

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Advisory Committee meeting

October 20, 2016

Meeting called to order at the Benton County Secondary Roads Department by Randy Scheel. Present: Ben Bonar, Jim Huber, Calvin Wolter, Randy Scheel, and Carol Zander. Absent: Becky Van Wey, Mark Droessler, Joan Lindberg, Kathy Chamberlain, and Becky Johnson. Motion by Scheel to accept the minutes of the July 21st meeting. Motion carried.

The group toured the seed and chemical storage building. Ben provided an update on IRVM activities of hydro seeding, ditch clean outs, and mainly the Oak Grove project. Ben reported on progress of planting projects. UNI will be using a portion of the ROW for interseeding. Brome grass will be mowed short and then drill in native seed this fall. The area will be mowed repeatedly next year.

Ben reviewed the grants he has applied for and discussed the terrace spray system that will be purchased. The system will eliminate paperwork and because it runs off a tablet will provide accurate data for reports and weed complaints. Discussed wish list for communication equipment grants. Ben will resubmit grants for equipment that was not funded.

Ditch cleanouts are small and difficult to maintain. Some of the cleanouts were planted in brome grass because there was less forbs seed this year. Larger projects are taking priority.

Ben will order a few No Spray signs for approval. A notice will be placed in newspapers with the noxious weed notice.

Discussed the opportunity to provide education about IRVM after the recent flooding. Ben will tie in the need for IRVM plantings to reduce future flooding and write an article for the newspapers.

Discussed members terms expiring in January, Zander and Lindberg.

Ben reported the Weed Commissioner Assn. website will be going live soon. Ben is writing the technical manual for the association. He will email the weed commissioner report and the IRVM report prior to the next meeting on January 19, 2017.

Motion by Huber/Scheel to adjourn. MC