



PRAIRIE RIVERS *of Iowa*



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR CORE VALUES

We respect and elevate the integrity of the natural, historical, and cultural resources in Iowa and advocate sustainability for present and future generations.

ADVOCATE

We support ecological and natural resource integrity by advancing sustainable stewardship practices.

PARTNER

We engage and empower people and organizations with a diversity of skills and expertise to accomplish together more than we can do separately.

EDUCATE

We foster the environment by learning and educating Iowans to activate and engage in cultivating an environment of conservation.

ASSESSMENT

We support a consistency of actions and methods through ongoing assessment of our programs.

TRANSPARENCY

We approach opportunities and challenges with unbiased, candid and open communication.

Our Mission Statement: *to promote economic development through the restoration and conservation of Iowa's cultural and natural resources.*

Greetings and Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report

*From Penny Brown Huber, Executive Director
and Reed Riskedahl, Board President*

To Our Supporters:

While reflecting on 2019, we know that many things can change quickly. Without vibrant and strong conservation-oriented organizations, we would have a different world that in 2020 we need for our own health.

While reading the 2019 Annual Report, I hope you will notice all the good work that Prairie Rivers of Iowa is doing in Iowa. We have a talented staff that continues to reach out and educate about ways in which all of us can understand, to help make choices to improve Iowa's natural and cultural resources. Our Board members are engaged while directing and supporting current and future direction for our organization.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa continues to expand its' partnerships and reach. We continue to build on strong programs and we offer services to other small not-for-profits and businesses that need marketing and administrative support. And with all that we have accomplished, we continue to identify new ideas that will make a difference and also need new funding to achieve.

If you believe in what we are doing, we ask you to make a gift this year and beyond to continuing our mission. Take a moment to visit our website and discover ways to offer your support today!

We are grateful for your interest and support. Thank you.



Penny Brown Huber, Executive Director



Reed Riskedahl, Board President



ABOUT US

At Prairie Rivers of Iowa, we manage a range of programs in support of our mission to improve the quality of life for citizens while strengthening the health of Iowa's environment and its communities. Explore our programs at: www.prrcd.org.

LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY

The Lincoln Highway was the first improved transcontinental road and is Iowa's longest and most historic byway. It continues to be a strong economic development engine for local economies and an enduring symbol of civic pride in the 13 counties and 43 communities it travels through in Iowa. We are focused on community-driven projects to "tell the story of the places and people of the Lincoln Highway."



WATERSHEDS AND WATERWAYS



Interest in water quality and soil health brings together a diverse group of city residents, farmers and landowners who collaborate to build healthy watersheds for improved natural habitats, outdoor recreation and clean water.

Partnering to accomplish changes to the land is our focus for improving Iowa's water quality.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MARKETING SERVICES

- Prairie Rivers of Iowa is a federally-authorized non-profit organization dedicated to creating a better environment for the citizens of Iowa.
- We provide educational services for Iowans that create awareness and understanding, which leads to better conservation of our natural and historical resources.
- Our organization builds partnerships with and utilizes local experts; this empowers people to understand, create and support a healthy, natural environment.
- Iowans profit from our organization because we improve the local economy, create a strong sense of community, as well as invest resources back into the state of Iowa. We remain focused on our mission to help Iowa communities.

