

SIOSA Board of Directors Meeting  
Courthouse, Leon, Iowa  
February 5, 2015

Present: Sibylla Brown, Bill Brown, Nancy Forrest, Dick Hillyard, David Whittlesey, Casey Campbell, Gregg Pattison, Chris Coffelt, Veronica Mecko

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Dick Hillyard gave the Treasurer's Report. Veronica will contact Dick prior to the May meeting to have the report typed up for the board to review.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Year End Report:

Regular Account:

Balance 11/4/2014	\$1,189.46
(All SIOSA funds)	
Credits:	
11/6 John & Sharon Orvis-Savanna Steward	\$500.00
11/14 Shane & Mindy Nelson-Savanna Friend	\$25.00
11/30 Interest	\$0.01
12/31 Interest	\$0.02
Debits:	
12/22 Ck#1098 Veronica Mecko - fees for Nov. & Dec. 2014	-\$400.00
Balance 12/31/2014	\$1,314.49
(All SIOSA funds)	

Federal Account:

Balance 11/4/2014	\$15,921.91
Credits:	
10/31 Interest	\$0.14
11/30 Interest	\$0.13
12/31 Interest	\$0.13
Debits:	
12/15 ck#1113 Adaptive Wildlife Mngmnt. Oak savanna restoration for Terry Cooper - 22 acres in Madison Co., IA	-\$4,950.00
12/15 ck#1114 Adaptive Wildlife Mngmnt. Oak savanna restoration for Alan Hildestad 12 acres in Madison Co., IA	-\$2,583.00
Balance as of 12/31/2014	\$8,389.31

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Regular Account:	
Year End Balance 12/31/2013 (All SIOSA Funds)	\$1,314.49
Credits:	
1/5 Bill & Sibylla Brown-Supporting	\$100.00
1/22 Chris T. Coffelt-Supporting	\$100.00
1/30 Ronald Eckoff-Supporting Memb.	\$100.00
1/31 Interest	\$0.01
Debits:	
2/2 Veronica Mecko- fee for Jan. & Feb. 2015	-\$400.00
Balance as of 2/5/2015 (REAP \$95.55; SIOSA \$2,515.04)	\$1,214.50

Federal Account:	
Year-end Balance as of 12/31/2013	\$8,389.31
Credits:	
1/31 Interest	\$0.04
Debits:	
1/8 ck#1115 Midwest Land Restoration LLC, Oak savanna restoration for John Orvis - 15 acres in Decatur Co., IA	-\$3,540.00
1/16 ck#1116 Midwest Land Restoration LLC Oak savanna restoration for Phil Metcalf 8 acres in Decatur Co., IA	-\$2,465.00
Balance as of 2/5/2015	\$2,384.35

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Habitat and Restoration:** Gregg Pattison

Bishop Timber: All of Bishop Timber was burned several weeks ago. The south half is finished and looks totally different.

Slip Bluff: Conservation Crew worked on the east part.

Sargent Farms: Travis Strable's crew is restoring 53 acres.

Sand Creek: Iowa DNR has restored a couple hundred acres in the past few years.

Buck Creek, south of Leon: about 300 acres with a wide variety of habitat and some good oak habitat is a site for future restoration work

RCP (Regional Conservation Planning Program): a new program through the USDA that pulls together CRP and other practices into 1 umbrella group. The Iowa DNR partnered with KS, MO and NE for a grasslands and forest stand improvement funds; the Iowa portion is about \$200,000; SIOSA was signed on as part of the match. Can be used for TSI, work on prairies. The money comes through the USDA to landowners. The big focus is grassland birds.

Money for monarch butterfly conservation: Iowa received about \$100,000 through FWS, the state Private Lands office.

**Membership:** Veronica will send out thank you letters as memberships come in throughout the year and also send a letter at the end of the year. A note about membership will be included in the winter newsletter. As a way to increase membership and the public's awareness of SIOSA, we discussed putting up signs at properties where SIOSA has done management work. Sibylla Brown mentioned a program through Monarch Watch in which we get certified and then receive a sign for Monarch Way Station Program. Gregg Pattison mentioned he may be able to get some FWS partner signs. Nancy Forrest said that For Land's Sake is hiring a graphic artist to do a logo and they want to have membership signs and have signs at habitat that is having management done.

