

City Of Exira
Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan
for Cities Under 10,000 Population
APRIL 25, 2023

IOWA CODE

Section 314.21 1. c. of the Iowa Code states: *“a city or county shall not be eligible to receive moneys from the living roadway trust fund unless the city or county has an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management plan in place consistent with the objectives in section 314.22.”*

Section 314.22 of the Iowa Code, Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management states:
“It is declared to be in the general public welfare of Iowa and a highway purpose for the vegetation of Iowa’s roadsides to be preserved, planted, and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated, and useful for many purposes.”

DEFINITION

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) a long-term approach to vegetation management that:

1. Systematically evaluates each area to be managed.
2. Determines which plant communities best fit the area.
3. Develops procedures that will encourage, enhance or re-establish native plant communities.
4. Provides self-sustaining, diversified, visually interesting vegetation.
5. Establishes safety and an improved environment as priorities.
6. Utilizes the most beneficial methods to prevent or correct undesirable situations caused by disturbance or less than optimum vegetative ground cover.
7. Enforces Chapter 317, Code of Iowa Noxious Weed Law.

INTRODUCTION

Transportation corridors move people and goods safely and efficiently from one location to another in vehicles, on bicycles and walking. The purposes of roadside vegetation are to hold soil in place without creating hazards, improve scenic beauty for users, and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

The city’s vegetation management goals must meet certain safety and functional requirements before aesthetic, recreational, or economic considerations can be addressed. These are to maintain a clear zone recovery area, meet minimal sight distance requirements, and provide for erosion control. Also required by Iowa law is the control of noxious weeds.

The goals of this Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program are to:

1. Preserve and provide safe, functional, and environmentally improved corridors of travel throughout the city.
2. Promote desirable, self-sustaining plant communities in roadsides, drainage areas, and other public lands in the city over the long term.
3. Utilize those plant communities that are native to Iowa through preservation and re-establishment whenever practical.
4. Implement a brush control program within the roadside rights-of-way.
5. Make more efficient and effective use of pesticides as a control method of undesirable species.
6. Enhance the scenic qualities of the roadsides and entranceways and their value as roadside habitat.

PROCEDURES FOR INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. Inventory sites to be managed, listing areas of desirable vegetation and those needing improvement.
2. Determine the appropriate management methods needed.
3. Determine the best time to implement management procedures and see that they are accomplished at that time. Temporary procedures may be needed to preserve an area before permanent methods can be utilized.

INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT METHODS

Integrated vegetation management includes the use of cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical practices. Each location must be evaluated to determine the best method to be used. One or more of the following will be used:

1. Cultural Methods

Cultural controls can be achieved through the introduction and management of desirable plants to control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants. The city will use diverse native grass and forb seed mixes or plant plugs as well as trees in their plantings. These diverse native plantings will be maintained and protected.

Prescribed fire is recognized as a valuable tool in brush and invasive plant control and can be used to enhance and maintain native plant communities. The city recognizes the potential hazards relating to prescribed fire. Therefore, roadsides will be burned only under the safest atmospheric conditions by burn crew personnel trained and certified in the use of prescribed fire.

2. Mechanical Methods.

This involves anything from tractor mowers for managing shoulders, weed control and planting maintenance to pruning shears, chainsaws, and boom mowers for controlling brush and maintaining guardrails and the clear zone.

3. Biological Methods

This involves the use of animals, insects, bacteria or viruses to control plant growth. Natural enemies of noxious weeds could be used in the ROW if necessary. Further research will be needed on other possible biological controls before the city will recommend them.

4. Pesticide Methods

Selection of pesticides to be used shall be based on their label constraints and residual effects on the environment. They will be monitored to document their effectiveness and impacts upon target and non-target species.

Pesticides can be valuable tools for controlling undesirable vegetation. Applicators will be certified by the State of Iowa as public applicators in the appropriate categories.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

In accordance with this IRVM plan, the city will:

1. Develop a public awareness campaign to gain support for integrated roadside management through media, established organizations, seminars and brochures.
2. Obtain educational and informational material on IRVM to be presented in seminars and distributed to adjacent landowners, the public, consultants, and contractors.
3. Provide guidelines and directives for staff, contractors and others who seed, plant and maintain roadsides.
4. Encourage the use of seed, plants and trees native to Iowa.

This is a flexible plan that requires common sense interpretations with changes made as necessary to fit the ever-changing complex circumstances realized in integrated roadside vegetation management. This plan will require an update within five years of certification.

City Certification: *Adopted by council 05/08/2023.*

Mark Krus

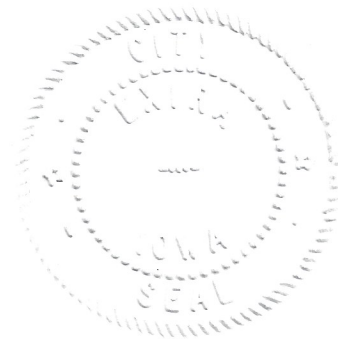
Mayor

04/25/2023
Date

Meg Andersen

City Administrator

4/25/2023
Date



EXIRA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

108 E WASHINGTON ST. – CITY HALL

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

7:30 PM

The Exira City Council met for their regular meeting in city hall on Monday, May 8, 2023. Present were Mayor Mike Huegerich, City Clerk Meg Andersen, City Attorney Clint Fichter, and Council Members: Dwight Jessen, Nathan Wahlert, and Dorreen Schrader. Also in attendance was public works employee, Mike Lauritsen. Deputy Rokke, Tim Sheets, and Dave Sturm were also present for a part of the meeting.

Mayor Huegerich called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

A motion made by Jessen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve the agenda. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Jessen, seconded by Schrader, to approve the consent agenda. All voted aye, motion passed.

No one was present for public input.

No library report was available.

Deputy Rokke presented the sheriff's report for the month of April.

The council requested comparable proposals for the Edgerton Street bridge replacement project from JEO and Snyder engineering firms be available for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The request to vacate the unopened portion of Florence Street north of W Washington St and south of Lots 1 and 2, Block B, in Struble's Addition to the City of Exira was tabled until survey work is completed in the area.

The request to acquire the previously vacated 16ft wide east/west alley between Florence St and Casey's General Store adjacent to Lots 19 and 20 in Sturgeon's Addition to the City of Exira was tabled until survey work is completed in the area.

A motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Jessen, to approve a deck building permit at 207 S Carthage St. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Jessen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve Casey's General Store Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Permit for July 2023 – June 2024. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Jessen, seconded by Wahlert, for the city clerk to submit request for proposals for a fiscal year 2023 financial audit, and select the best suited firm. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Jessen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve the RW Concrete contract amendment totaling \$1,500.00. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Schrader, seconded by Jessen, to adopt the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for Cities Under 10,000 Population. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Schrader, seconded by Wahlert, to re-instate the ADA compliant handrail at the corner of W Washington and N Carthage Streets. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Schrader, to approve Resolution 23-06 City Employee Wages for the 2024 Fiscal Year. Roll Call Vote: Jessen-aye, Schrader-aye, Wahlert-aye. Resolution Passed.

Payout of vacation hours was tabled until next meeting.

A motion made by Jessen, seconded by Wahlert, to purchase a New Holland U80D tractor from Haley Equipment Inc. using \$41,000 in previously designated ARPA funds and financing the remaining \$30,500. All voted aye, motion passed.

A motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Schrader, to set a budget amendment hearing for Wednesday May 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Reminder the clerk's office will be closed June 12-16.

A motion made by Schrader, seconded by Wahlert, to adjourn at 8:57 PM.

Mike Huegerich, Mayor

Meg Andersen, City Clerk