

SIOSA Annual Meeting
Room 106 Resch Science and Technology Hall
Graceland University, Lamoni, IA
Saturday, January 14th, 2012

Present: Gregg Pattison, Casey Campbell, Rich Erke, Mark Erke, Dick Hillyard, Jennifer Abraham, John Orvis, and Bruce Nelson

Casey opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Regular Account:

Balance as of 11/17/11	\$4,970.82
<i>Credits:</i>	
11/21 - State of Iowa REAP funds (50% of grant)	+\$2,487.50
11/21 Brian White - SF M'ship	+\$25.00
11/30 Interest	+\$0.04
12/21 Michael & Tracy Shay - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Patricia McKinley - Sav. Steward M'ship	+\$500.00
Michael Phillips - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Steve Curtis - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Peggy & Gary Hutchison - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
D. Craig Pyer - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Robert R. Shreck - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Leo & Gloria Beebout - SF M'ship	+\$50.00
Dale Garner - SF M'ship	+\$25.00
Mike & Nancy Forrest - SF M'ship	+\$25.00
12/30 Dennis J. & Nadia Van Gorp Sus. M'ship	+\$250.00
Dale A. Shriver - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Richard Erke - SF M'ship	+\$25.00
Shannon Whipp - Sup. M'ship	+\$100.00
Rich Peterson - SF M'ship	+\$25.00
Susan Noonan - Student M'ship	+\$10.00
<i>Debits:</i>	
12/2 - ck# 1048 - Graceland University J. Abraham, November fee	-\$400.00
12/2 - ck# 1049 - J. Abraham, coffee fee burn sem. (\$20 REAP & 29.99 supplies)	-\$49.99
12/16 ck# 1050 - J. Abraham, Landowner Prescribed Burn Assoc. Survey, brochure & postage expenses (ALL REAP funds) (Balance of \$1101.36 in REAP acct.)	<u>-\$1226.07</u>
Balance as of 12/31/11	\$7,517.30

Federal Account:

Balance as of 11/17/11	\$41,762.66
<i>Credits:</i>	
11/30 - Interest	+\$0.34
12/19 - Grant	+\$30,000.00
12/19 - Grant	+\$95,000.00
12/31 - Interest	+\$0.76
<i>Debits:</i>	
11/29 - ck# 1055 - T. Geiger, Savanna Rest. done in Decatur Co. IA by Midwest Land Rest. LLC - 90% Landowner payment	-\$4,411.50
12/22 ck# 1056 - Tom and Julita Pollard Savanna Rest. in Clarke Co. IA by Travis Strable - 90% Landowner payment	<u>-\$2,025.00</u>
Balance as of 12/31/11	\$160,327.26

Reported by Dick Hillyard at 1/14/2012 annual meeting at Graceland University

Habitat and Restoration

Gregg started with stating that the U.S.F.W.S. is changing its management system and are requiring new things. Gregg cautioned that a couple landowners were having difficulty transitioning through the system at this point. The system requires that funding requests be completed online and with that, the funding system is congested/backed up nation-wide. Work is being done on the aforementioned landowners' property and so Gregg noted the future possibility of SIOSA covering the landowners' management costs (to help keep operations running smoothly) until they the U.S.F.W.S. is able to reimburse the landowners through their system at which point the money would then be shifted back to SIOSA. The topic was tabled for the next board meeting.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan was discussed at length. Gregg talked about SIOSA's geographical reach in terms of management areas. He also discussed the recent partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Iowa DNR. These groups identified high probability for woodland management areas in other counties and in Decatur. Gregg mentioned that the board, at the November meeting, decided to also focus management in Madison Co. (Clanton Creek).

Gregg talked about a second SIOSA initiative occurring between within Northern Missouri and Southern Iowa. The multi-state approach may help bolster future grant funding to help increase management in these areas.

Casey summarized past board meeting discussions about federal monies that have been earmarked for certain projects (\$100,000). He then opened discussion to the room for suggestions on how to proceed with the remaining \$60,000. The main concern that

arose was that if SIOSA continues to grow and expand its management areas, it also needs to try and rely less on government funding and more on individual landowner training and education. That way landowners can contribute to long-term maintenance is sustained over time.

Jen presented information about the prescribed burn association interest survey and related REAP grant project development. The landowner survey has been distributed and collected and Jen presented some findings. The prescribed burn website continues to be worked on which will help facilitate landowner communication within the proposed prescribed burn association. How-to burn videos are still in the initial phases and will continue to be worked on.

Shannon Rusk, of Iowa State University, suggested that SIOSA and ISU work together to organize a prescribed landowner workshop. ISU has some interested parties that could be combined with SIOSA's contacts to increase potential membership of the prescribed burn association.

Sibylla and Bill shared information about WildlandWarehouse.com as a possible source for future fire equipment.

Bill also shared that the local fire departments should be targeted. Rich discussed the involvement and challenges that the fire departments face. Rich discussed the idea of creating a prescribed fire association within the fire departments.

The group discussed the possibility of targeting the deer hunting enthusiasts/landowners. These landowners typically have large tracts of land that could be restored. Randy Arndt of the Nature Conservancy talked about the possibility of partnering with SIOSA for an upcoming workshop in the Spring in the Grand River Grasslands (perhaps as a follow-up to the ISU/SIOSA prescribed fire association meeting). The Nature Conservancy has funding for this workshop (roughly \$1000.00). Randy mentioned that there are numerous landowners that are hunting enthusiasts in the GRG that we could target. The Nature Conservancy could send out mailings to all landowners within the Grand River Grasslands for the workshop. **Randy also mentioned that Outfitters may be a good target point for contacting and information; letting them know that they do not have to spend money on food plots to restore land. Bob Allen sporting goods in Osceola.**

Rick talked about the importance of baseline data and getting researchers down to southern Iowa to perform research and conduct studies to help back-up claims that state the benefits and effects of restoration (to prove it's not an isolated incident). SIOSA discussed how to go about finding researchers who could perform this research. Randy shared that research is really driven by funding. Randy shared that if SIOSA were to 1) research funding (wildlife conservation society); 2) put together a proposal of questions that need to be addressed in a study; 3) then take that to the university and state we would be willing to help write the proposal.

Bill discussed the possibility of getting some media coverage for prescribed fire. Casey addressed his comment. Gregg talked about Jim Peas who talks on the radio during wildlife hour, Iowa AgTV. Trish McKinley talked about WHO radio as a possible media outlet.

The group discussed the importance of securing administrative funds to hire a full-time SIOSA staff member. Gregg stated the efforts being made to have southern Iowa (like the Loess Hills region) to be recognized as an important area. It has been mentioned in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan.

Final Points

Gregg talked about the possibility of building a room as a first step for a learning center. For now, a storage area and classroom for future meetings. Gregg will look into Morten buildings to see about a cost estimate for a building at Slip Bluff.

Casey thanked the group for joining in on the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.