



# 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

**2022 Spring IAN Business Meeting  
Hurstville Interpretive Center  
Jackson County Conservation, Maquoketa  
March 10, 2022  
4:30 PM**

*In attendance: Chris Adkins, Aaron Askelson, David Bakke, Becky Baugh, Michelle Berns, Cindy Blobaum, Mary Bulger, Jessica Carryer, Jenny Corbett, Andria Cossolotto, Danika Cox, Matt Crayne, Cece Darter, Sara Davelaar, Jason Denlinger, Victoria DeVos, Bobi Donovan, Jennifer Drayna, Roediger Emily, Megan Fahrenkrug, Sunday Ford, Jenna Gatzke, Jacklyn Gautsh, Brian Gibbs, Mike Granger, Hughes Hailey, Allisen Hallahan, Abbey Harkrader, Mike Havlik, Faith Henrichs, Madalyn Hewitt, Adam Hoffman, Heather Hucka, Bryanna Hoffman, Jonathan Ismail, Emma Jacobs, Chuck Jacobson, Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Lora Kanning, Mike Krebill, Theresa Kruid, Jess Lancial, Lia Risser, Kelsey Longnecker, Amy Loving, Michael Maas, Forrest Martin, Jennell Martin, Jared Meyer, Kaytlan Moeller, Zach Moss, Kinsey Nielsen, Allison Nodurft, Erica Northwick, Mari Oates, Adam Ohsann, Michele Olson, Paige Owings, Heidi Reams, Mark Roberts, Julia Rodewald, Chelsea Rowcliffe, Kari Sandage, Jill Schmidt, Grace Schroeder, Laura Semken, Kasha Shear, Colin Shirk, Darrin Siefkin, Dawn Snyder, Clay Steele, Rene Stroud, Katie Struss, Sara Subbert, Tony Vorwald, Elizabeth Waage, Jessica Wagner, Mimmy Wiebler, Hayli Wolf*

I. **Call to order** – Meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m. by president Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe.

II. **Agenda Approval**- Dawn Snyder made a motion to approve the agenda. Mike Krebill seconded. Motion carried.

III. **Secretary's Report** – Secretary Rene Stroud

- a. Approval of Minutes
- b. Approval of Annual report

Dawn Snyder made a motion to approve the Minutes and Annual Reports. Bryanna Huffman seconded. Motion passed.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Victoria DeVos

- a. Approval of report

Jessica Wagner made a motion to approve the report as it stands. Madlyn Hewitt seconded. Motion passed.



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- V. **IAN Committee Reports (Approx. 3 min each)** – Vice-President Michael Maas
- a. Professional Development - Katie Struss- Keep doing your hours. She only had 31 applicants this year. Do this so that you can impress your supervisors and for possible future wants. Email Katie if you are not sure where to put stuff and she will help you fill out your application. Due December 31st. The forms are on the IAN website. She will send forms. Do it even if you are a naturalist who has been around for a while.
  - b. Junior Naturalist - Michele Olson-Take 50 patches. If you want over that, please pay \$1/ patch. They are working on the wooden stickers and would like membership to submit artwork for stickers.
  - c. Joe Halbur Scholarship - Lora Kanning-There was an average number of applicants this year. She would like a few more committee members. She will be sending out the applications to committee members after the conference.
  - d. IAN Scholarships - Jessica Steines-She is no longer the chair and we are looking for a new person to step up and fill the position.
  - e. Membership - Victoria DeVos- There are 192 members (7 honorary members), 179 members who have paid and 8 she is waiting on.
  - f. Welcoming Committee - Brianne Blom- Katie Struss spoke on her behalf. She asked all new naturalists to meet with her and to get set up with mentors and welcoming emails. She instructed new people to reach out to neighboring naturalists as well.
  - g. ICEC/IAN Awards - Sarah Subbert- Sarah informed the membership that awards will be given out at the conference.
  - h. Traveling Exhibits Committee - Jen Meyer-The Tall Grass Prairie Exhibit has run around the state and was seen by thousands of people. What do we do with it now that it is in retirement age? Holding it in storage doesn't make much sense. The Out of House Exhibit Service Company gave her three choices of displays that would fit in the current storage containers used for the Tall Grass Prairie Exhibit. 1. Your Friendly Neighborhood: Explore your local wildlife wherever they may be. 2. Monarchs and Milkweeds, the designer is taking exhibits for huge museums and making them usable for us. 3. Spotlight on pollinators. For \$5,000 they will do the artwork and design, for a few thousand more they will refabricate everything. Basically, they are taking displays that large organizations have made and modifying it for us. We can tweak and make edits to panels to make them more Iowa/Midwest focused. Do we want to spend this money? She and Sondra are online for helping with this project but would like to have more help. Do we want to update the exhibit or do an exploratory and have a design come out? Before voting we would need to see design plans. We reviewed the watershed and wetland display. This was an exhibit



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theme that the membership was interested in a while ago. They are looking for more people in their committee. The committee is to gauge the interest in the membership then bring it back with a plan. The committee will focus on what the one thing that the membership is interested in, make a plan that has a price tag and present it. We will start there and report in the fall. The thought of refabricating the display is a great idea.

