



# Iowa Association of Naturalists

Iowa State University, 339 Science Hall II, Ames, IA  
50011

[www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org)

## Executive Committee

Victoria DeVos  
Michael Maas  
Heidi Reams  
Chelsea Ewen-Rowcliffe  
Rene Stroud

### **Fall Business Meeting Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 4:50 PM Woodbury County/Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center**

- I. **Call to order** Called to order by Chelsea at 4:55pm. In attendance were: *Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe, Heidi Reams, Emily Ostrander, Brianne Blom, Rene Stroud, Amy Campagna, Michelle Biodrowski, Katie Klus, Victoria De Vos, Sondra Cabell, Katie Struss, Chris Adkins, Cassandra Alfstad, Alyssa Anderson, Heidi Anderson, Kaitlin Anderson, Aaron Askelson, Becky Baugh, Danielle Bennett, Kristen Bieret, Stratton Bond, Mary Bulger, Katy Cantin, Kayla Clausen, Danika Cox, Matt Crayne, Sarah Davelaar, Bailey Dohlman, Alyssa Enevold, Tyler Flammang, Sunday Ford, Julie Fosado, Jacklyn Gautsh, Barb Gigar, Mike Granger, Ashley Hansen, Mike Havlik, Katie Healy, Faith Henrichs, Emily Herring, Madalyn Hewitt, Heather Hucka, Bryanna Huffman, Emma Jacobs, Chuck Jacobsen, Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Laura Jones, Lora Kanning, MacKenzie Klett, Katie Klus, Mike Krebill, John Laird, Jessica Laniel, Kelsey Longneker, Amy Loving, Marley Millar, Tiffany Morgan, Zach Moss, Hannah Nelson, Kinsey Nielsen, Allison Nodurft, Frances Owen, Paige Owings, Abbie Paker, Patrice Petersen-Keys, Dakota Popp, Anne Riordan, Mark Robers, Christina Roelofs, Carolyn Rohdenburg, Sara Runyan, Jill Schmidt, Curtis Schnack, Kasha Shear, Colin Shirk, Britney Snell, Courtney Snyder, Dawn Snyder, Stacey Snyder, Clay Steele, Jessica Steines, Stephanie Shepherd, Sarah Subbert, Theresa Kruid, Marci Trana, Katelynn Urness, Amber Wetherell, James Wiebler, Billie Willie.*
- II. **Secretary's Report-** Submitted by Rene Stroud  
Motion to approve was made by Katie Klus and seconded by Victoria DeVos. The motion carried.
- III. **Treasurer's Report-**Katie Struss made a motion to approve Sondra Cabell seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. **Executive Committee Reports**
  - a. Professional Development - Katie Struss - Professional Development needs to be submitted by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. There are currently only 32 applicants out of over 100 naturalists. This looks great on a job application. Questions or training ideas directed to Katie.
  - b. Junior Naturalist - Michele Olson - Rene Stroud spoke on the matter. During the spring 2021 conference the membership expressed a desire to move to stickers. In order to do so we do need to reduce our patch inventory. The committee wants to hand out 50 patches at the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 conference with the option for any county to buy specific allotments in the meantime. This committee is also looking for more members. Reiterated how the program can be added to many great existing programs like homeschool, summer camps, and after school programs.
  - c. Joe Halbur Scholarship - Lora Kanning - 2021 scholarship winners were Avery Keenan and Molly Simmons. Lora will have an excel file in google Docs with home counties of



