



Iowa Association of Naturalists

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

www.iowanaturalists.org

Executive Committee

Victoria DeVos

Michael Maas

Heidi Reams

Chelsea Ewen-Rowcliffe

Rene Stroud

**2022 Fall IAN Business Meeting
Muscatine & Louisa County Conservation
Environmental Learning Center - Muscatine, IA
November 3rd, 2022
12:00 PM**

Billie Wille, Dave Murcia, Tony Vorwald, Jen Meyer, Julie Fosado, Emily Ostrander, Heather Hucka, Bobi Donovan, Katie Cantu, Heidi Anderson, Erica Northwick, Kyle Neuendorf, John Laird, Emily Herring, Beth Waage, Chloe Proffitt, Shania Hansen, Paige Owings, Mark Roberts, Emma Jacobs, Mike Granger, Kinsey Nielsen, Jacklyn Gautsch, Amy Loving, Stratton Bond, Kelsey Longnecker, Kari Jeffery, Angie Auel, Abbey Harkrader, Emily Riediger, Faith Hunt, Megan Fahrenlong, Becky Baugh, Lia Risser, Zach Moss, Sondra Cabell, J Whitte, Annette Wittrock, Marley Millar, Katy Cantin, Paige Metzger, Hanna Schmitt, Jackie Lingle, Katie Struss, Hannah Hernandez, Grey Oldsen, Jill Schmidt, Jessica Steines, Sara Runyan, Sunshine Loursea, Kayla Clausen, Amanda Jones, Lindsey Page, Jenna Gatzke, Sarah Subbert, Mike Krebill, Jacklyn Goodman, Marcus Nack, Marci Trana, Anne Riordan, Holly Schulte, Christina Roelofs

- I. **Call to order** – President Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe
 - a. Meeting called to order at 12:47PM

- II. **Secretary's Report** – Secretary Rene Stroud
 - a. Approval of the Minutes. Annette W. approved the minutes. Mike Krebill Seconded. Motion carried.

- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Victoria DeVos
 - a. Membership Updates
Financially, IAN is not hurting.
Per the expenses table shown at the meeting:
The breakdown of expenses shows what it takes to run IAN. The budget will still have some money coming out from the workshop. The breakdown shown is an estimate. The highlighted items are fixed items. The graph shows a running tally of our income vs. our outgoing expenses. The first line is what is budgeted. It means that we will be -\$4,950. Food and Jr Naturalists should pay for themselves. The money raised at the fundraiser helps pay for member services. \$500 is set aside each year in case the traveling display needs something.
This overview is for people to see what it takes to run the organization and to keep in future consideration.
Membership asked if we went negative over the last few years? The answer is that we don't know due to a lack of consistent records caused by turnover.



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The grants are up to \$5,000 because of excess money and can be shut off at any time.

Because of the higher interest rates we are going to take some excess money and put it onto a short-term CD.

IV. **IAN Committee Reports (Approx. 3 min each)** – Vice-President Michael Maas

- a. **Professional Development** - Katie Struss- She asked everyone to send in their professional development by December 31. Katie will send new people the form. The form is also available on the website. Please ask Katie if you have any questions. You can get a lot of your hours done via the conferences. She had 31 applicants last year. There was a suggestion there should be a round table for new people every few years.
- b. **Junior Naturalist** - Michele Olson- Rene reported-They are always looking for more art. They have at least one design they are going with and will be asking ExCom for money to order the bamboo stickers. Patches will continue to be available until supplies run out.
- c. **Joe Halbur Scholarship** - Lora Kanning- Marisa Kelsey and Marissa Lindemann. New forms will be on the website by January 2023. There is room on the committee so join and help read through applications every March. Talk to Katie Struss at this conference if you want to join.
- d. **IAN Scholarships** - Faith Heinrichs- She took over this year. Three scholarships have been given out this year and there is still some money left. There will be updated forms on the website.
- e. **Welcoming Committee** - Brianna Blom- She has been swamped and soon the welcoming committee will be doing a new welcoming and training, similar to the Winterfest welcoming. If you have not been welcomed please let Brianna know:bblom@co.clay.ia.us
- f. **ICEC/IAN Awards** - Sarah Subbert- Applications are due December 1. They have 2 applications so far. Please let Sarah or Tony know. These look good on grants as well.
- g. **Traveling Exhibits Committee** - Jen Meyer- Tall Grass Prairie exhibit is sunsetting. They are refurbishing it and she needs your help! Please join this committee. The cost was about \$5,000 without a trailer. This would be a good REAP-CEP grant. Talk to Jen, she needs help, about 5 people to join and to help write the grant. Traveling exhibits help shake things up and enliven centers or fair displays. To find information go to the IAN webpage. Sondra is looking for the albino display, if you have it please let her know.
- h. **Fundraising** - Britney Snell- Britney was not able to be here but she asked ExCom to help. Buy a (or many) \$5 card and put it in the basket of your choice. Snappy has been released from lockdown and will be auctioned off at dinner.