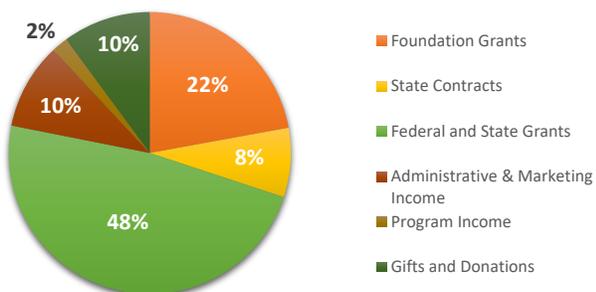
2019 FINANCIAL REPORT



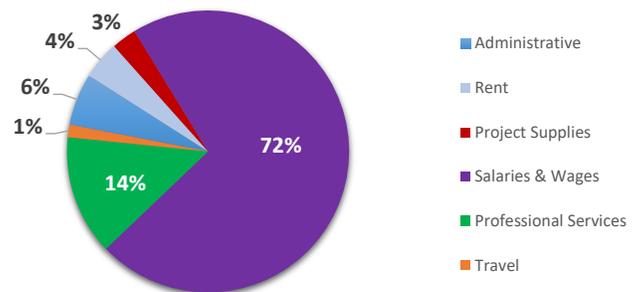
Jim Richardson
Treasurer

Type	Amount	Percentage
INCOME		
Foundation Grants	\$85,197.00	22.27%
State Contracts	\$30,590.00	8.00%
Federal and State Grants	\$184,953.00	48.35%
Administrative & Marketing Income	\$35,838.00	9.37%
Program Income	\$7,104.00	1.86%
Gifts and Donations	\$38,885.00	10.16%
TOTAL	\$382,567.00	100.00%
EXPENSES		
Administrative	\$20,478.00	5.47%
Rent	\$16,500.00	4.41%
Project Supplies	\$10,784.00	2.88%
Salaries & Wages	\$269,321.00	71.97%
Professional Services	\$51,730.00	13.82%
Travel	\$5,425.00	1.45%
TOTAL	\$374,238.00	100.00%

2019 Income Percentages



2019 Expenses Percentages



LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY REPORT



Iowa's longest and most historic byway travels through 13 counties and 43 communities, covering 460 miles across the state. PRI coordinates this community-driven statewide initiative to "tell the story of the places and people of the Lincoln Highway."



Jan Gammon

Lincoln Highway Heritage
Byway Coordinator

1919 U.S. Army Convoy

The main focus of 2019 was the celebration of the 1919 U.S. Army Convoy that traveled across the nation on the Lincoln Highway. The convoy started in Washington, D.C. and then at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania followed the Lincoln Highway the rest of the way to San Francisco. A brochure was created which contained a brief history of the original convoy; a brief history of the Lincoln Highway; a short bio of Henry Ostermann, who had the idea for the convoy; short bio on Dwight (Ike) Eisenhower, who as a young Lt. Col. was on the convoy; and about Ike's wife, Mamie, who was born in Boone and lived some time in Cedar Rapids (both Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway (LHHB) towns). The brochure was funded by individuals, the City of Nevada, and some of the American Legions along the LHHB route. The American Legions were also celebrating their 100 year anniversary. Allegra Printing in Urbandale provided funding through an application process towards design and printing costs of the brochure.

In addition, the 1919 U.S. Army Convoy brochure at the Iowa Byways booth under the grandstand at the Iowa State Fair as well as played a byway trivia "Spin the Wheel" game. We requested and received approval to send our brochure to Iowa Welcome Centers and we distributed them as well to attractions across Iowa.

Two additional celebratory convoys made this same trip in the summer/early fall of 2019. The first was the Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA) who brought privately owned restored military vehicles and the other was the national Lincoln Highway Association (LHA) with their classic and contemporary cars. We worked with the MPVA to find local contacts in communities they wished to stop in for lunch, dinner, snacks, or for overnights. We promoted the convoys through press releases and interviews with Radio Iowa, KFJB in Marshalltown, and KROS in Clinton.

An interpretive panel about Henry Ostermann, the 1919 convoy idea man, was designed and installed. PRI received grant funding from the Tama County Community Foundation to create a 2' x 3' interpretive panel. Work on the panel progressed through the summer. The City of Montour had it installed on our designed powder-coated steel base in the Maple Hill Cemetery, just prior to both convoys coming through the area. Mr. Ostermann had the idea for the 1919 convoy and traveled just ahead of it, promoting the equipment and men that were to follow in a day or two. Ironically, a year later, in 1920, Mr. Ostermann lost his life on the curves just outside of Montour, near the Maple Hill Cemetery. The LHHB held an unveiling of the interpretive panel in a ceremony on August 15th with speakers: Reed Riskedahl, Prairie Rivers of Iowa Board; Mary Preston, Iowa LHA president; Dotti Thompson, Community Foundation of NE Iowa/Tama County Community Foundation; Rev. John Christensen, Living Faith Methodist Church in Montour; and Susan Eberhart, Montour City Council.



Partnering

Another big project in 2019 was partnering with the Nevada Betterment Committee on their Lincoln Highway and Jefferson Highway Heritage Park outside city hall. We helped develop a fundraising letter and acted as their fiscal agent. Funds were collected to help finance the nameplate lettering on the archway entrance to the park, for two interpretive panels (one for the Lincoln Highway and one for the Jefferson Highway), banners with each highway name on the sides, a replica of a Boy Scout concrete marker, and new street signs. PRI is continuing to assist the city in the sale of old street signs to pay for the new street signs that have both Lincoln and Jefferson Highway logos as both Byways run through the heart of the town.

