

Franklin County Conservation

Management Plan for IRVM

In

Franklin County

Version: 3

Updated June 2020

Alex Meyer – Natural Resource Manager

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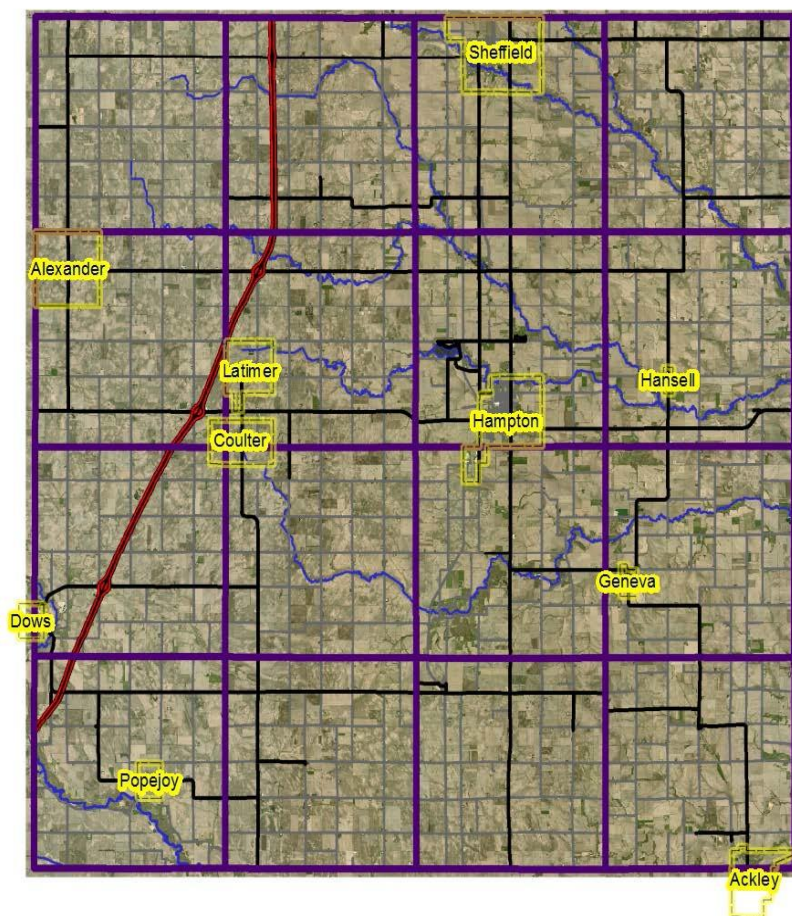
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Figure 1. Franklin County



History:

- We don't have records to provide exact dates as to when the IRVM program was developed in Franklin County but we believe the program originated in the early 1990's by Tom Billerbeck who was the Natural Resource Manager at the time. The earliest record of the program is from an LRTF Grant dating back to 2001.

Goals:

- Preserve and provide safe, functional, and environmentally improved corridors of travel throughout the county

- Utilize a long-term integrated management program that promotes desirable, self-sustaining plant communities. Encourage native plant communities through preservation and re-establishment whenever practical.
- Enhance the quality of the roadsides for both their scenic quality and their value as habitat.

Decision Making

- Franklin County's IRVM program is under direct supervision of the County Conservation Director. The IRVM department also looks for guidance from the county's engineering department. The engineering department makes decisions on road projects and ditch cleanouts and we follow up with seeding projects.

Executive Summary

- The primary purpose of road corridors is to transport people and goods safely and efficiently from one location to another. The purpose of roadside vegetation is to hold soil in place without creating hazards.

Franklin County'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 to provide erosion control. We also are required to control noxious weeds by mechanical and chemical means.

Using IRVM, we are able to provide a safe travel corridor for travel and also address other desirable functions while being pleasing to the eye.

Program

The IRVM program in Franklin County lands f in the County Conservation Department. The IRVM position falls into the job duties of the Natural Resource Manager. Franklin County doesn't have a full time IRVM position and for this reason our IRVM program is limited to doing minimal work and maintenance on our right-of-ways. Our duties are to follow up on the Secondary projects and establish maintenance free

vegetation in the right-of-ways. The Weed Commissioner duties don't land themselves in this department but have been tied to the County Sanitarians duties.

