

# F I N A L R E P O R T

## ALTERNATIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION STEERING COMMITTEE

January 1989

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Alternative Roadside Vegetation Steering Committee was established by Senate File 2196, 1988 Iowa Acts, chapter 1019. The Committee was charged to conduct an independent study "to develop an immediate long-range policy for the planting and maintenance of alternative roadside vegetation adjacent to the streets and highways in the state."

The independently conducted study is administered by the Committee composed of two members appointed by the State Transportation Commission, two members appointed by the Iowa State Association of Counties, and two members appointed by the League of Iowa Municipalities. The State Department of Transportation accepted as one of its appointments an employee of the Department of Natural Resources. The Legislative Service Bureau was appropriated fifty thousand dollars for use by the Steering Committee in conducting the study. The Steering Committee is charged to report its findings contained in this report to the Governor, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate not later than January 31, 1989.

The members of the Steering Committee include the following:

Mr. Steve Finegan, Chairperson  
Ms. Laura Jackson, Vice-chairperson  
Ms. Jan Guthrie  
Ms. Jane Halliburton  
Mr. Dwaine Hockett  
Mr. Dennis A. Plautz

### SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

The Steering Committee met nine times, including the following:

July 29, 1988	State Capitol Building, Des Moines
August 8, 1988	Department of Transportation Headquarters, Ames
September 9, 1988	Department of Transportation Headquarters, Ames
September 29, 1988	Department of Transportation Headquarters, Ames
October 3, 1988	Department of Transportation Headquarters, Ames

October 26, 1988	Department of Transportation Headquarters, Ames
November 29, 1988	Department of Transportation Headquarters, Ames
December 15, 1988	State Capitol Building, Des Moines
January 25, 1988	State Capitol Building, Des Moines

The first two meetings were devoted to preliminary business, including the adoption of rules and the election of the chairperson and vice-chairperson, the approval of a request for proposal, and resolution of issues relating to advertising for services of persons bidding to conduct the study. During the second meeting the Committee approved a goal statement, included within its Request for Proposal, which summarized the type of study desired. The goal statement reads as follows:

The consultant shall perform a study and make recommendations relating to developing roadside management policies and laws for Iowa's roadsides, including primary and secondary roads and streets, to accomplish the goals of preserving and enhancing the biology, environment and stability of the roadsides and to preserve and enhance the aesthetic features of the roadsides, in a cost-effective manner.

The third, fourth, and fifth meetings were devoted to selecting a consultant to conduct the study. Nine proposals were submitted to the Steering Committee. During the third meeting the Committee read each proposal and voted to approve three final candidates, including the following: University of Northern Iowa Biology Consortium, Cedar Falls; Steinmaus Environmental Services, Inc., Muscatine; and George Butler Associates, Inc., P.C. During the fourth meeting, the Committee interviewed representatives from the three finalists. After deliberation, the Committee selected George Butler Associates, Inc., P.C., as the consultant to conduct the study. The fifth meeting was devoted to finalizing the selection and becoming acquainted with the consultant's project manager, Mr. David Dahlquist, and Mr. Gerald Schnepf, Executive Director of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation who subcontracted under George Butler Associates, Inc., P.C. The Committee and George Butler Associates, Inc., P.C., agreed to enter into a contract, subject to agreement of terms memorialized in documents. The Committee and Mr. Dahlquist and Mr. Schnepf also outlined a schedule for completion of the study.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth meetings were devoted to executing the contract and agreeing to contract for additional services with the Committee's consultant. The Committee accepted three interim reports, and discussed the progress of the study. Members made suggestions relating to how the study could be improved. During the seventh meeting the Committee approved the first half payment under the contract. The Committee reviewed a draft of the final report and made comments to the consultant. The Committee also discussed distribution of the final report and directed staff from the Legislative Service Bureau to invite legislators and members of the press to the final meeting.

The ninth meeting was devoted to approving the final report by the Consultant. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation to George Butler, Associates, Inc., P.C. and the Natural Heritage Foundation. Members paid particular praise to Mr. Dahlquist and Mr. Schnepf. Final payment to the consultant was approved.

#### FINDINGS

The Committee approves the recommendations of the independent study performed by the consultant to the Committee, George Butler Associates, Inc., P.C.

The Committee emphasizes the need to move ahead in order to accomplish goals relating to developing sound roadside management practices in order to preserve and enhance the biology, environment and stability of the roadsides, the safety of the roadsides, and to preserve and enhance the aesthetic features of the roadsides, in a cost-effective manner.

Copies of the Consultant's Final Report are distributed to the Iowa State Association of Counties, the League of Iowa Municipalities, counties in the state, interested groups, and members of the Iowa General Assembly. A copy is delivered to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Governor. Copies are available at the the office of the Legislative Service Bureau, State Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa.

For further information relating to the work of the Committee Contact:  
Mr. Steve Finegan, Chairperson  
Alternative Roadside Vegetation  
Steering Committee,  
Black Hawk County Conservation Director  
2410 West Lone Tree Road  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613  
(319) 266-0328

For minutes of the meetings contact:  
Legislative Service Bureau  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
(515) 281-3566

For further information relating to the study contact:  
Mr. David L. Dahlquist, Project Manager  
George Butler Associates, Inc., P.C.

Alternative Roadside Vegetation Steering Committee  
Final Report - January 1989  
Page 4

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