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- f. applicants who gave permission for counties to use to find potential interns. The goal is for it to be up in January.
- g. IAN Scholarships - Jessica Steines - They had 10 applicants & 9 were accepted. 5 scholarships went out to members and 4 to students who were at the Fall 2021 IAN. The PDF on the website had some problems so email Jessica directly for the scholarship form and she will email it to you with direction as well.
- h. Membership - Victoria DeVos – In 2021-183 paid members and 6 honorary. We usually budget for 120 members. Many of our members are students. A great perk to membership is access to the listserve, which is a great resource. If you have any problem with listserv talk to Victoria. So far, 2022 has 110 members already and one paid through 2026. There were a few that still owe for this workshop.
- i. Welcoming Committee - Lilly Jensen - In the spring Lilly had asked to step down so it is currently an open space. No report.
- j. ICEC/IAN Awards- Sarah Subbert - No awards have been submitted yet. They are due Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm. These show how valuable of a job you or someone you work with are doing. Awards can be used to show supervisors that in all of Iowa, you have been recognized. You can nominate others or do yourself. Applications can be long or short and sweet. The max is 3 pages.
- k. Traveling Exhibits Committee - Jen Meyer - No Update
- l. Fundraising - Mary Bulger - Explained activity- There will be 5 Minute-to-Win-It challenges that are nature related and you buy tickets or wristbands. If you win the game you get additional tickets. If you win the raffle you get the whole bundle. You can also buy individual tickets without having to play the games if you choose. Keep your ticket half to be identified as the winner. Be aware there is a limited amount of change and no credit card readers. Will accept checks. Mary will be stepping down and would like someone to step up and fill that spot. All of the funds go back to the membership.
- m. IAN Website/Social Media - Danika Cox, Katy Cantin - Danika is not taking over but Katy is the new chair. Katy has the password and talked to Lily the other day. Katy will be getting up to speed and who you talk to for wilderness trips.
- n. Wilderness Trips - Emily Herring  
Surveys were sent out for people interested in wilderness training. If you are interested, she asked for people to raise hands and passed out information. More will be discussed during action items.



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## V. **Affiliate Reports (3 minutes each)**

### a. ICCS Liaison - Victoria DeVos

Conference in September in Story Co. and the next is in Dubuque in September. People should attend. It stands for Iowa's County Conservation System, it used to be ICCB and Tom Hazelton is the CEO. The IAN liaison looks at financial reports each month. It is a new position and will eventually recommend that that person sits on ExCom as this is what the other organizations in ICCS have done. It was new last year so she picked it up. It is a few meetings and not a lot of work. It is a good resume builder and you get to see how the overarching county conservation system works. It would be a bylaw change recommendation that would need to be approved by the membership.

### b. NAI Liaison - Heather Hucka

Nation Association for Interpretation and is like IAN but bigger. We belong to the (Heartland) Midwest region which includes Montana. The big deal is that IL. is hosting the next regional workshop. The workshop was to be in person but with the uncertainty of the pandemic means that it will be changing to a virtual format. The conference is March 23-24<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to get as much information as possible to get their information on the website. They do an amazing job making virtual workshops affordable.

### c. DNR Liaison – Holly Schulte

Holly was not in attendance: Barb Giger, Christina Roelofs, and Anne Riordan spoke. Barb's report included:

1. DNR education and outreach staff were reorganized into an Education and Outreach Section within the newly formed Communication, Outreach and Marketing Bureau.
2. Project WILD received an EE360 sub-grant from the National WILD office to provide training - this includes 120 books that will be provided free of charge.
3. There will be a series of outdoor skills training next spring and summer - 2 days each; teachers can receive recertification credit and they are open to formal and informal educators (information will be sent out first of the year).
4. There will be a 2-day training for WILD/Aquatic WILD/PLT and one for Growing Up Wild and the PLT early childhood materials next summer; both will be available for recertification credit and open to all educators. Online modules to "walk through" WILD and Aquatic WILD are available. Individuals can complete and receive the guides.
5. DNR is working with the Sportsman's Alliance on a project for a wildlife conservation course - they are looking for high schools to work with.
6. 2022 Vamos a Pescar grants (information posted to IAN listserv)
7. Contact Barb Gigar for more information.