Management

The Roadside Manager works under the Conservation department but works with the Secondary Roads Department under the guidance of the County's Engineer.

The County's Engineering Department makes decisions on where and when right-of-way construction will occur.

The Roadside Manager and the Engineerings Department then work together to come up with a seed plan that will fulfill the needs and requirements of the project. They will determine seeding and mulching rates (rates are subject to change do to grade).

Iowa Code/State Laws and Regulations

Section 314.22 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

Section 314.17 Mowing Law – No mowing before July 15th

Section 317.11 Weeds on Roads - Harvesting of Grass

Section 318.3 Obstructions in ROW / Destruction of plants placed in ROW / Crops in ROW

Chapter 317 Iowa Weed Law – Noxious Weeds and Enforcement Procedures

-Annually the board of supervisors will pass the "Noxious Weed Resolution" that stipulates what species must be controlled in the County and by what date. This Resolution is advertised in the local media as public notice.

- Under Iowa Chapter Code 317 the Roadside Agreement allows land owners to opt out of roadside spraying adjacent to their property with a formal request meaning landowners will be responsible for controlling noxious weeds and brush.

Local Laws and Regulations

ORDINANCE NO. 4.1

AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT AND REGULATE SECONDARY ROAD RIGHT-OF

WAY

Be It Enacted by the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to restrict Franklin County land owners or their tenants adjoining secondary road right-of ways from farming, fencing, or otherwise abusing such right-of-way, which will damage the road and its shoulders, cause hazardous obstructions, create potential liability to Franklin County, and unjustly enrich these owners at the expense of the County.

SECTION 2. Definitions. For use in this ordinance terms or words used herein shall be interpreted or defined as follows:

1. "Obstruction" shall mean anything that is placed in a secondary road right-of-way by persons other than persons authorized to do so by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors. It includes but is not limited to property such as fences, growing crops, rocks, trash, corn cobs, piles of brush, abandoned vehicles or machinery, billboards, advertising signs or devices, open ditches, and water breaks, tile and tile outlets, and includes the cultivation of the right-of-way.
2. "Board" shall mean the Franklin County Board of Supervisors or its designee.
3. "Engineer" shall mean the Franklin County Engineer or his designee.
4. "Attorney" shall mean the Franklin County Attorney or his assistant.

All other terms shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4, Code of Iowa, 2007, and generally as an implementation of or in harmony with Chapter 318, Code of Iowa, 2007.

SECTION 3. Violations Generally / Penalty.

1. The creation by any person of an obstruction in Franklin County is declared a public nuisance and is prohibited.
2. A person shall not excavate, fill, or make any physical change within the right-ofway of a secondary road without obtaining a permit from the Board. Any work performed under the permit shall be performed in conformity with the specifications prescribed by the Board, including the posting of bond. If the excavation, fill, or physical change within the right-of-way does not conform to the specifications that accompany the permit, the permittee shall be reasonably notified by the Board or Engineer to make such conforming changes. If after twenty (20) days the changes have not been made, the Board or Engineer may make the necessary changes and immediately send a statement of the cost to the permittee. If within ten (10) days after sending the statement the cost is not paid, the Board through the Attorney may institute proceedings in District Court to collect the cost of correction.

3. The Engineer and utility companies are exempt from the provisions of this section.
4. Any person who violates the provisions of this section for a twenty-four (24) hour period shall, upon conviction, be fined \$750 for the first offense, \$1000 for the second and subsequent offences. Each twenty-four (24) hour period is a separate and distinct violation.

SECTION 4. Administration. It shall be the duty of the Engineer to identify obstructions within the County. Upon such identification, he shall attempt to persuade the person responsible for the obstruction to remove it. If such an attempt is unsuccessful, the Engineer shall proceed under Section 5 of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. Abatement Costs.