The LHHB partnered with Golden Hills RC&D and two of their byways: Loess Hills National Scenic Byways and Western Skies Scenic Byway and with Travel Iowa to present Internet Best Practices in Woodbine and Council Bluffs on 4/25/2019. Businesses and attractions were invited to learn more about how to promote their business through Travel Iowa's website and social media as well as through their own platforms.

The LHHB received a grant from the Benton County Community Foundation on behalf of the Youngville Highway History Association to repair the oil room floor and re-install the original wooden outer door. Work was completed in the fall and the final grant paperwork submitted. The repair allows the group to

create auto-related displays for the public in the oil room and keep the room weather-tight.

PRI:

- Wrote a support letter for the City of Jefferson's grant applications to improve the eastern entrance to their community along the Lincoln Highway.
- Worked with the City of Clarence in gaining approval to use the LHA logo on their crosswalks. PRI attained approval for the City of Nevada to use the logo on painting street posts and for the banners at their new park outside of the city hall.
- Submitted ideas for the University of Iowa's Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities program. Although not selected for the full program, we were able to connect the U of I with Preston's Station Historic District to create a collection policy and with the City of Tama to create a comprehensive plan. The U of I has indicated they are interested in continuing to help some of our partners again next year.
- Met with the Meskwaki Tribal Council on January 9, 2019 to talk about supporting the Lincoln Highway Bridge's restoration in Tama.
- Had several communities celebrate their 150th year in 2019. We were in parades in Grand Junction, Dow City, and Scranton. Carroll and Westside also held celebrations.

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway also partners with the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association for editing and layout of their quarterly newsletter. The LHHB also writes some of the newsletter articles, manages their social media, and oversees their website. Jan Gammon, LHHB coordinator, served as secretary at their quarterly meetings held January 11th, April 13th, July 13th, and October 12th.

Presentations

Jan Gammon prepared a PowerPoint for the Byways of Iowa presentation at the February 12, 2019 meeting of the Iowa DOT's Transportation Commission held at the Iowa State Capitol. She also made a presentation at the Hudson Library (5/14) and for the Ames Lions Club (5/30). For the Byways of Iowa Coalition (BIC) meeting, Jan helped create a PowerPoint for Mary Preston to use in her presentation about Preston's Station Historic District when the BIC met in Belle Plaine on Oct 17th.

The LHHB also made presentations at the following County Board of Supervisors meetings in 2019: Clinton, Benton, Tama, Marshall, Story, Boone, and Greene and at the following City Council Meetings: Clinton, Belle Plaine, Marshalltown, Colo, Nevada, Boone, Ogden, Grand Junction, Jefferson, and Scranton.

Keeping up with Changes to the Road, Signage, and other Issues

Per our agreement with the DOT, we are working to make sure all the byway signs are installed. There are about 1200 across the state. A bridge across the Wapsi River was closed by the county and that section will become a "loop" instead. The signs in Grand Mound were moved over one block to trace the correct route of the Lincoln Highway. A "loop" was approved in State Center, taking the motorist past the restored gas station, now the home of the State Center Police. Signage issues were also addressed in Dunlap, Missouri Valley, Woodbine, Marshall County, Cedar County, Boone County, and Tama County.

PRI also reviewed DOT plans for changes to the Lincoln Highway in Cedar and Clinton Counties and we're happy to learn they propose a "super 2" which gives an added lane in certain sections to allow for slower traffic to move to the right and allow faster traffic to pass by unhindered.

In the LHHB Corridor Management Plan, a large Sycamore tree at the corner of Lincoln Way and University Blvd in Ames, near the Iowa State University campus, was identified as being an important resource. We researched the history of the tree and talked with professionals at ISU and with the Ames City Forester about protective or honorary lists. There are none. We will continue to monitor the health of this tree.

Marketing

The Iowan magazine did a feature article on the Lincoln Highway in their March/April 2019 issue.

PRI wrote a blog for the Prairie Rivers of Iowa website.

One of our more interesting conversations on Facebook was when we did a shout out to Taylor's Maid-Rites in Marshalltown. One person commented that they cannot get them in Hawaii. Taylor's will only ship to the continental U.S. We contacted Taylor's and they researched cost to ship, which we relayed to the woman in Hawaii, who wanted to get them for her elderly father. Not sure how it all ended but made for an interesting exchange.

The LHHB maintains its own Facebook page and from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, we saw an increase in followers from 1,176 to 1,428 and an increase in "likes" from 1,190 to 1,431. Our "reach" spiked to 4,523 in August when the MVPA came through and PRI posted our videos of their convoy.