- i. Fundraising - Britney Snell- She is looking for 2-3 more committee members. Please reach out to her if you are interested.
- j. IAN Website/Social Media - Katy Cantin-They are doing regular website updates, and they are trying to consolidate all information to try to minimize pages and make it more navigable.
- k. Wilderness Trips - Emily Herring-Heather Hucka spoke on her behalf. The Wilderness Committee continues to work towards providing training and information to support wilderness trips. Dallas County is offering wilderness first aid training June 13-14th. Summer IAN registration is open. There are 10 spots left and there are enough people to make this trip a go! Ask if you have questions. There are scholarships for students who want to go and the information is found on the website, or Emily will be sending information out via listserv next week. If there is something you would like to see the committee to look into please just let them know. They are also looking for a few more committee members.

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

- a. ICCS - Victoria DeVos-Iowa County Conservation System used to be Board. The CEO (Tom Hazelton) will be retiring. IAN has a seat on the ICCS board. The board is solidifying the job description for May, it will go out in June and interview in July with a decision made in August. Then in September they will be at the fall ICCS conference in Dubuque Co. Tom will continue to do website work.
- b. ICCBE/Winterfest - Christina Roelofs-No Report
- c. ICEC Liaison- Lilly Jensen- No Report
- d. IDNR – Holly Schulte- No Report
- e. NAI Liaison - Heather Hucka- National Association for Interpretation. We are a member of the biggest region, the heartland. March 23-24<sup>th</sup>. It is virtual and the description is on the website. It is \$30 for members, \$50 for non-members, \$15 for students.. You can register up to the day before March 22<sup>nd</sup>. In 2023, they will do a face-to-face conference in Manitoba on March 13-17<sup>th</sup> of 2024, is the first ever joint state effort. So Nebraska and Iowa are working together. It is focused on western Iowa and Nebraska. They are behind schedule a bit. We need dates by the end of March-early April. She requested western Iowa Naturalists help out. There is one



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opening on the heartland leadership team. The media chair is the open position. Currently the director is doing that job.

- f. REAP Alliance - Amy Warnke- They have been advocating hard for IWILL during this legislative session. Several tax reform bills were introduced, but only one bill from the Iowa House made changes to the state sales tax, which would have effectively activated IWILL but they passed it in a way that it will not fund IWILL. Please contact legislatures and send out calls to action to help fund IWILL. ICCS is sending out information that you can use. Be sure to check with your directors if advocating as an employee. Some can do it as a professional and others as concerned citizens. Joe McGovern & Tom Hazelton are the lead of the Alliance.
- g. REAP CEP – Victoria DeVos- Every year there is \$350,000 dollars for EE projects. There are 2 grant cycles. The next is due May 16<sup>th</sup>. They will decide in June. The application documents are available online through the slide view. There are 2 types of grants, above and under \$5,000 projects. Due to a lack of qualification there is \$61,000 left on the table. The second due date is November 6<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to prove your need and that you are organized and can balance a budget. The reviewers are friendly so be sure to ask questions before you apply for the grant. Grant committee member's phone numbers are on the website. Sit in on the zoom meeting (public and on the website) to learn what people are looking for and have someone who doesn't know your project read through your grant. Have some sort of match. If you do not get the grant, you will receive feedback so you can improve your application for the next grant cycle.

## VI. **Workshop Committee Report** - Workshop Coordinator Heidi Reams

A big thank you to Jackson County for hosting!

- a. Summer 2022 – Wilderness Stewardship Workshop – BWCAW, Aug. 26-30  
Registration is open now.
- b. Fall 2022 - Muscatine County - Nov. 2-4. They are working on getting registration ready.
- c. Spring 2023 – Sioux County
- d. Summer 2023 - Marshall County
- e. Fall 2023 – Mahaska County
- f. Openings for Spring 2025, Fall 2025, and Spring 2026

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

- a. Action Items:
  - i. By-Laws Change (2/3 majority vote required to amend).



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- 1.) Treasurer position changes
- 2.) Vice-president duty changes
- 3.) New Executive Committee addition (Officer-at-Large)

a. Chelsea reviewed that IAN has bylaws and guidelines. Bylaws are the law and require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote from the membership to make any changes or amendments. The guidelines are akin to suggestions and are changed and edited and updated as needed to fit the current environment of our organization. Information about the bylaw changes were sent out over the server, discussed in the newsletter, and copies were provided at the meeting. There was an absentee online voting option. If you voted absentee please do not vote again as those votes will be compiled with the count from this meeting.

Vote 1. Creation of a non-voting treasurer position is not subject to change like the other officers.

- Justifications are that the membership has grown and the job takes time to develop an understanding of responsibilities. Currently, this position turning over every year to every other year or so is not in memberships best interest. This position will also act as a historian position. There will be a series of checks and balances as this position can be audited by ExCom and membership can request information at any time.