1. If the Engineer deems an obstruction to constitute an immediate and dangerous hazard, he may without notice or liability in damages, cause the obstruction to be removed and the costs of removal to be assessed against:
 - a. The owner of any billboard, advertising sign or device so removed.
 - b. The vehicle or machinery owner in the case of abandoned vehicles or machinery.
 - c. The abutting property in the case of fences and other obstructions placed by the owner of, or tenant on, said property.
 - d. The owner or person responsible for placement of all other obstructions.
2. If the Engineer does not deem an obstruction to be such a hazard, he may, without liability after forty-eight (48) hours notice to the person who would be assessed for County costs of removing the obstruction, this notice being served in the manner in which an original notice is served or in writing by certified mail, cause the obstruction to be removed and the costs of removal to be assessed in the same manner as specified in Subsection 1 of this Section. Notice shall be reasonably calculated to apprise the recipient of the impending action and liability.
3. Upon removal of the obstruction, the Engineer may immediately send a statement of the cost of removal to the person assessed. If within ten (10) days after sending the statement, the cost is not paid, the Engineer through the Attorney may institute proceedings to collect the cost of removal.

SECTION 6. Attorney Authority. Upon request of the Board, the Attorney may bring action to enjoin or abate an obstruction, to collect damages caused by an obstruction, including the costs

of removal, and to pursue any other appropriate remedy, including criminal prosecution under Section 2, Subsection 4 of this ordinance or Chapter 716, Code of Iowa, 2007.

SECTION 7. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. Severability Clause. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

Adopted 12/15/2008

Spray Notice Example:

Franklin County Secondary Roads Department has contracted with (Contracted Sprayer) to control trees and bush within the County's Road Right-of-Way. Spot spraying for bush and trees is expected to begin after (Set Date) and is expected to be completed by (Set Date). The following townships will be treated: Lee, Grant, Oakland and Osceola. If a property owner does not desire to have the roadside adjacent to his or her property sprayed, please notify the Franklin County Engineer's Office prior to (Set Date)

Franklin County Engineer

1341 Olive Ave.

PO Box 118

Hampton, IA 50441

641-456-4671

Permits

FRANKLIN COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT

1341 Olive Avenue

P.O. Box 118

Hampton, Iowa 50441

Application to Perform Work Within Franklin County Highway Right-of-Way

Applicant:

Approval is hereby requested to enter within the Franklin County highway right-of-way and to complete the proposed work as shown on the attached plat and cross sections, and further described as follows:

AGREEMENTS

The applicant agrees that if granted a permit to do said work, the following stipulations shall govern.

1. The applicant shall carry on the construction, repair and maintenance with serious regard to the safety of the traveling public and adjacent property owners, and shall save Franklin County and the Franklin County Secondary Road Department harmless of any damage or losses that may be sustained by the traveling public on account of such construction, repair or maintenance operations.
- 2.. The applicant shall indemnify and save harmless Franklin County, its agencies and employees, from any and all causes of actions, suits at law or in equity, for losses, damages, claims or demands, and from any and all liability and expense of whatsoever nature, arising out of or in connection with the applicant's use or occupancy of the public highway.
3. The applicant shall hold Franklin County and the Franklin County Secondary Road Department harmless of any damage that may result to said highway because of the construction or maintenance of the facility, and shall reimburse Franklin County or the Franklin County Secondary Road Department for any expenditures that Franklin County or the Franklin County Secondary Road Department may have to make on said highway right-of-way on account of said applicant's construction or maintenance activity or lack thereof.
4. Traffic protection shall be in accordance with Part VI of the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. Franklin County will loan the required signs to the applicant who shall be responsible for placing the signs and covering or removing when not in use, removal after the work has been completed, and return of the signs owned by Franklin County to the Franklin County Maintenance facility from which obtained. The applicant shall be responsible for correctly using signs as needed while work is in progress. Flagging operations are the responsibility of the applicant.

