but maybe a little too much walking. Was a little hot in the afternoon. Two people signed up for Sec Roads Adopt-A-Prairie program.

AAP updates and locations

Adopt-a-Prairie locations and updates: Brian B. provided a handout for the committee. Brian B. spoke about four more that have signed up for the program. 65 total areas. 12 locations still need to be planted. Brian B. encourages participants to help with maintenance. Brian B. encourages participants to reach out with questions or send pictures to verify weeds that need to be sprayed. Talked about the hydroseeder. Brian B. says it is still in good condition. Maybe a bearing going out, but overall in good condition.

Earnest Earth Soil Amendments

Earnest Earth soil amendments: Have participated in a few meetings. Still working with Gabe to get the right mixture. Cost is ~\$6.00/bag. Brian B. is looking into how to incorporate the soil into the hydroseeder. Question was asked about risk of contaminants in the soil and Brian B. said not concerned. Brian B. will send out the Earnest Earth website information. Existing soil was tested and not a lot of nutrients in our soil. The soil amendment will help keep the balance between the grasses and the forbes.

2023 SAU Inventory

2023 SAU Inventory: Completed this summer. All of Scott County roadside is completed except for a small stretch north of Bettendorf along I-80. Doug Vickstrom owns property up by the Wapsi and allowed sampling. Also, sampled at Scott Daniels' property. They have a lot of data and have shared it with Darryll Inskeep with Scott County GIS. Have been sampling for the past 4 years in the roadsides and have completed. Dennis asked for proposed sampling sites for summer of 2024. Brian Ritter recommended sampling Scott County Park and Bob Bryant stated that 50-60 species were transplanted to SCP from Pine Hill Cemetery in 1975. Minimal management over the years. Approximately 1.5 acres in size. Also had a CRP project at Scott County Park approximately 5 years ago to plant 70 acres of natives (part of the process was to remove existing and re-plant). John Arter has a spot that is partially wetland and partially untouched that hasn't been sampled. Also, recommended the Duke Prairie and Sherman Park in Clinton County. Buena Vista has a remnant, but is flooded often and trees took over. Very sandy. The Kreiter Farm would probably be interested in sampling. West Lake also has a 20 acre area that was also replanted in the CRP program years ago.

State Boards and Committee Review

The statewide IRVM Steering Committee is set to merge with another committee, but it is unknown at this time when this will happen or which committee it will be merged with. Brian B. will contact Christine Nemeck at Tall Grass Prairie for an update.

Management of noxious and invasive species within city limits

Brian B. is researching on how to improve management of noxious and invasive species within city limits. Brian B. has been getting more complaints inside city limits. Bettendorf has a conservation group. John Arter also recommended reaching out to BiCAN. Adriana recommended asking BiCAN to host a meeting inviting City staff to an educational seminar. Interested in educating City staff on how to identify and destroy invasive species.

Steering Committee members terms

John Arter and Curtis Lundy's terms expire in December of 2023. John volunteered to renew his term. Brian B. will talk to Curtis and see if he is interested in staying on. Dennis mentioned that SAU is not a government organization.

Next IRVM meeting date

Next meeting will be in January/February 2024.

Open Discussion

Bob Bryant talked about Senior Conservation Corp. and how to get neighbors involved in maintaining parks. Adriana also recommended alternating years between Native Garden Tour and Invasive Species education. Brian B. reminded everyone of the REAP Assembly on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Roger also recommended attending the REAP Congress.

End of meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 5:32 p.m.: Motion by Dennis Tarasi and second by Brian Ritter.