

Minutes of Annual Meeting
Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance
Feb. 18, 2016
1:00 p.m.
Fritz James Property, Madison County, Iowa

Present: Casey Campbell, Andy Kellner, Nancy Forrest, Rich Erke, Dave Whittlesey, Dick and Nancy Hillyard, Gregg Pattison, Fritz James, Sandy Thompson, Travis Strable, Jeff Townsend, Chad Stanley, Luke Gran, Joe Lynch, Jared Herzog, Ron Huelse, Veronica Mecko

The meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

1. Approve minutes from the Nov. 2015 meeting; Dave Whittlesey made motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
2. **Treasurer's report** - Casey Campbell presented a Profit & Loss worksheet for 2015. In 2015 SIOSA had total Income of \$50,833.07 and total Expenses of \$24,416.98 for a Net Income of \$26,416.09.

He noted that of 24 members only 2 or 3 of these were landowners who SIOSA worked with. In 2015 funding was provided for 203.5 acres restoration across 11 sites and of these, 3 were members. It was noted that it is not a requirement for landowners who sign a contract to become members of SIOSA.

3. Committee Reports

Habitat and Restoration - Gregg

SIOSA received \$25,000 in new funds in 2015 through the USFWS-SIOSA Cooperative Agreement, which when added to the balance made a total of \$57,172 for habitat work.

USFWS - SIOSA Cooperative Agreement:

--Slip Bluff Park East Savanna Restoration (\$11,960 total); National Wild Turkey Federation grant to Decatur Co. Conservation--\$9,500 and SIOSA--\$2,460. Status: Completed

--Slip Bluff Park Additional Work (\$5,820); SIOSA total--\$8,280. Status: Completed

NWTF Cooperative Agreement--Iowa/Missouri Joint Agreement

--IA \$20,000 from FWS and NWTF over 5 years (\$40,000 total)

--FWS funds targeted at Wayne and Appanoose counties but does not have to be in those counties

Other Projects:

Landowner	Description	Cost Estimate	Status
Ringgold County Conservation	tree removal for prairie chickens	\$10,000 (SIOSA)	Ready
Brian and Mindy Oswald Osceola	small oak woodland	\$3,000 (SIOSA)	Ready
Alan and Becky Taylor Ringgold County	quality savanna with natives	\$5,000 (SIOSA)	In-Progress
Jan Connolly, New Virginia	10 acre woodland	\$2,500 (SIOSA)	Ready
Sargent Farms, Clarke County		NWTF funds	Planning
Wayne Co. Conservation Board		NWTF Cooperative Agreement	Planning
Fritz James, Madison County		\$10,800	In-Progress
Anne Burnside, Davis County		\$5,600 (SIOSA funds-NWTF Agreement)	Ready
Richard O'Grady, Grand River	22 acres	\$6,000 (SIOSA)	Planning
John Orvis, Decatur County	2 acres	\$495	Completed

Current Habitat Fund Balance: \$32,172.52

SIOSA Funding not drawn down: \$25,000

Total Available Funding: \$57,172.52

Invoices in Hand: \$6,315.00

In Progress Projects: \$15,800

Planned This Winter: \$15,500

Projects Planned: \$6,000

Remaining Balance: \$13,557.52

Monarchs Update - Gregg Pattison

The I-35 corridor is a priority for monarch conservation. The IDNR is working with USFWS through the prairie partners program to provide 50% for restoration.

An NWFS grant is for restoration in core areas such as Clanton Creek (such as the 80 acres of Fritz James') and also Little River Recreation Area, Decatur Co.

Monarchs are real opportunity now and savanna restoration work is good for monarchs. Some funding has shifted from south central Iowa to north central Iowa which is a sink for monarchs because of lack of habitat.

4. Old Business

Recap fall burn workshop at Little River , Nov. 7 - Veronica: 18 people attended the workshops given by Gregg Pattison and Rich Erke in the morning and then about a dozen people participated in the burn workshop.

Recap Iowa Prairie Network Conference, Jan. 30 - Veronica: Casey and Veronica had a table with the SIOSA display and information for the public and had many interested visitors stop by. Gregg Pattison gave a presentation on the Monarch projects. SIOSA will plan to be present at this event in 2017.

Website - Casey: Veronica has made some changes to the www.siosa.org website. There are now an Oak Savanna page and a Prescribed Burning page. Casey has been looking at taking the website to squarespace or wix which would be easier and cheaper.

