

Benton County IRVM Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.

Benton County Secondary Roads Department

Committee Members Present:

- John Frazier
- Luke Hennings
- Randy Scheel
- Becky Van Wey
- Joan Lindberg

Staff:

- Ben Bonar – Benton Co. IRVM Roadside Manager

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairman Scheel.

The Minutes of the last meeting were unavailable, so will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Bonar reported that the County Supervisors have given approval to hire a spray truck driver and a summer intern. They will be the same as last year. He is still working on trying to get another full-time position.

As soon as the annual report is completed, Bonar will email out to board members. He is a little behind, due to having to operate a snow plow much of the winter.

2019 spraying season will be the same as last year. There have been some changes to the Iowa noxious weed law, and 8 species will be prioritized – however, no weeds were removed from the noxious weed list. Bonar reported that they will be transitioning to pre-blended mixes of chemicals to improve the efficacy (pH and water hardness affects the performance of the weed spray). The GPS system for the spray truck is ready to go, other than some minor calibration.

The Co. Engineer has selected a vendor, and the NO SPRAY signs have been selected. Parizek has still not ordered the signs. Bonar would like to know if we will have the signs for this season, because he will need to advertise them when he publishes the weed policy for the year.

Staff will hand spray weeds in existing prairie reconstruction areas and do some clearing along the high road to open up the canopy for oaks.

New reconstruction areas planned for this year are north of Garrison, an area along the county home road, the middle section of the high road, near Mt Auburn, by the I-380 pond (next to Wileys) and adjacent to the Irvine Prairie.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18th. Bonar will set up a tour. Other interested parties should be invited to attend, along with members of the board.

There being no further business, Lindberg made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Frazier, and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:35.