Looking to the New Year

The LHHB Advisory Board meeting was held on 5/1 in Colo to discuss plans for the coming year; met again on 11/14 in Missouri Valley to discuss what was accomplished in 2019 and planning for 2020.

PRI received notice at the end of the year, that we received an Iowa Tourism grant to create two-two minute videos about breweries, wineries, and distilleries. The U of I Cinematic Department will help develop these videos.

We close out the year by looking towards 2020 and are writing several community foundation grants for additional interpretive panels to tell the Lincoln Highway history.

Lincoln Highway Collaborators and Partners

With a focus on community projects, the program works to improve the quality of life for Iowans in communities along the route, as well as enhance the experience for travelers along the Byway. The program is committed to the conservation, preservation and responsible use of all the byway's natural, historical, cultural and community resources.

- Allegra Marketing
- American Legion, Belle Plaine (Jennings-Bradshaw Post #39)
- American Legion, Boone (Arthur Lantz Post #56)
- American Legion, Carroll (Maurice Dunn Post #7)
- American Legion, Clarence (Victory Post #286)
- American Legion, Colo (Post #139)
- American Legion, Denison (Post #8)
- American Legion, Dow City (Post #444)
- American Legion, Marshalltown (Francis Glick Post #36)
- American Legion, Vail (Post #65)
- Ames Noon Lions Club
- Belle Plaine Area Museum
- Belle Plaine Partners for Beautification
- Benton County Community Foundation
- Bickelhaupt Arboretum
- Bloomsbury Farm
- Bob and Joyce Ausberger
- Boji Spirit Center
- Boone County Conservation
- Boone County Board of Supervisors
- Carroll County Conservation
- Center Grove Orchard
- City of Boone
- City of Grand Junction
- City of Ogden
- City of Montour
- City of Nevada
- City of Scranton
- City of State Center
- City of Tama
- City of Woodbine
- Clinton Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Crawford County Conservation Board
- Cronk's Cafe
- Deal's Orchard
- Denison Chamber of Commerce
- DeWitt Chamber and Development Company
- Donna Reed Foundation
- Ericson Public Library, Boone
- Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center
- Frickeville Antiques
- Golden Hills RC&D
- Greene County Board of Supervisors
- Greene County Chamber of Commerce
- Greene County Lincoln Highway Museum and Garden
- Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center
- Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum
- Hunter Davis, Eagle Scout
- Iowa Byways Coalition
- Iowa Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers
- Iowa DOT, Kimball Olson - Aesthetic Bridge Designer
- Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
- Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission
- Iowa State Fair
- Iowa Tourism
- Iowa Valley RC&D
- Iowa Welcome Center, Davis City
- Iowa Welcome Center, Wilton
- Iowa Welcome Center, Underwood
- JAX Outdoor Gear
- John 315 Vineyard
- Let's Play Bounce
- Lincoln Café
- Lincoln Highway Association
- Lincoln Highway Bridge Park
- Lincoln Highway Trading Company
- Lincoln Valley Golf Course
- Lincoln Winebar
- Loess Hills Lavender Farm
- Mahanay Bell Tower
- Marshalltown Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Main Street- Clarence
- Main Street- Woodbine
- Main Street- Nevada
- Military Vehicle Preservation Association
- Nevada Betterment Committee
- Nevada Lincoln Highway Days Committee
- Niland's Café and Colo Motel
- Parks to People
- Pathfinders RC&D
- Perfect Games
- Preston's Station Historic District
- Queen Anne Bed and Breakfast
- Reiman Gardens
- RVP-1875
- Santa Maria Vineyard and Winery
- Seven Oaks
- Spinning Wheels
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Tama County Community Foundation
- The Lucky Pig
- The Sawmill Museum
- Tiffany's Tipton Bakery
- Top of Iowa Welcome Center
- Travel Iowa
- Union Pacific Railroad Museum
- University of Iowa
- Visit Mount Vernon-Lisbon
- Wesley and Irene Mansfield Charitable Foundation
- Westside Community Development Corporation
- Whistle Stop Café
- Wickiup Hill (Linn County Conservation)
- Wild Rose Casino and Resort (Jefferson)
- Youngville Highway History Association



WATERSHEDS & WATERWAYS REPORT



David Stein

Watershed Coordinator
2019-Present



Kayla Bergman

Watershed Coordinator
2013-2019



Abby Brayton

Watershed Assistant



Mike Brandrup

Forestry and Land
Management Specialist



Dan Haug

Watershed Educator

Conservation Assessment and Planning

- Began compiling and mapping publically available Species of Greatest Conservation Need records within the upper South Skunk River Watershed.
- Mapped potential habitat corridors (“flyways”) between public preserves, and reached out to private landowners to encourage native plantings that would benefit the endangered rusty patched bumblebee and other species.
- Mapped potential conservation practices in the Lake Creek Watershed for Calhoun SWCD using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework.
- Mapped potential conservation practices in the Deep Creek Watershed for Plymouth SWCD using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework.
- Supported the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors quarterly meetings.