Vote 2. Changing the duty of the VP

- This ties in with #3 and #4. Removing the election responsibilities and assigning it to the new Officer-at-Large position.

Vote 3. Creation of the Officer-at-Large position

- If the treasure position changes then ExCom will be short one officer. This is a large organization with a lot of things to do. If this passes this means ExCom would consist of 6 officers but only 5 have voting rights. The Officer-at-Large will have their own duties (#4 and #2). They will have to be a County Conservation employee as one of their main duties is to be IAN's representative on the ICCS board. This is important because we are a part of that organization and we want our needs to be represented.



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### Vote 4. Approval of duties for the office-at-large position.

- These are running elections, ICCS responsibilities, and other responsibilities as needed.
- b. Discussion: When would the position be placed on the board if supported by membership. Answer: There would be a 3rd ballot slot at the fall IAN. Unless you vote no to vote #1. Then there would be 6 voting members on the board.
- c. The bylaws and guidelines that are on the website are being updated. Any changes to bylaws will have to be voted on by membership.
- d. Voting results: Of the members present, 45 votes and the 23 absentee votes were counted. Results were a resounding yes, yes, yes, yes. The changes had over the  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority support. All bylaws changes have been approved by the membership.
- e. Dawn Snyder made a motion to destroy ballots, Katie Struss seconded. Motion carried and ballots were destroyed.
- f. For now, Michael will run elections (until the to-be Officer-at-Large is elected) and he needs 3 people to help him find candidates.
- g. We are finding that it took a pandemic for ExCom to realize how outdated some of the bylaws and guidelines are now. ExCom has plans to go into the archives at Iowa State to find out what is in there.
- i. Lifetime Membership Option- ExCom proposed the age of 55+ at \$300 for a one time membership.
  1. Q:What is the annual Membership amount? A:\$20/year for members, \$10 for students, \$45 to nonmembers to attend workshops.
  2. Matt Crayne proposed lowering the age or the cost. As at the current rate it is 15 years worth of membership.
    - a. Membership discussed lowering the cost or age. We put an age condition to prevent loss of income.
    - b. Jill Schmidt suggested that it is based upon your years of service. There was a question as to if that is trackable.
    - c. ExCom based our proposed cost off of a lifetime membership off of the ICEC model.
    - d. Only one person has asked about a lifetime membership. It is possible for people to pay in 5 to 10 year increments.



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- e. Brian Gibbs made a motion for age 55 years at \$250, seconded by Dawn Snyder. Discussion: That would be 12.5 years. We may not have many takers. Brian suggested that this would not be a drag on the organization if retired folks wanted to stay involved.
  - f. Q: Has the membership always been \$20 and is that still a good number? This is a question that Victoria is planning to look into in order to know what it takes to run the organization and will discuss it at the fall conference. She is trying to figure out how much this organization needs to run and where the money comes from. There will be LOTS of graphs 😊
  - g. Chris Atkins asked: Wouldn't it be smarter to wait until Victoria has had a chance to go through the budget and what it takes to run this organization and then return to this question later?
  - h. Katie Struss made a motion to table and was seconded by Kasha Shear. Motion carried.
- ii. Grants Deadline Change- Currently, it is confusing as to when the deadline to submit grants is and for reviewers, when reviewing should be completed. ExCom proposed to set the date to October 15th so that grants can be awarded and announced at the Fall IAN conference.
    - 1. Matt Crayne made a motion to approve the October 15<sup>th</sup> date and Beth Wagge seconded. Motion Carried.
  - iii. Investment Update- We invested in Mutual Funds: \$10,000 into green funds. They stay there for a long time. You have 15 years to decide what to do with the funds. Victoria will report once a year on the progress. In 15 years, it should be about \$30,000.
- h. Carpooling Efficiency- 4 people, 3 counties, and hundreds of miles. Woodbury, BV, and Plymouth Counties are the winners of the carpooling award!
  - i. Award Rare Sightings- Moose, meadowLark, groundhog, turkey vulture, tiger swallowtail was picked up off the sidewalk by a member of the public, boreal owl (MN), 3 barn owls and some detective work to discover a bobcat which is only the second sighting since 1910 (there were otter tracks discovered too) in Mitchell County. A golden eagle was killed in Buena Vista and was the first one they have seen. Plymouth Co saw a golden



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eagle and her volunteer ended up in the ditch but they were saved by the road grater.

j. Other-

- i. Everyone will be getting an email from Bobbi Provost from Story County Conservation. Please fill out the survey so she can graduate.
- ii. Bree is not here because baby Raylee arrived on Tuesday and mom and baby are doing well.
- iii. August 1-5th join Clay in Lee County on the Summer Naturalist Frolic as and visit some amazing places during this fun event.
- iv. After dinner the basement will be open for socializing.
- v. Marcus informed the membership about the damage done to Lucas, Madison, and Polk County by the tornado. There is a donation box downstairs.

VII.A big THANK YOU to Jackson County

Adjourn - Matt Crayne made a motion to adjourn and Dawn Snyder Seconded.  
Motion Carried.

***\*Professional Development Awards were presented following the meeting.***