### **Old Business:**

--Wildlife Turkey Federation meeting: SIOSA and partners received the 2014 Partnership award for work done at Stephens Forest BCA. Well over 250 acres were impacted in terms of savanna restoration management. The project was funded by a FWS grant to the WTF, and SIOSA and IDNR also contributed; about \$30,000 between the FWS and SIOSA. Dave will call about getting signs put up at this site.

--Nov. 4 meeting at Honey Creek: Casey had emailed Todd Coffelt this week and he said the IDNR hasn't had much time to talk about a collaboration yet.

--Standards of Practice: Bill Brown talked with Wayne Peterson recently who noted that Sec. Northey's priority is water quality. Gregg Pattison presented examples of standards of practice from NRCS, "Conservation Practice Standards," and "Forest Stand Improvement Practices." These examples include prescribed fire and prescribed fire planning and the question is whether we can use these that are already out there or do we need something different. Gregg will talk with Kevin Reynolds and Bill will call Wayne Peterson to ask specifically what they want.

--Strategic Plan: SIOSA's Strategic Plan from 2011 was emailed to board members with the minutes from the November meeting. Please look over the SP and it will be discussed at the May meeting. It was discussed that SIOSA could focus on one park for restoration work. Also SIOSA needs demonstration sites where the public can observe the results of the restoration work. Gregg mentioned there are places in Clarke County and in Decatur County where restoration work can be observed from the road and we need to make a list of these locations.

--Springer Woods: The site is ready for a prescribed burn with gravel roads on 3 sides and thinning on the 4th side. SIOSA will give a 48-hour notice for a burn and will try to plan it for a Saturday or Sunday.

### **New Business:**

--Chris Coffelt, superintendent, bus driver and evening custodian for Central Decatur and Lamoni school districts shared with the board that from the school side, they think there are tremendous resources locally, such as SIOSA, and seek to find ways to be involved in these efforts. How can the school connect with SIOSA and SIOSA support efforts of the school? Gregg Pattison recalled that a couple of years ago SIOSA worked with 4-H students in Lamoni, did educational events. SIOSA is willing to get involved in whatever way. The following events/ideas were discussed as possibilities to collaborate:

- 1) First Friday in May. The local FFA puts on an Agricultural Day. All 4th, 5th and 6th graders for Lamoni, CD and MT go to the fairgrounds. Involves a variety of organizations and they have learning programs all day. Chris will be the contact for this event.
- 2) In May there is also an outdoor environmental ed day at 9 Eagles SP for 3-6 graders. Gregg and his wife did savanna and prairie sections a few years ago.
- 3) Educating students in agriculture about the STRIPS project to bridge the gap between agricultural and restoration groups.

--Decatur County Nature Center: The Decatur County Conservation Board received a significant donation and will be building a nature center with a display area, classroom and offices on the west side of the lake at Little River CA. They plan to hire a naturalist who would be involved directly with the schools.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The board discussed organizing the following events for 2014:

--Snow Trillium Walk at Bishop Timber: Since the first weekend of April is Easter weekend, the board will wait to see what the weather does to decide on a date.

--Henry's Elfin Butterfly or other butterflies dependent on limestone outcrops at Bishop Timber; in April 2015 will scout for redbuds in late April and then maybe plan an event for 2016.

--Jessie Lowry speaking at Master Gardener's meeting in Madison Co., Nancy to get date

--Summer mushrooms walk at 9 Eagles SP. This would be announced after Memorial Day; the season last as long as it rains.

--Fall Burn Workshop.

--Gregg obtained a manual listing the majority of butterflies in Iowa published by the Iowa Wildlife Action Planning Committee; possibly a member from this committee would be willing to host an event on butterflies in Decatur Co.

--Fall Burn Workshop: Veronica applied for a grant through the Iowa Native Plant Society for funds for a fall burn workshop

--Veronica will send out a list of ideas for events that focus on species that are habitat dependent. If you are interested in hosting or cohosting one of these events please contact Veronica or Sibylla.

### **Next Board Meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m., first floor of the courthouse in Leon.