

**Benton County Iowa Roadside Management (IRM) Meeting Minutes**

**September 17, 2020 – 5:30 PM**

**“High Road” Demonstration site (2650 58<sup>th</sup> St. Lane)**

**Committee Members Present:**

Randy Scheel - CH

Becky Van Wey-Sec.

Wayne Siela

Joan Lindberg

Luke Hennings

**Staff:**

Ben Bonar – IRM Roadside Manager

Wes Haefner, Intern

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Scheel. Since there were no prior meetings in 2020 due to the Roadside manager position being vacant, new officers have not been elected for the year. It was moved by Lindberg and seconded by Siela that all 2019 officers remain as is for the remainder of the year. Zach Parmater will be the new Committee member.

A motion was made by Lindberg and seconded by Siela, to approve the minutes from the 7/18/10 and 10/17/2019 meetings with no additions or corrections.

Bonar explained the situation with him leaving his position to go to Benton Co Conservation, and the events that led to his return. He also announced that in the coming year that the IRM program will be a stand-alone Department, rather than a part of the Secondary Roads. All existing duties will still be included in the new department, but he is hopeful that by improving efficiency that he will be able to add to the program. Bonar remarked that due to changes at IDOT, grants will be more difficult to obtain. They will require collaboration with other agencies, and by becoming a standalone Department it will allow sharing of labor/equipment with Benton Co. Conservation, for example. Siela remarked that more staff is needed to run the program. Hennings stated his opinion that Bonar needs 2 full time and probably 3 seasonal employees going forward.

Bonar then gave a verbal review of the Program Update that he provided in printed format to each member. He then gave a brief tour of the High Road demonstration site, which is approximately 7 acres.

The date of the next meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in January.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at sunset.

-Submitted by Becky Van Wey