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- i. **Wilderness Trips** - Emily Herring- The goal is to provide wilderness training throughout the year. Heather Hucka organized the trip to the Boundary Waters. Thirteen people went to the boundary waters and learned about freeing pines with the forest service. There were 2 days in the timber-geeking out on learning new things and wilderness education. There was a special visitor (supposedly) a bear. Currently, there are Leave No Trace and Wilderness First Aid instructors. The wilderness committee would like to know what training you are interested in.
- V. **Affiliate Reports (Approx 3 minutes each)**
- a. **ICCS** - Victoria DeVos- They have hired a new CCO. They hired Adam Shirley from Mitchell County. Tom will be running the website and Adam will be the CEO.
 - b. **ICCBE/Winterfest** - Christina Roelofs- Jan 24-26th. Keynotes are the Armless Archer and the Voyagers Wolf Project. They will keep the price the same for now but might be bumping it up. Registration is open and the link will be sent out.
 - c. **ICEC Liaison**- Lilly Jensen- Tony spoke on her behalf. It will be one day, it will be Saturday, Feb 11th at Drake University.
 - d. **IDNR** – Holly Schulte- Thank you to everyone who filled out the surveys. At Winterfest, they will do a session. Membership requested a list of items per trailer is sent out via listserv as well as a yearly reminder. They have a lot going on and e-mailed out their information:
 - i. The Iowa DNR recently went through a restructure and created a Communication, Outreach and Education Section. Most of the DNR's education programs are now housed in one area - aquatic education, hunter education, boating education, paddling, interpretation, general outdoor skills, shooting sports and ranges. The section is a part of the newly formed Communications, Outreach and Marketing Bureau. As part of this restructure we are in the process of sunsetting the Recreational Safety Officer Unit that originally was composed of six conservation officers that specialized in the agency's code mandated education programs along with the shooting sports programs and hunting incident investigation. Through retirements and transfer opportunities through June 30, 2023, these positions will be replaced by three regional Outdoor Skills Specialists (Western, Central and Eastern). AJay Winter currently serves as the Western OSS and Holly Schulte currently serves as the Eastern OSS. We plan to hire the Central OSS in early 2023. The primary focus areas of these new regional positions will be:
 - ii. Certification-Based Course Programs - recruiting, retaining and managing instructors and mentors in order to offer ample opportunities to the public to earn certification in programs such as Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, Fur Harvester Education and Boater Education, setting up and conducting certified instructor workshops, ensure distribution centers are well stocked with equipment and supplies, serve as the regional point of contact for instructors, mentors, DNR staff and CCB staff regarding the use of the online course registration and reporting application.