Update joint IA / MO burn workshop in June or July - Gregg

The Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Consortium (TPOS) is planning a burn workshop the second week in June but this is still in the planning phase. The workshop will be by invitation for 40 people, to include the IDNR and forestry people from IA and MO. Tour sites include John Orvis property and Slip Bluff Park in Iowa and a tour into Missouri (to show this is a landscape that includes all of northern MO and southern Iowa).

Update "For Lands Sake!" - Nancy

For Lands Sake! has 150 people on distribution list; it's a free organization for primarily landowners but is not a 501(3)(c); SIOSA serves as an umbrella
Some FLS! Upcoming Events:

- Burn observation invitations in March from Kevin Lair and Fritz James. Stay tuned for notices.
- Contact Darrel Mills (millsdarrel@gmail.com) of FLS! for burn survey/ assistance. Join SIOSA (\$25) for free use of burn equipment.
- "Life in the Raccoon River: Prairie Ecology & Farming," free conference, March 5 at Hotel Pattee, Perry. Really nice program by Raccoon River Watershed Association.
- Special public FLS! event at Wtst. Historical Complex, morning of April 2, featuring noted Iowa author Cornelia (Connie) Mutel who will be talking about her book The Emerald Horizon. She is also releasing a new book on climate change. People are invited to bring fossils, rocks, artifacts; hope to have a state archaeologist; half day free event.

- Iowa Rivers Revival Technical River Restoration workshop, April 5, 9-3, Fort Dodge.
- 8th Annual Day of Insects, April 9, Reiman Gardens, Ames, 8-4.
- Pepper Harrow Farm-hosts FLS! spring wildflower walk, April 30.
- Roslea and Bob Johnson invite FLS! to join a celebratory walk on land they've gifted to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Late May, early June.
- Randy and Cathy Simon currently hosting ISU Capstone Project, and FLS! tour date TBD.
- Monthly events through autumn. Volunteer if you'd like to host a tour of your site.
- Signs for sale: 1) FLS! has "member FLS!" signs, to be a passive, educational announcement; 2) also has signs "_____, Under Management"
- Development in Lee township, NE corner of Madison County: Nancy explained that the annexation for this project occurred in 2011 but will be ongoing for 20 years. How does FLS get involved in this to guide development? Input is needed in these areas: 1) how to plug in to get information as it's coming out; 2) need an inventory of what plants and animals there are (environmental review); 3) how do you strategize and exert influence to help county supervisors to come up with tools for smart and thoughtful development (ex.: pie chart to show how land is being used on a county level); 4) info on how to provide easements and info for farmers or those who want conservation easements on their land or want to maintain clean food production
- Documentary "The Symphony of the Soil"- showing this to county government

Fritz James offered to fund a look at Madison Co. from the air, similar to the aerial view that was taken of his property and made into a vimeo.

2015 Donation Letters - Casey: Year-end thank you letters were mailed out in January. A call was made for new board members.

2016 Officers - Casey

2016 Meetings - Casey

May 12

Aug 4

Nov. 3

5. New Business

Decatur County Schools events - Veronica: Chris Coffelt, Supt. of Decatur Co. Schools suggested 2 educational events where SIOSA could have a presence: 1) FFA Ag Day, May 6 2) Nine Eagles SP event in May. Gregg Pattison volunteered to represent SIOSA at the Nine Eagles SP event and Veronica Mecko volunteered for the May 6 event. She will follow up with Supt. Coffelt.

Monarch Way Station - Veronica: Dan Platt, professor at Graceland University, recently became a SIOSA member and is looking for volunteer opportunities for students. Gregg and Veronica met with him recently to discuss a project to monitor milkweeds and Monarchs and possibly other wildlife at Slip Bluff County Park. The SIOSA board approved funding the application and sign expenses to apply for the park to be a Monarch Waystation through Monarch Watch. Veronica will look into applying for a REAP-CEP grant to provide a small stipend for students.

6. **Review and Update Strategic Plan** - Casey: Several general comments and suggestions were offered up about the Strategic Plan. A further discussion was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 12. Meeting to be held at the same location, in the house on the Fritz James property, Madison County.

7. **Other**

Saturday, March 26 is the date for the annual Snow Trillium Walk at Bishop Timber in Decatur Co.

Saturday, April 2 is the date for the Prairie Chicken Day at Kellerton Grassland Area, Ringgold Co.