### d. REAP-CEP Liaison – Victoria DeVos

REAP-CEP is a grant that can be applied for projects. They give away \$350,000 dollars a year. Two grant cycles in a year. The due date was Nov 1<sup>st</sup> for this cycle. You can view the meeting Dec 9<sup>th</sup> to watch the committee as they discuss the grants. It would be wise to watch this prior to applying. If you have questions, ask questions to make it easy for



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them. The next cycle of applications is due May 15<sup>th</sup>. They need more naturalists to submit applicants. REAP-CEP board members can help you if needed. Grant will also pay for staff time. REAP is authorized money from gambling, license plates, etc. Many examples are on the website. One example was of high schoolers who wrote a grant and got a mini-grant. Mini-grants are \$25,000 or less. Make sure you attend the REAP Congress and Assemblies. Go to the REAP website to learn more about how to support the REAP effort. If we don't keep asking for it, it could disappear. If you have an idea, ask a board member and flesh it out with them.

e. REAP Alliance – Amy Warnke-No Report

f. ICEC Liaison - Lilly Jensen

Tiffany Morgan, an ICEC board member, spoke: Iowa Conservation Education Collation and represents formal and informal educators. Had a MEEC conference this summer with 150 attendees and more information about the 2023 conference will soon be on their website. They have 2 openings on the board. Please vote if you are a member and will decide on in December and will be certified and announced at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The date of the workshop/meeting has been pushed back due to Winterfest. The theme for the next conference is on climate change: Responses, Resilience and where EE fits. Reach out for more info to Barb or ICEC ExCom. Barb spoke: UNI has taken a large amount of work for this conference in February. Teacher recertification will be available to those attending the conference. A REAP grant proposal was submitted to fund 5 individuals to attend ICEC conference and attend a Doug Moore workshop. This 12-hour workshop would help implement a climate change program with a case study within social marketing. Ask Barb for more information.

g. Winterfest is Jan 25-27<sup>th</sup> Christina Roelofs is the IAN representative. Keynotes will be Jen Loeb and another firefighter from the warehouse fire, Travis Howze. Look for information on the website. There will be concurrent sessions for naturalists.

## VI. **Workshop Committee Report**

- a. Spring 2022 - Jackson County, March 9-11, 2022
- b. Summer 2022 – IAN Wilderness Stewardship Workshop in the Boundary Waters, August 26-30, 2022
- c. Fall 2022 - Mahaska County
- d. Spring 2023 - Sioux County
- e. You can host but everything is pushed back to about 2026

## VII. **Discussion/Action Items (5 minutes each)**

- a. ExCom Elections-Ballots were handed out and members were asked to vote for 3 individuals. Remember that if you voted electronically to refrain from voting twice (electronically and in person). Heidi and volunteers went to count votes as the meeting continued.
  1. Voting- absentee votes were sent to Heidi electronically.
  2. Ballot counts