5. Before beginning any work within the highway right-of-way, it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact utility companies to locate any utility installation which may be affected or encountered. Contact for utility locates: IOWA ONE CALL 800-292-8989.
6. A copy of the approved application shall be available on the job site at all times for examination by Franklin County Transportation Officials.
7. The applicant shall seed and mulch all disturbed areas within the highway right-of-way and shall be responsible for the vegetative cover until it becomes well established. Any surfaced areas, such as driveways or shoulders and sodded waterways, and plantings which are disturbed shall be restored to their original condition.
8. If the proposed work results in a pool of water on the applicant's property, this pool of water will be exclusively owned, controlled and maintained by the applicant. That part of the modification located on highway right-of-way will be maintained by Franklin County Secondary Road Department for road purposes only.
9. The applicant shall maintain any drainage structure built within the right-of-way that is built for the benefit of the applicant and not necessary for highway use.
10. This permit is subject to any laws now in effect or any laws which may be hereafter enacted and all applicable rules and regulations of local, state and federal agencies.
11. This permit is subject to all the rules and regulations of the Franklin County Secondary Road Department, and to revocation by the Franklin County Secondary Road Department at any time and at no cost to the Department, when in the judgment of the Department it is necessary in the improvement of maintenance of the highway or for other reasonable cause.
12. The applicant agrees to give the Franklin County Secondary Road Department forty-eight (48) hours notice of intention to start construction or perform maintenance on the highway right-of-way. Said notice shall be made in writing to the Franklin County Engineer whose name and address is shown below. Any modifications to the proposed work shall be approved by the Department prior to making the change.
13. All proposed work covered by this permit shall be at the applicant's expense. The applicant shall reimburse the Franklin County Secondary Road Department for any materials removed from the highway right-of-way described as follows:

APPLICANT

Date

Recommendation of Conservation District (if a Conservation-type Project)

Title

Date

Approval of City or Town

(If proposed work is within an incorporated town or city, the Council of said town or city must grant approval).

The undersigned city or town joins in the grants embodied in the above permit executed by the Franklin County Secondary Road Department on condition that all of the covenants and undertakings therein running to the Franklin County Secondary Road Department shall inure to the benefit of the undersigned city or town, and said permit is approved below by the delegated city or town official.

By

Title

Date

Franklin County Secondary Road Department Approval

Franklin County Engineer

Chairman, Franklin County Board of Supervisors

Date

Disclosure Statement: The information furnished on this form will be used by the Franklin County Secondary Road Department to determine approval or denial of the application. Failure to provide all information will result in denial of the application. Information furnished is public information and copies maybe provided to the public upon request.

Staff Organization

- County Engineer and Staff
- Roadside Manager (Part-time)
- Contractor (Spraying/Large Scale Seedings)

Staffing Needs

- IRVM falls into the job description of the Natural Resource Manager in Franklin County.
- 130/190 (Basic Wildland Fire Fighting/Basic Wildland Fire Behavior) is a requirement.
- It is a requirement to have the category 6(Right-of-Way Pest Control) commercial applicators license. (Category 2- Forestry Pest and 5- Aquatic Pest are recommended)
- Class A CDL is required

Natural Resources

- Franklin County conservation is fully invested in the preservation of our natural resources. We have an understanding of the importance of water quality and the benefits that native plants have on holding the soil and filtering water before it reaches our lakes and streams. As water quality becomes a bigger and bigger issue across the state we understand that native seeding will play an important role in this issue and we also understand that with improved water quality, will come improved habitat.
- In Franklin County there are areas of special concern do to endangered or threatened species. The species of concern are the Broad-Winged Skipper Butterfly, the Blanding's Turtle, and the Monkey Flower.
- Franklin County is located on the Eastern

Tools

- GIS/GPS are used to keep record of seeding projects for future maintenance and general record keeping.
- Hard copy/digital copy
- Photos are used to document site success.

Equipment

- CAT 299D Skid steer (Used Condition)
- Finn 1000 gal. Hydro seeder (Great Condition)
- Stihl Saws (260, 362) (Used Condition)
- Nomex (pants/shirts) (Used Condition)
- Hard hat (Used Condition)
- Chaps (Used Condition)

- 2 UTVs (Great Condition)
- 2 Wildfire Skid units (Great Condition)
- 5 wildfire Drip Touches (Great Condition)
- Diamond 72" Brush mower (Great Condition)
- Truax Seed Drill 8' (Great Condition)
- Culti-packer (Rough Condition)
- 6' John Deer 3 point disk (Rough Condition)
- Polaris ATV (Great Condition)

Annual Operations

January

- Clean up and Finish Yearly GIS maps
- Review Management Plan
- Stratify Seed
- Clean Seed
- Equipment Maintenance
- Brush Cutting
- Frost Seeding if needed

February

- Fire Refresher Class (RT130)
- Identify herbicide needs
- Plant greenhouse plugs
- Equipment Maintenance
- Frost Seeding if needed
- Controlled burns if possible

