

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Steering Committee Minutes

When: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

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

Present: Brian Burkholder, Amy Kersten, John Maxwell, and Nick McClimon.

Absent: John Arter, Judith Lee, Curtis Lundy, Brian Ritter, and Dennis Tarasi. **Non-voting Members/Guests:** Roger Kean, Angie Kersten, and Darrell Inskeep

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Brian B. introduced and welcomed Darrell Inskeep as a presenter to the committee.

New Committee Member

Brian B. introduced and welcomed Nick McClimon, with the Iowa DNR, to the committee.

Minutes being recorded by Angie K.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The November 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. John M. moved to approve, Nick M. seconded. Motion carried.

Adopt a Prairie (AAP)

Brian B. reported continued growth in the Adopt a Prairie program, noting strong interest and positive feedback, particularly regarding the new signage. Over the past four months, more than 30 applications have been received.

Darrell I. demonstrated the online AAP map for the committee. The program currently includes 99 locations, with 58 planted. A total of 19.7 acres has been planted, and an additional 24.8 acres have been identified for future planting.

Brian B. indicated that site preparation, including spraying, is planned to begin in April, with planting activities to follow in May.

2026 Grant Update

Amy K. is preparing grant applications to the Scott County Regional Authority (SCRA) and the Scott County Regional Development Authority (SCRDA) to support the purchase of equipment and program materials, including a mini track loader, BrushCat mower, soil conditioner, bucket with cutting edge, and Adopt a Prairie (AAP) signs.

Brian B. is also preparing 3 grant applications to the Living Roadway Trust Fund for the same equipment purchases along with some more AAP signs.

In addition, Scott County IRVM has received \$12,000 in private donations to support the cost of the equipment and signage.

IRVM Map Updates – Darrell Inskeep

Darrell I. demonstrated the IRVM maps available online. The maps include data on weed spraying locations, observed invasive species, native grass plantings, application records, and Adopt a Prairie (AAP) sites. Data collection for the mapping system began in 2021.

Brian B. noted plans to enhance the maps by adding prairie photos in the future.

100% Matching Donation Program

Brian B. is continuing to work with the Singh family to finalize details and duration of the 100% matching donation program. He is also coordinating with the Scott County Information Technology Department to implement an online donation option. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Next Committee Meeting

Members agreed to meet again in August. Brian B. will send a Doodle poll closer to that time to schedule.

Open Discussion

- The BioBlitz is scheduled for June 27-28 at the Wapsi River Environmental Center.
- Elizabeth VanCamp, with eDNA, requested prairie locations for plant and soil health sampling. Brian B. provided 12 roadside locations for this purpose.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.