

IRVM Advisory Committee meeting

January 7, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ben Bonar at the Secondary Roads office. Present: Randy Scheel, Calvin Wolter, Jim Huber, Ben Bonar, Joan Lindberg, Kathy Chamberlain, Carol Zander.

Motion by Lindberg, second by Scheel to appoint the following officers: Calvin Wolter, Chair; Jim Huber, Vice-Chair; Carol Zander, Secretary. All members voting aye, motion carried.

Motion by Huber, second by Lindberg to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting. All members voting aye, motion carried.

Ben added that the agenda and minutes can be found at www.bentoncountyiowa.org under Departments/Roads/IRVM.

Ben reported he can no longer serve on the committee as he does not live in Benton County. Ann Jorgensen has stepped down, Matt Purdy resigned his position, and Harold Cassen has not attended a meeting in some time. Ben reported that there is no requirement for 50/50 public and private membership on the committee. Ben reported that he has received interest from a Master Gardener about filling one of the four vacancies on the committee. Let Ben know of anyone who is interested in joining the committee.

Ben reviewed the goals accomplished in 2015.

- Four public presentations: Isaac Walton League, Prairie on Farms, Lions Club, and Kiwanis.
- Awarded grants for two backpack leaf blowers for fire control, broadcast seeder for the front of the Ranger.
- Board approved funding for building renovations in FY17. Total renovation cost will be \$64K with \$15K coming from LRTF for the concrete. Ben reviewed the changes to the original plan.
- 50 acres of tap seed, 35 acres have been planted. About half was seeded on the Oak Grove project area.
- North of Urbana ROW seeded 2.5 A. Balance of seed will be used in the Spring for Oak Grove and ditch cleanouts.

The IRVM plan was submitted in June. A couple of counties are using it as a guide.

Ben made progress on the Benton County website.

Working with Conservation staff on planning the seed production plot at Rodgers Park. May try to acquire a used combine for part of the harvesting. Students will be planting the plugs. Spraying went well in 2015 and herbicide use was reduced. Ben has been working on clearing brush in the ROW. Trying to get the High Road cleaned. Plans are to put signage by the Atkins planting. Planting will be done on the Garrison S curve.

Goals for 2016

1. Seed production plot
2. Building renovation
3. Plant the High Road east of the quarry, taking flooding into consideration.
4. Public presentations will be done as requested subject to Ben's availability.
5. Native Vegetation Seminar to be held in March at the Nature Center to promote IRVM and share knowledge related to native vegetation.
6. Hydro-seeder demonstration at the Benton County Fair.
7. Attend minimum of two relevant conferences, including the Roadside Conference in September.
8. Apply for grants to outfit the building with safety cabinets, and a pull behind mower for the Ranger.

The next meeting will be held April 7th, 5:30 p.m. at Secondary Roads. The rest of the meeting dates will be decided at the April meeting, after the new members are appointed. Ben asked the committee for ideas on a tour/meeting.

Calvin offered to share information that could be useful to the presenters (NRCS Conservation Program Native Vegetation Programs, Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project) for the Native Vegetation Seminar in March.

Ben discussed plans for the seminar and options for providing lunch. He still needs someone to present on urban storm water management. Several suggestions were offered. Ben is waiting to hear from all the presenters about availability before setting a date for the seminar.

Motion by Jim, second by Randy to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 6:50 p.m.
Next meeting - April 7th

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Zander