March

- Spring seeding as conditions allow

- Order
 - o Herbicide for Spring
 - o Seed
- Controlled Burns if possible
- Equipment Maintenance
- LRTF Grant Applications
- Brush Cutting

April

- Seed all outstanding Fall and Winter Projects (top priority)

May

- Finish Spring seeding

June

- LRTF Application due on June 1.
- Maintenance mowing of previous year's seeding projects
- Plant plugs

July

- Spray special areas for Canada Thistle
- Maintenance mowing of previous year's seeding projects

August

- Start Fall seeding projects if conditions are favorable

September

- Start Fall seeding projects
- IRVM Roadside Conference

October

- Fall Seeding (top priority)
- Fall Burning

November

- Finish Fall Seeding
- Begin GIS/GPS data entry for seeding projects
- Update chemical inventory
- Winterize

fire equipment

hydro seeder

backpack sprayers

December

- TAP Seed Reports due to UNI
- Finish GPS/GIS data for seed report
- Finish early winter seeding (conditions pending)
- Start Brush Cutting
- Begin equipment Maintenance

Special Projects

- Through the use of demonstration plots we are able to educate the public on the advantages of native vegetation on all aspects.

Work area Types

Rural

- Rural adjacent agriculture
- Rural adjacent non-agricultural
- Rural adjacent homestead
- Rural adjacent subdivision

- Rural densely populated areas

Urban

- Unincorporated towns
- Rural-Urban Interface

Vegetation Types for Specific Uses

- Residential ROW– turf grass – Mowed areas in front of houses
- Non-Residential ROW – native tallgrass prairie – Areas where long term establishment and persistence of tallgrass prairie is deemed feasible by the Roadside Manager
- Miscellaneous ROW / Borrow Area / Easement – cool season grasses – Areas where long term establishment and persistence of tallgrass prairie is deemed not feasible by the roadside manager.

Vegetation Establishment

- Site preparation when require consists of disking/dragging and culti-packed as needed.
- Seed mixes often vary and are designed on a site to site basis and are designed using TAP seed.
- Hydro-seeding is the most common seeding practice. The seed is first applied to establish good seed to soil contact followed by mulch. Seed and mulch rates meet or exceed DOT standard.
- Drilling Seed. Grasses are drilled and the forbs are drop seeded to make sure that they are not seeded too deeply.
- Broadcasting. Used to add diversity to established sites and applying cover crops.
- Planting evaluations are done 2-3 years after seeding.
- Mowing is done for the first year or two of seeding to allow the site to establish.
- Spot spraying is done in house on specific site but is otherwise contracted.
- Contract Spraying varies year to year. The county is divided into townships which are sprayed on a as needed rotation.
- Adjacent land owner is responsible for weed control in the right-of-way. Refer to County Ordinances.
- Prescribed burning is done when possible and is only done when there is a well written burn plan.

- When establishing a site or maintaining a site the IRVM Technical Manual is always referenced

Material Procurement

- Purchases of materials used for roadside projects must first be approved by the county engineer. Materials are bought on a project to project basis to ensure there isn't an abundance of materials to be stored do to the lack of space.
- Materials are purchase that best fulfill the duties needed.

Appendices

- **Position Description**

Resource Manager

DEFINITION OF POSTION:

This position is a permanent full-time position under the general direction of the Conservation Director. This position Maintains and manages Franklin County's IRVM program 50%. Also responsible for the management of other WMA (Wildlife Management Areas) and Parks owned by Franklin County Conservation 50%.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- **Works in coordination with the Franklin County Engineer to establish native grasses and forbs in county rights-of-way.**
- **Provides Natural resource management on remnant prairie populations and other sensitive plant populations in and around the trail corridor.**
- **Performs park maintenance and operation work such as the repair of buildings, tables, fireplaces, tools and equipment, and the maintenance of roads, trails, buildings, developed grounds, boat docks, restrooms, and water systems using various specialized hand and power tools.**
- **Participates and facilities improvement projects.**
- **Provides information on rules and regulations, and other services as required or assigned to the public.**
- **Assists in caring for trees and other vegetation in parks and recreational areas by controlling weeds and grasses using spraying equipment and herbicides.**

- Safely operates grounds keeping equipment, including tractors, mowers, weed cutters, trimmers, and chain saws.
- Provides corrective and preventive maintenance on trucks, tractors, lawn mowers, and other department equipment. Changes oil in trucks, tractors, mowers and other vehicles.
- Patrols campgrounds on weekends and checks camper registration
- Assists in prescribed fire activities on County, State, and Federal lands.

