

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

FALL 2014



PLANTING THE SEED

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

Members: Wade into Your Watershed Team –Holly Schulte, Chuck Ungs, Jacklyn Gautsch; Angela Freyermuth, Marybeth Stevenson; Michelle Olson; Lora Kanning, Jeny Meyer, Cari Nicely, Annette Wittrock, Dave Bakke, Karen Phelps, Aaron Askelson, Rene Stroud, Kaytlan Boeckenstadt, Allie Schmalz

Specific progress since the last IAN meeting: The Phoenix of the Aquatics Team met March 28, 2014 at the Iowa Geological Survey office in Coralville. In attendance were: Ann Burns, Mary Beth, Allie, Jen Meyer, Aaron, Annette, Dave, Chuck Ungs (by phone: Renee Stroud, Lora Kanning) The committee discussed the comments about the current draft panels received from a watershed/exhibit professional and divided out the current panels to work on revisions. Also discussed were the other tasks required such as grant writing, logistics, etc. From this discussion the following divisions of duties were decided:

Team Leader: Mary Beth

Grant Manager: Annette w/ assist by Mary Beth and Ann

Logistics Manager: Jen Meyer - *set up exhibit schedule, correspond with host sites*

Renee – NW/W IA site visits (IACCB district 3) *and survey results compilation*

Lora- SW IA site visits (district 4)

Dave- SE IA (district 5)

Allie- NE IA (district 6)

Chuck- EC IA (district 6)

Dist 1- site visits – open

Dist 2 - site visits –open

Aaron – Maintains exhibit – *decisions about needed maintenance, repairs*

The committee members intent was to work on revising panels and have drafts ready for the team to review at an electronic meeting in early June 2014 with a goal to have a project ready for a Fall 2014 REAP CEP grant. Unfortunately, once again, the lack of available free time resulted in no progress on revisions to the panels over the early summer. When this became abundantly clear, chair Burns set up a meeting with staff from the Mississippi River Museum (MRM) for August 11, 2014. The MRM staff had been in contact previously about their intent to develop a traveling exhibit with a watershed based topic. At that time their concern was that the IAN committee not feel that their project would interfere with ours. At the August 11, 2014 meeting Chuck Ungs, Allie Schmalz, Lora Kanning (by phone), Mary Beth Stevenson and Ann Burns were in attendance from the Aquatics/Watershed team and exhibits committee. Mark Wagner Director of Education, Michael Sanders, CEO, Cristin Waterbury, Director of Archives and assigned as leader on this grant, Wayne McDermott, Exhibit Department, Mike Schwenker, Exhibit Department, Michelle Kilgore, Education Department were in attendance from the Museum. A report of that meeting is attached to the end of this committee report. **I am still waiting to hear from Mark Wagner with the MRM to find out what their staff is planning as far as any cooperation with the IAN team, meeting some of the requests the team had for features (some outdoor capable panels for use at riverside events, etc.)**

The IAN Watershed team will meet at lunch on Thursday Nov 6 2014 to discuss any new information from MRM as well as

1. Recommendations for end of life plans for the Prairie exhibit – it is currently booked to August of 2015 (*a 5+ year run*), so we need to discuss options.
 - a. Need for another site visit person for the prairie exhibit after August depending on the decision for end of life, or further bookings for host sites
2. The need for a new committee chair if IAN wants to continue to pursue traveling exhibit opportunities (*created and/or obtained*) (*I have one person who may be interested, depending on ExCom election outcome*)

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

If yes, you will be given three minutes to briefly update the membership on the committee's work. If a lengthy discussion begins, the topic will then be moved to the Discussion/Action portion of the business meeting.

Will the committee report take 5-10 minutes and require discussion and/or action from the membership? YES

If yes, what is the specific point for discussion or motion for IAN members to address during the Discussion/Action portion of the business meeting?

1. The committee will bring a recommendation for the end of life for the Prairie Exhibit for the membership to vote on.
2. If the ExCom wishes to recommend that IAN continue to have a Traveling Exhibits committee, we may want to have the membership discuss the pros and cons. It has been exceedingly MUCH harder for the committee/team members to get together and move anything forward the past two years. If the membership decides this is an important function of IAN and wants to keep the committee and try to make it a viable committee, *and* depending on the outcome of the ExCom elections, we may need to ask for a new Traveling Exhibits committee chair as I will no longer be able to serve as the committee chair due to changes in my job.

If you do have an item for Discussion/Action, will you be able to present this to the Executive Committee at our meeting? I can be available by phone Wednesday evening to discuss any new information I may have from MRM. The discussion action steps won't be known until

NOTES FROM AUGUST MEETING WITH MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM STAFF

To: IAN Traveling Exhibits Committee – Aquatics/Watershed Team

From: Ann Burns, committee chair and Mary Beth Stevenson, team leader

Re: meeting August 11, 2014 with National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium staff regarding traveling exhibit

Chuck Unga, Allie Schmalz, Lora Kanning (by phone), Mary Beth Stevenson and Ann Burns were in attendance from the Aquatics/Watershed team and exhibits committee. Mark Wagner Director of Education, Michael Sanders, CEO, Cristin Waterbury, Director of Archives and assigned as leader on this grant, Wayne McDermott, Exhibit Department, Mike Schwenker, Exhibit Department, Michelle Kilgore, Education Department were in attendance from the Museum.

The Museum has received a \$25,000 grant from REAP CEP to develop an exhibit called Discovery Slough. The exhibit, like the Turtles exhibit will be built as an exhibit for the Museum, with portions that will be duplicated to form a traveling exhibit.

The grant was written with general wording stating that the goal of the exhibit is to “raise awareness and stewardship of aquatic habitats”. Their intent is that portions of the exhibit will update current permanent areas of their existing exhibit space, but as noted above, portions will be duplicated for a traveling exhibit.

Ann & Chuck discussed the basic concepts of our current traveling exhibits, including the Lions, Songbirds and the two Prairie exhibits (Smithsonian and IAN versions) including the need for flexibility in set up (both in layout and option to not set up some portions based on available space, that free standing panels work for most IAN members since we do not have an abundance of wall space. Also mentioned were the vehicle requirements for shipping the exhibit components, and the Aquatics team’s desire to have at least some of the panels be suitable for set up at outside venues such as river events where weather/wind resistance and ease of set up take down are important.

Chuck and Mary Beth discussed the history of the watershed concept, starting with the Cedar River Watershed group, and the importance of helping citizens make the connections between activity and changes in a watershed and flood events.

Team members shared ideas they had developed to date for panel topics, interactive components, and a “look” for the panels, common themes, opportunities to integrate ideas we had already developed.

We also discussed with the museum staff the possibility of IAN and interested members’ Friends groups or agencies being funding partners if additional funding was needed to create at least some free standing panels and the outdoor versions of some panels (to accommodate our needs and goal of having a way to bring this information to people at outdoor/river events).

The museum staff will discuss our ideas at internal meetings and get back to the committee/team before the fall IAN meeting to let us know how they would like to move forward with us as possible partners.