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- iii. Outdoor Skills-Based Training and Offerings - work closely with our internal program coordinators and training specialists to offer various outdoor skills and conservation based training opportunities for educators and partner organizations including, but not limited to, Fish Iowa, Projects Wild, Aquatic Wild, and Learning Tree, Basic Archery Instructor, Basic Shotgun Coach, Basic Paddling and Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP), Explore Archery, Explore Bowhunting and Explore Bowfishing. Serve as a local coordinator/facilitator for programs such as Field to Fork and Beyond BOW. Recruit educators and partners into the DNR sponsored programs. Handle logistical needs within the region for training opportunities including identifying potential host training sites, specialized instructors and partners. Maintain inventory of necessary supplies and equipment needed to conduct classes, training, workshops and events.
- iv. Local and Regional Partnerships - Foster and grow partnerships with local, targeted communities to build capacity and social support for continued participation in various outdoor recreational pursuits. With minimal supervision or assistance, maintain and cultivate internal and external partnerships at the local and regional level with entities implementing educational offerings and outreach related to outdoor skill, conservation and recreation. Maintain regular contact with partners; communicate available resources and services available from the Department and gather and assimilate information from partners relative to their needs, wants and concerns related to outdoor skills, conservation and recreation to be used to improve product development and delivery. We all know how valuable partnerships, both internal and external, are to the success of our education, outreach, projects, public relations, and communication efforts and so on. The DNR recently conducted an external partners survey that many of you participated in and provided a ton of extremely relevant and meaningful feedback. Within the EOM Section, we want to take the information learned from that survey and continue the conversation at the 2023 Winterfest. We want to extend an invitation to join us for our session in January so we can better collaborate, support and partner with the CCBs going forward. This will be an interactive session with some great giveaways to get the conversations and ideas flowing! ;o)
- v. In 2017, through a collaborative process involving several internal and external stakeholders, the Iowa Statewide R3 Action Plan was developed. Over the past five years, several of the action items have been addressed and/or implemented in the state. We are currently in the process of completing a full assessment of work completed to-date and starting to lay the foundation for the next reiteration of the plan that will carry us forward the next 3-5 years in the state. Our goal is to roll out the new plan in September 2023 in conjunction with a statewide R3 Summit. If you have any interest in being a part of the plan development team, please reach out to Megan Wisecup (Megan.Wisecup@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-238-4968). We ideally would like 3-5 CCB staff to assist. Commitment would entail a couple of virtual 90 minute sessions, 1 - in-person meeting and some additional feedback loops via email / Google Docs. We want to kick off these sessions in early 2023 so if you are interested please reach out by the end of November. We have three outside consultants assisting us with this overhaul and revamp of the statewide action plan - Stephanie Hussey, Recreational Boating and Fishing



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Foundation, Matt Dunfee, Wildlife Management Institute and Phil Seng, DJ Case and Associates.

- vi. Archery Range Development Grants - Over the course of the next two years we have grant funds available to partner with 3-5 CCBs to develop new or expand/update existing archery ranges across the state. If you have interest in one of these grant opportunities please reach out to Zach Benttine (Zachary.Benttine@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-205-8709).
- vii. Outreach Trailers - The DNR currently has six outreach trailers located across the state that contain a variety of outdoor skills related equipment - archery, fishing, ice fishing, outdoor cooking, duck/goose decoys for waterfowl ID, fur cases, trapping equipment, single stack clay target throwers, etc. The NW Iowa Trailer Check-Outs are currently being managed by Bri (Clay County Conservation) and the SW Iowa Trailer Check-Outs are currently being managed by Christina (Shelby County Conservation). For those looking to utilize equipment in the Central Regions please contact Jamie Cook, Hunter Education Coordinator (Jamie.Cook@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-350-8091) and Eastern Regions - Holly Schlute (Holly.Schlute@dnr.iowa.gov or 319-530-9318).
- viii. 2023 Vamos A Pescar Grants- Major points: Grants are due to Barb Gigar no later than December 7. Funds are awarded by February 1, 2023 for programming any time February - November 2023 Grants require a 1:1 match. Fish Iowa! program can work with grant requesters to secure match for exemplary proposals. Grant proposals must be at least \$5000 (\$2500 from VAP and \$2500 match). Priority will be given to efforts in urban areas, or rural areas with high minority populations. Focus is on efforts that provide multiple experiences for the same audience - not just one-time events. Barb can send information to anyone who is interested and would be happy to discuss past grants in Iowa.
 - o As part of the WILD reboot, Barb Gigar reached out through the IAN listserv about potential for CCB staff to work with schools in their counties - focus on recruiting schools, or at least grade levels to get PD so they can integrate into their curriculum, and connect with any experiences they are doing with naturalists. Barb is trying to figure out what would be a reasonable, popular "kit" of resources for "WILD" schools. She is asking what kinds of things you would really like to see classrooms to continue their exploration/investigation of outdoors?. Initially thinking \$500 in supplies per school with commitment to use materials for 2 years with students - and complete an annual survey for us. These are supplies they can use in classroom and on school grounds - want them using "nearby nature" [\$\$ / commitment may change based on conversations.]
- e. **NAI Liaison** - Heather Hucka- National Association of Interpretation. She is the deputy director of the Heartland section. Her role is to help make workshops happen and ensure that you have a voice at the local and national levels. Prior to the pandemic, the Heartland hosted a workshop once a year. The Heartland spans Montana to Illinois and Manitoba down to Nebraska. The 2023 workshop is in Brandon, Manitoba. It will be fun, so go! It is just over the border, the dates are March 20-23rd and you will need a passport. If you have questions about how they work, ask Heather.