MARGINAL FUNCTIONS:

- Perform other duties as directed or as the situation dictates.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABLITYTY:

- Proper techniques of natural resource management related to Iowa habitat types and remnant populations of native prairie.
- Ability to identify trees, prairie plants, and wildlife species
- General ability to provide maintenance on asphalt and 3/8 cover aggregate trail surface.
- General knowledge of operating power equipment associated with trail, park, and natural resource management.
- Carpentry and general building construction
- Maintain effective working relationship with general public, employees, and other county officials.
- Basic understanding of prescribed fire and wildland fire suppression.
- Good communication skills related to public speaking.
- Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions.
- Organizational skills related to scheduling work loads.
- Ability to work irregular hours including weekends, and holidays.

ESSENTIAL EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION AND/OR LICENSES:

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in natural resource management or related field of study preferred. Or a two year college degree from an accredited college with a major course work in a recognized natural resource/science program and a minimum of two years professional natural resource experience

- **Certification as a commercial pesticide applicator or the ability to obtain certification with-in six months of hire**
- **Possess a valid driver license and possess a class A CDL or obtain a Class A CDL with-in six months of hire.**
- **Possess NWCG (National Wildland Coordination Group) 130-190 Certificate or obtain with-in a year of hire.**
- **Must be able to hold an active NWCG red card as per requirements of Franklin County Conservations prescribed fire policy by passing an annual arduous pack test.**

ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS:

- **The incumbent must have the ability to lift and carry supplies or other tools and equipment weighing up to 75 lbs, without assistance, and to tolerate long periods of standing or sitting.**
- **Incumbent must be able to pass the NWCG arduous pack test annually: wearing 45 lbs, walking 3 miles in 45 minutes or less.**
- **Must be able to work in inclement weather conditions**

- Grants

Franklin County LRTF Funding History through FY 2015					
DOTProjectNumber	Applicant	Award	FiscalYear	Description	Type
90-35-LRTF-101	Franklin County	\$ 6,904.50	2001	Equipment - Drill	County
90-35-LRTF-701	Franklin County Conservation	\$ 5,000.00	2007	Equipment - Polaris 683 with roll bar	County
90-35-LRTF-901	Franklin County Conservation	\$ 5,386.00	2009	Equipment - Seed drill	County
90-35-LRTF-101	Franklin County Conservation	\$ 21,630.00	2011	Equipment - Hydroseeder	County
	Total LRTF Funding Awarded FY1990 - FY2015	\$ 38,920.50			

RESOLUTION 2020-38**INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa, that pursuant to provisions of Chapter 314.22 Code of Iowa, it is hereby ordered:

WHEREAS, Franklin County chooses to revise the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan as required by the State of Iowa, Iowa Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, this Plan will enable Franklin County to apply for various Grants;

THEREFORE, Franklin County's Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan is in effect and the complete copy of said Plan is filed in the County Auditor and County Conservation offices.

ADOPTED this 15 day of June, 2020 with the vote thereon being as follows:

AYES: Eberling, McVicker, Nolte

NAYS:

ABSENT/NOT VOTING:

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Michael Nolte, Chairman

ATTEST:



