



IOWA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS COMMITTEE REPORT FALL 2013

Please complete the form below. This report will be compiled with others for inclusion in the IAN history records and will keep the ExCom current on committee work.

Committee: Traveling Exhibits

Chair: Ann Burns

PLANTING THE SEED

Members: Prairie Team – Sondra Cabell, Anita Fisher, Charlene Elyea, Jessica Wagner, Reba Reddick Wade into Your Watershed Team – Hilary Markin Holly Schulte, Chuck Unga, Jacklyn Gautsch; Angela Freyermuth, Marybeth Stevenson; Michelle Olson; Lora Kanning, Jeny Meyer

Brief description of the purpose of the Committee: The purpose of the committee is to develop a series of medium sized traveling exhibits that would be available to IAN members for display at facilities in their areas

Specific progress since the last IAN meeting: The prairie exhibit is booked into January 2015. The Prairie Team has discussed options for the exhibit after IAN members are done hosting it. The first option is to loan it to other entities in Iowa, such as state parks with visitor centers or Iowa Welcome Centers/ museums. Ideally, someone from those entities would take charge of scheduling and site visits as it moves through their membership. Second choice is to rent the exhibit to another state in NAI Region V – with one agency/site taking charge of the exhibit as it travels around their state. Once there is no longer interest in hosting the exhibit, the suggestion is to accept sealed bids for the entire exhibit.

After making initial contact with Gary Tonhouse regarding prairie photo exhibit (60 some photos), and offering to have an IAN member meet with him to view the photos, Ann has not heard anything back from him.

The Wade into Your Watershed team did not submit a REAP CEP grant November 1, 2013. We did obtain commitments for additional matching funds since spring. But, we have **two challenges**. **1)** The concept panels are still not to the point to make a competitive REAP CEP grant. A watershed professional who also has a background in museum exhibits reviewed the concept panels and has concerns that not all the panels are written for the same audience; and the message is not focused enough. **2)** Few of the original Watershed team members are able to commit time to the project. Even with two new members, Michelle Olson and Jeny Meyer, the team was not able to make enough progress for the November REAP CEP deadline. Are there interested IAN members who would pick up where this team left off, take the suggestions from the watershed professional and move this project forward? I believe that IF a new team could get well developed concept panels ready for a May 2014 REAP CEP grant, most of our funding partners would stick with us.

Will the committee report only take 2-3 minutes and be informational in nature? No

Will the committee report take 5-10 minutes and require discussion and/or action from the membership? Yes – Are there interested IAN members who would pick up where this team left off, take the suggestions from the watershed professional and move this project forward?

If you do have an item for Discussion/Action, will you be able to present this to the Executive Committee at our meeting? I will not be at the fall 2013 meeting. I can be available for a phone call.

Thank you for all of your work!