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2024 IA/NE is the host. We now have the chance to change the conference. Historically, when NAI came to town, IAN would back down and let NAI host the spring workshop. This time around, IAN will take a leadership role and co-host. There are four leaders of NAI, and the majority of the chairs are from Iowa.

In 2006 it was in Dubuque and more recently it was in the Ames/Des Moines area. In 2024 it will be on the west side of Iowa. Go to Heather to become a committee member.

The regional workshops usually cost quite a bit of money. There are REAP-CEP grants for IAN members to attend NAI.

- f. **REAP Alliance** - Amy Warnke- No Report
- g. **REAP CEP** – Victoria DeVos- Dec 15th is the public meeting for the grants that were due in November. She is looking for a replacement to serve on this board as an alternate if she applies. That person will be her replacement when she leaves the board. It is a few of days work in November and May but it is rewarding and has improved her grant writing skills.

IAN should apply for two grants, the NAI Workshop and the traveling exhibits/trailer. More people from the membership should apply. You can join in and listen to a REAP CEP grant review by going to the REAP CEP website and joining the zoom link. Katie Klus asked if the old meetings were recorded. Victoria was unsure and will check with Michelle Wilson. She encouraged more members to apply.

- V. **Workshop Committee Report** - Workshop Coordinator Heidi Reams
Thanks to our wonderful hosts! If you've never hosted an IAN workshop, talk to Heidi. She is looking for people to help on committees.
 - a. Spring 2023 – Sioux County- Seeing the unseen is the theme
 - b. Summer 2023 - Marshall County
 - c. Fall 2023 - Open

VII. Discussion/Action Items (5 minutes each)

- a. **ExCom Elections**- Positions that are up: Secretary, Workshop Coordinator, and the new Officer-at-Large.
 - i. Voting
 - ii. Ballot count- Michael, Angie and Abby tallied votes.
- b. **Upcoming MEEC/NAI/IAN Conferences**- See NAI Liaison Report



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- c. Traveling Exhibits-Please Join this committee to help us get these updated.
- d. Website- It is a big job, and ExCom has started working on it. If you need something updated on the website, please send it to iowanaturalists.org@gmail.com. The link is on the website. After the January meeting, it will be updated monthly.
- e. Newsletter- ExCom asked the membership if they read the newsletter and did they enjoy the format. We will send out a survey regarding the newsletter and how IAN serves members in general.
- f. Lifetime Membership Option- This was tabled from the spring IAN. Only one person has asked about a lifetime membership, so it doesn't seem to be much interest. The discussion was recorded in Spring IAN minutes. A motion is needed to resolve the tabled discussion. Annette W. Moved to remove it from the table, Jackie G. seconded. Motion carried.
- g. IAN Google Drive- Amy L will send a message on listserv with the login information. Please text her before getting set up due to 2-step verification.
- h. Carpooling Efficiency Award- Lyon, BV, and O'Brien had three. Boone and Dallas had three as well. Due to distance, Lyon, BV and O'Brien get it!
- i. Rare/Cool Sightings & Happenings-
 - i. Tony-Has been continuing the rusty bumble bee survey, and found some on four properties and captured skinks on trail cam!
 - ii. Jackie G. located a fen in Fayette county and saved 5 acres of fen!
 - iii. Emily found a prehistoric human jawbone on the river.
 - iv. Clinton County found a Baby albino garter snake
 - v. Dead bog lemming on a field trip- Christina
 - vi. Victoria-the Plymouth County moose died in March.
- j. Election Results- Heidi and Rene were reelected. Bobbi won the At-Large position by three votes
 - i. Motion to destroy ballots- Katie S. Motioned to destroy ballots Emily 2nd to destroy ballots. Ballots were destroyed.
- j. Fundraising reminder
- k. Host County Recognition
- l. Other(s)- Sondra Reminded us that the STEM representatives are out in the hall, and they will help get you set up with teachers as externs who help share skills. They have hosted teachers the past two summers, which has been a wonderful opportunity. There is a cost for externs, but you do not have to pay the whole amount. In the past, they have paid \$1,000 for an extern who helped them with summer camp and aligning programming or any STEM-related subjects.



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- VI. **Adjourn** – Tony V. motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Erica N. Motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:53