Michelle S. Giddings, Auditor & Clerk

Franklin County Board of Supervisors

Chairperson: Michael Noto

Date: June 15 2020

Franklin County Engineer

Engineer: John W. Addenig

Date: 6/15/2020

Franklin County Conservation Board

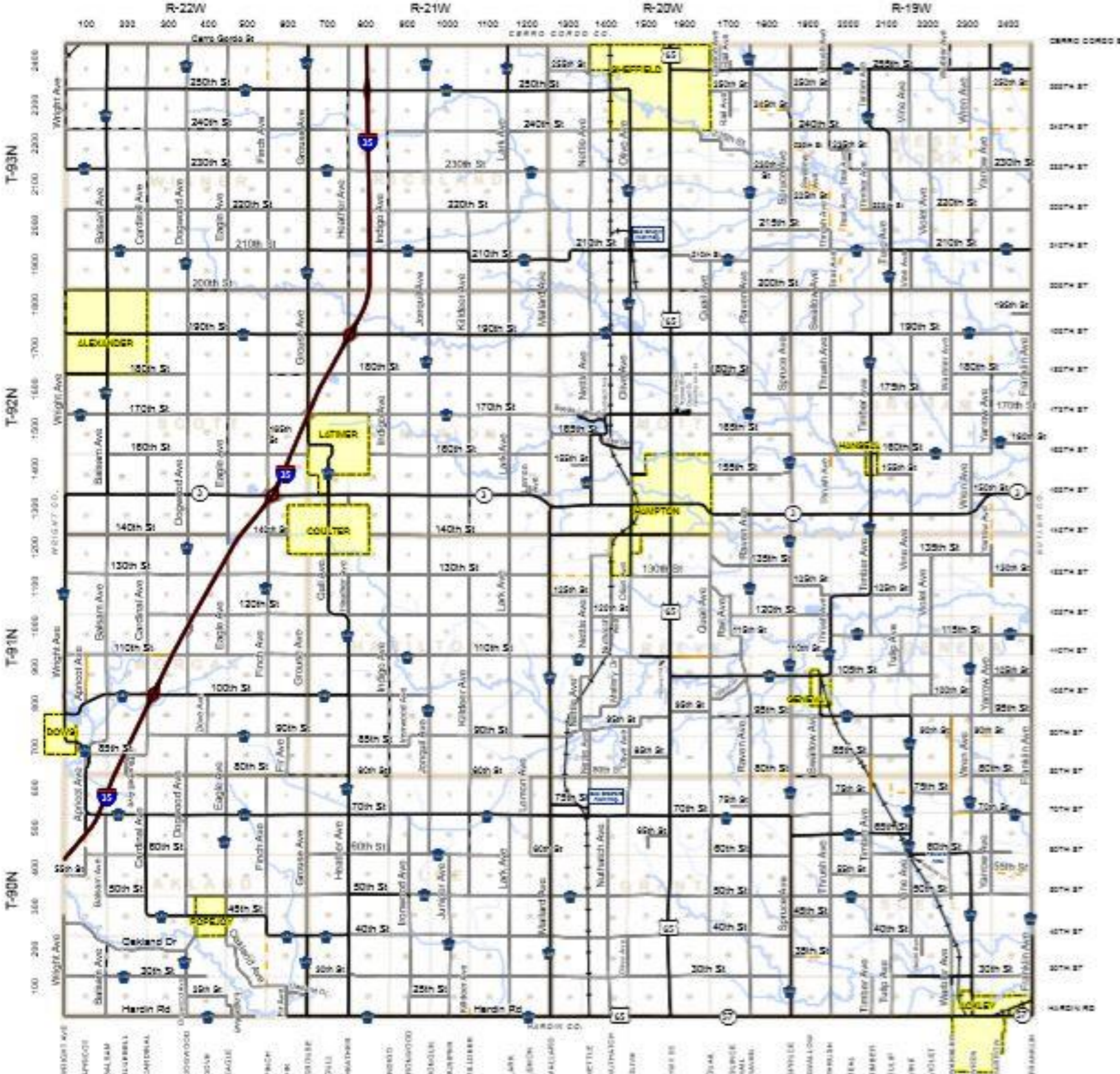
Chairperson: Jan H. Petersen

Date: 7/6/2020

Natural Resource Manager

Prepared by: Amy Myrm

Date: June 15, 2020



Franklin County Transportation Map



Franklin County Townships

Walker	Richard	Rose	West Fork
Scott	Warren	Moss	Ingham
Morgan	Hamilton	Davis	Genovis
Caldwell	LM	Grant	Okaloa

- Legend**
- Township Boundary
 - Section Boundary
 - Water
 - Proposed Limits
 - Roadway
 - Divided Highway
 - Trunk Road
 - Local Road (Divided)
 - Local Road (Undivided)
 - Local Road (County)
 - Local Road - The Public Limits



Franklin County, GA does not guarantee this map or its use for any purpose not intended by the County. It is provided as a general reference only. For more information, please contact the County Office at 330 North Main Street, Franklin, GA 30528 or 706.738.1234.

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