

SIOSA Board of Directors Meeting
Honey Creek Resort, Rathbun Lake, Iowa
November 4, 2014

Attending were: Bill and Sibylla Brown, John and Sharon Orvis, Dick and Nancy Hillyard, Nancy Forrest, Bruce Nelson, Dave Whittlesey, Rich Erke, Andy Kellner, Casey Campbell, Gregg Pattison, Veronica Mecko

The meeting was called to order at about 12:30 p.m.

Minutes from the Aug. 21 meeting were approved.

Dick read the Treasurer's Report and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Regular Account:

Balance 8/21/2014	\$1,189.41
(All SIOSA funds)	

CREDITS:

8/22 Bruce Nelson-Supporting Memb.	\$100.00
8/22 Roslea Johnson-Savanna Friend Memb.	\$25.00
8/22 Kathi Kuhl-Savanna Friend Memb.	\$25.00
8/22 Cash - 5 bottles of maple syrup	\$50.00
8/29 Kevin S. Lair-Supporting Memb.	\$100.00
8/29 Larry Pollpeter-Supporting Memb.	\$100.00
8/31 Interest	\$.02
9/12 John Paule-Supporting Memb.	\$100.00
9/29 Steven Chopard-Supporting Memb.	\$100.00
9/30 Interest	\$.01
10/31 Interest	\$.02

DEBITS:

11/1 Ck #1097 Veronica Mecko (fee for Aug.-Oct.)	\$600.00
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Balance 11/4/2014	\$1,189.46
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Federal Account:

Balance 8/21/2014	\$15,921.65
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CREDITS:

8/31 Interest	\$.13
9/30 Interest	\$.13

DEBITS:

None

Balance 11/4/2014

\$15,921.91

Habitat and Restoration:

--Overview of current projects, Gregg Pattison:

Bishop Timber: Mark Erke and crew have been finishing work on the south half and result is that the south boundary can clearly be seen

Clarke County: Expanding work in areas--Sargent Farms (Carol Reichardt) a 1,200 acre savanna restoration southwest of Highway Patrol building off of I-35, site has a lot of fescue and owners taking a holistic approach to management; Teamwork Acres a 1,000 acre restoration

--FWS is now pushing for restoration for Monarch butterflies that includes converting fescue to native prairie restorations

--For Land's Sake (Madison Co. landowner group), Nancy Forrest: Planning to bring in a speaker, Mary Harris, Ph.D. at Iowa State University, to talk about pollinators.

Membership:

--Casey gave a brief overview of membership benefits, the SIOSA website, equipment that can be loaned out to members and the need to continue to promote these.

--Sibylla Brown brought up the idea of selling oak savanna seed mixes and / or milkweed seed mixes; Veronica to follow up with Sibylla and Gregg about this.

Old Business:

--Recap of Oct. 11 Workshop, Casey: Held at the 400+ acre prairie and high quality oak savanna next to the river at Kevin Lair's Westbrook Artists' Site in Madison County; some new folks showed up; the weather was perfect but the ground had been flooded six weeks earlier and there was still mud on the vegetation and so it wouldn't burn; participants learned how to use the equipment; Kevin is getting some equipment to have a cache; SIOSA will plan to get back there again this year; it was a good education day.

--Recap of Sec. Bill Northey visit to Timberhill Oak Savanna, Bill Brown: Secretary Northey had no frame of reference about ecological restoration but understands there needs to be a balance between what's happening in southern Iowa and production agriculture; Wayne Peterson recommended SIOSA develop a Standards of Practice for Restoration which would be presented to IDALS and Secretary Northey to request funding for cost-share for restoration work; the SIOSA board needs to elaborate on what practices constitute for acceptable restoration and as an organization have as a request to recondition land use as Development (water quality, native pollinators, etc.); what the group from Madison County is doing is helpful to demonstration the relocation of urban people to rural areas.

Gregg mentioned that SIOSA has used Standards of Practice in the past and Helga Offenberger or Dough Helmers could possibly assist to make guidelines to design practices and specific details of practice for savanna restoration; Habitat Committee of Gregg, Casey, Veronica, Helga and Randy to develop a pamphlet by spring of 2015 to be presented to IDALS and to be put on the SIOSA website. Veronica to get Standards of Practice from Gregg and follow up with Habitat Committee meeting.

--Plans for Springer Woods, Gregg Pattison: The fire lines have been put in by Travis Strable's crew and it's ready to go; SIOSA will plan to burn this fall or winter; Sibylla will get a plant list; SIOSA will utilize the email system to contact people; possibly do a workshop on timberstand improvement for people to observe how a burn is done.

Other:

--REAP grant: The final report was submitted and SIOSA received the remaining 10% of the grant, \$497.19 on May 28, 2014.

New Business:

--Grants, Veronica Mecko: Will be working on a REAP-Conservation Education Program grant for restoration of Springer Woods with next grant cycle ending May 15; also will look into the Climate Adaptation Funds managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society with funds from the Doris Duke Foundation, grant cycle has not been announced yet for 2015; also Iowa Native Plant Society grants due by Jan. 15. Veronica to meet with Casey to work on these grants.

--Burn Communication Tool, Casey: Still looking for a suitable tool to use. Sending out emails is used by other burn groups and so SIOSA will rely on this until another suitable means is found.

--Return to Alliance, Rich Erke: What SIOSA did this morning is a good start to getting back to a diverse group, reaching out to others who are doing restoration on oak savanna and bringing partners to the meetings. Having a Habitat Committee is also needed.

Other:

--Strategic Plan: Has anyone revisited the SIOSA Strategic Plan? Veronica to email a copy of the Strategic Plan to Casey and Gregg and then email it to the board.

--Madison Co. Poll, Nancy Forrest: Nancy is working on doing a poll with Madison Co. Landowners group members to find out how many acres they currently have in management either as savanna, prairie or wetland and what type of management they are using to increase diversity. It's helpful to know what kind of interventions are being used and to know what other organizations landowners are working with. Nancy will forward information about this.

--Brainstorming on Events/Outreach, Sibylla Brown, Nancy Forrest, Andy Kellner:

Nine Eagles State Park: work with Davis City group on restoration at the park; have a field trip focusing on mushrooms and tie this in with a talk about gathering and cooking mushrooms; moveable feast or slow food or DMACC culinary program ideas. Sibylla and Nancy willing to work on this.

Using Social Media to promote work of SIOSA: Getting the message out to the younger people through Twitter, Instagram or Tumbler. Veronica to follow up with establishing SIOSA Twitter account.

--*Redbud / Butterfly field day*: There are a lot of redbuds at Bishop Timber and the Henry's Elfin butterfly flies when the redbuds are in bloom; this occurs after the Snow Trilliums bloom; have another educational event and invite a speaker.

--*BioBlitz*: Nancy is looking into organizing a BioBlitz in 2016 in which the public is invited to participate in laboratory field-based breakout sessions.

--Follow up, Bill Brown: Get email out to Todd Coffelt about the joint meeting today. Casey will do this.

--Wrap Up, Casey: SIOSA can be an information clearinghouse for savanna restoration; we can put together a list of people who are willing to burn and use this as the organization's "niche" and get others involved.

Officer Elections:

--Vice President Mark Erke is stepping down from this position. Bill Brown volunteered to take the position.

--Casey invited Nancy Forrest to be a SIOSA board member. Nancy accepted the position.

Upcoming Events:

--Fall Burn Workshop at Springer Woods, notice to be given at least 48-hours in advance

--Snow Trillium walk in April 2015

2015 Meetings; Decatur County Courthouse, first floor, 7:00 p.m.

February 6

May 7

August 6

November 5