

Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Steering Committee Minutes

When: Thursday, January 28, 2021, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Where: Webex virtual meeting

Present: Brian Burkholder, Brittany Ackerland, Heidi Woeber, Joyce Singh, Curtis Lundy, Brian Ritter, John Arter, Amy Kersten, Dennis Tarasi, and John Maxwell. **Non-voting/Guests:** Darrell Inskeep, Angela Kersten, and Roger Keen

Call to order, welcome, and introductions

Brian B. called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Roll call was taken and introductions were made.

Approval of previous minutes

Meeting minutes from January 21, 2020, were discussed. Brian R. motioned for approval of the minutes with a unanimous all in favor.

Update on Sprayer Purchase

Brian B. told the committee that the manufacturer is behind due to Covid and Derecho issues. An extension from the LRTF has been granted for the funding. Hopeful the sprayer will arrive soon.

SAU Student Research Update

Data can be reviewed on 50 roadside plots that were completed in NW corner of Scott County. Dennis said there is funding available to continue the inventories but wanted everyone's opinion on where to focus the efforts. Dennis mentioned to head East along the Wapsi basin. Both Brian Ritter and Brian Burkholder agreed. Dennis also noted the grant funding will be available for the next four years and is hopeful to have data that encompasses all of the County.

Curtis asked about students and most likely a new group will conduct the survey next year.

Roger, Amy, and Heidi all suggested to highlight the SAU staff and student efforts by contacting news media organizations. Brian B will reach out to news media and will send thank you letters to SAU for all the great work. No other IRVM is collecting as much data as we are. Tony Knobbe is interested in sharing the program with the Wapsi center and see if it could be used as an education program. Roger agreed but also noted Brian B has a lot on his plate already. Brian B is on board with doing more outreach.

Future Events

Native Garden Tour has been postponed till 2022 but Brian B will be working with Darrell to create a map of all planted locations which will allow the public to go on their own and drive by locations.

BioBlitz at Sunderbruch Park June 25th & 26th 2021. Details were outlined by Brian Ritter- experts from various fields of biology gather and complete a 24hr inventory of species.

2021 Brush Control Program

Brian B. is using the same program that Lynn County is using spraying brush this year. Lynn County has had a 99% kill rate of woody brush such as honeysuckle, autumn olive, and mulberry. Brittany asked about herbicides and rates and Brian B will be sending her a list and rates being used.

2021 IRVM Update

Brian B will be adding changes to the IRVM plan such as the Adopt A Prairie program and added equipment for the DOT 5 year review of the Scott County IRVM Plan.

Open Discussion

Brian B. said that 60 acres of native seed have been planted since the IRVM started. He stated he is caught up and has just a few acres to start with till the next batch of seed arrives in June. Dennis asked if we needed to purchase more seed and Burkholder explained the TAP seed grant and that we are allowed up to 80 acres a year, but must have it planted in 12 months, in the ROW.

Brian B also updated the AAP program: 21 locations planted and 10 more signed up for 2021. Werner site update: was full of Canada thistle and was treated and replanted.

Cliff Lafrenz Memorial brought in \$1570 in donations to the IRVM program and will be used in her district to promote and plant prairies along the roadsides.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

Next Committee meeting set tentatively for April 29th, a doodle poll will be sent out by Brian B prior. Depending on the weather and social distancing guidelines we will possibly be meeting at West Lake-TBD.

Distribution: Committee

Recorder: B.Ackerland