

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Advisory Committee meeting

July 21, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Randy Scheel at the Secondary Roads office in Vinton. Present: Carol Zander, Becky Van Wey, Randy Scheel, Mark Droessler and Ben Bonar. Jim Huber arrived later. Joan Lindberg, Kathy Chamberlain, Calvin Wolter, and Becky Johnson were absent.

Motion by Scheel, second by Van Wey to approve the minutes of the April 7 meeting. MC

The committee's plan to tour prairie plantings in the Urbana area were postponed until fall due to the extreme temperatures today. The committee instead viewed the renovations to the building made possible through grant funding and county match dollars.

Bonar provided the committee with an update on IRVM activities. They are doing as much roadside spraying as possible but are about one and a half months behind schedule due to the unexpected delay in hiring two new drivers earlier this season.

The planting on 33rd Avenue south of Atkins is almost completed. The planting is a good representation of the success of the IRVM program.

Building renovations are on budget, and should be completed in one and a half months.

Bonar reviewed the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund grants received, and remarked that the program was more competitive this year. Benton County received six grants for equipment.

Bonar is now Vice President of the Iowa Weed Commissioners Association and is working on a post for the website. Received a grant to create a weed commissioners manual.

Discussed creating a permitting process for No Spray signs so they are more uniform across the county and visible to the spraying crew. The permit packet for landowners will include information on appropriate chemicals for controlling noxious weeds in the no spray areas and information about the IRVM program.

The committee discussed ways to increase public awareness and promote the IRVM program.

Motion by Droessler, second by Scheel to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. MC

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Zander, Secretary