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- b. Junior Naturalist Program Changes- Everyone who emailed Rene with badge requests will hand them out after voting is accomplished and the meeting is over. Britany S. made a motion to move from patch to stickers and allow the purchasing of allotment between fall and spring and then the other 50 free, if there is enough. Seconded by Anne R. The motion carried.
- c. Wilderness Trips- Emily Herring - The committee has put a lot of time and effort into the trip/training. Heather described the trip: There are 3 goals of this trip: 1- importance of stewardship and service learning and do it safely 2- Give some wilderness education training and how to prepare for a trip 3-Fire-igniter by throwing naturalists in the wilderness together to rekindle passion. It is 5 days (1 for travel) and we meet US forest service and 2 days of training and hard labor and 1 day of portaging and paddling, camping, and collaboration (networking and problem solving). Staying just outside of the boundary waters. There will be guest speakers from the forest service. Because it is in a remote site there are 25 people allowed and due to extra time needed for planning registration opens at the beginning of the year so talk to boards now if you are interested. There are over 25 people interested in this training/trip. The wilderness committee is asking to up the budget by \$900 to cover group costs, firewood, boats. If training fills \$625 will come into IAN. The total outgoing cost would be \$275 to IAN. Participants have a \$25 workshop fee and need to get up there and bring gear. It will be near Ely and Fenske Lake. There will be a zoom meeting/orientation to figure out logistics. Victoria DeVos made a motion to increase the budget by \$900 Aaron Askelson seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Leave No Trace Master Educator Cost Opportunity- Chelsea Rowcliffe reported: David Murcia with Scott County and John Winter who is a Leave No Trace Trainer collaborated to offer an opportunity for a naturalist to attend a LNT Master Workshop. It is held in combination with Touch of Nature EE center and with Hawkeye Community College. It is a college credit course. There would be 5 spots held for an IAN member out of a 10-person class. It is \$570 per person, and is a 5-6-day all-inclusive event. You would have to travel from Hawkeye CC (near Waterloo). You attend the course and then there are service projects. If you get the scholarship it would be \$420. One spot may be taken already by Dave. It is March 11-16<sup>th</sup>. You can drive separately if you need to leave early, this does not change costs. Contact Chelsea or Dave for more information.
- e. Joe Halbur Scholarships-Nothing new to add.
- f. Investments- The investment committee (a group of 4) looked at the options and decided to take the middle road. Information was emailed out yesterday. Emily L. asked for a motion to invest the \$10,000 with the middle option from Thrivent. Katie motioned to make the investment. Karen seconded. Motion carried.
- g. Committee Chairs/Members Changes- Mary with fundraising was asked if she knew of anyone who would like to step into her role. She did not specify anyone. Bree is interested in taking over the Welcome Committee. Victoria would like to step down from ICCS.



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- h. Honorary Members-Jean Eells has been an amazing resource for IAN. She was nominated by ExCom and asked the membership to vote on her induction. If the membership has anyone else on the list please let her know. Current honorary members: Mike Krebill, Miriam Patton, Ann Burns, Larry Stone, Mark Wagner, Linda Zaletel. Patti P. made the motion to add Jean as an honorary member. Sarah S. seconded. Motion to induct Jean Eells as an honorary IAN member carried.
- i. Host County Recognition- Thank you to Woodbury County for getting us up and over here and finally getting together again. Bree awarded a certificate of appreciation. We appreciate it!
- j. Election Results- Chelsea Rowcliffe, Victoria DeVos and Michael Maas were the top three winners. To maintain confidentiality a motion needs to be made to destroy the ballots. Bryanna made a motion to destroy ballots. Victoria seconded. Motion carried.
- k. Other
  1. Carpool Award- Clinton County had 4 in one car and had to drive 390 miles. Miles and the number of counties in one car were in consideration.
  2. Cool Sightings- Moose in Plymouth and Elk in Kossuth.
  3. Chris Adkins mentioned that when Chuck put up the information for the wilderness first aid on Listserv, it filled up quickly and Dallas County might be interested in hosting another one. Membership was asked if there would be anyone who would come to central Iowa for training. There is also one by UNI near Waterloo every year.
  4. Kristen B. has a professional development opportunity about art in nature on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at Sac County. They had two murals done recently and have a professor from ISU coming. It will be fun and stuff to take home. Contact Kristen for more information.
  5. Fundraising will go through the line first to start Minute to win it games.
  6. Remember to return badges after the conference.
  7. Thank you to the exciting ExCom members. Thank you, Emily, for 4 years as treasurer and to Bree for 2 years of work as Workshop chair organizing us during Covid craziness!
  8. Katie Klus – The birds are out on the free table- if you don't want the whole bird you can cut parts as needed. They have been checked to make sure it doesn't have arsenic paste and such. They picked up over 500 birds who were saved from the incinerator. Write down the county name if you take something so it can be used as leverage to convince the university that these items should first be offered to counties, nonprofits, and such before being burned. Please let Katie know you are looking for anything in particular. Contact schools who have mascots. Think outside the box.

**VIII. Adjourn** – Christina R. made a motion to adjourn and Amy L. seconded. Meeting ended at 6:45 PM.