Conservation Practices

- As part of our small landowner assistance program, met with thirteen small farmers and rural landowners to walk their land and provide technical assistance. Discussions included erosion concerns, timber management, maintenance of CRP plantings, selecting a conservation practice, and cost-share programs.
- Assisted Hamilton County Conservation Board and Pheasants Forever with prairie and savanna management.
- Created blueprints for two pollinator gardens for residential homeowners in the City of Ames.
- Began a native plant seed bank that provided residents with native seeds to create habitat for pollinators, wildlife, and to improve water quality.

Fundraising

- Awarded \$3500 from Alliant Energy for watershed education.
- Awarded \$3500 REAP Education Grant to partner with E Resources Group, LLC on water testing and education.
- Awarded contracts from Plymouth and Calhoun County Soil and Water Conservation Districts for GIS services.
- \$83,933 in cash and in-kind contributions pledged from 4 partners (Story County Conservation, City of Ames, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and Story County Community Foundation) to support development of a 10-year water monitoring plan.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Organized two water monitoring events in partnership with the Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition, with participation increasing from seventeen in spring to twenty-eight in fall.
- Tested water quality and surveyed aquatic invertebrates in West Indian Creek.
- Petitioned for the inclusion of Squaw Creek and East Indian Creek on Iowa's 2018 Impaired Waters List, using E. coli data collected by Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Story County Conservation, and the City of Ames.
- Interpreted water quality data from the South Skunk River and its tributaries through a series of blog posts and public presentations.



Education and Outreach

- Organized a field day at the Kamrar Wildlife Area in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), the Hamilton County Conservation Board, the Iowa Agricultural Mitigation Bank, Legacy Learning Boone River Valley, and Pheasants Forever. Fourteen attendees participated and learned about wetland conservation.
- Organized a field day at Upstill Park and Murken Farm in Gilbert and Moore Memorial Park in Ames in partnership with Iowa State University Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and The Xerces Society. Twenty-three attendees participated and learned about prairie restoration and pollinator habitat.
- Gave presentations on our conservation initiatives, water quality, and pollinators at eight events reaching 140 people. These included student organizations and seminars at Iowa State University, the Ames Lions Club, Trout Unlimited, and a water summit hosted by the Izaak Walton League.
- Visited classrooms at Ames High School, South Hamilton High School, United Elementary School, and the Community Academy Summer Experience, providing discussion and hands-on lessons about water quality and conservation to 160 K-12 students. This included the development of an original lesson plan about conservation practices aligned to next generation science standards.
- Demonstrated the benefits of soil health to over 300 adults and 300 youth at the Boone Family STEM Festival, Ames Eco Fair, and Story County Fair. We used a rainfall simulator to show how a soil with higher organic matter (no-till versus plowed field, or healthy lawn versus new development) acts like a sponge, and then gave away sponges to reinforce the message!
- Additional presentations were made to the Iowa State University Biological Sciences Club, Iowa State University Soil and Water Conservation Club, Izaak Walton League of America, and Trout Unlimited North Bear Chapter.

Watershed Collaborators and Partners

One of the distinguishing elements of Prairie Rivers' programs is our ability to collaborate with other organizations and sponsors. We bring the right people, ideas and experience to the table and move projects and initiatives forward. We are honored to have collaborated with the following organizations and are grateful for our distinguished sponsors and their financial support.



- Alliant Energy Foundation
- Boone County Conservation Board
- Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District
- City of Ames
- City of Gilbert
- City of Stanhope
- Clean Water Iowa
- Hamilton County Conservation Board
- Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Hamilton County Pheasants Forever
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Iowa Agricultural Mitigation Inc.
- Iowa Agricultural Water Alliance
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Environmental Education Coalition
- Iowa Learning Farms
- Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium
- Iowa Native Plant Society
- Iowa Pollinator Working Group
- Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
- Iowa State University - Translational Research Network (U-TuRN)
- ISU Field Extension Education Lab
- Legacy Learning Boone River Valley
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National 4-H Council/4-H Ag Innovators Experience Presented by Bayer
- Practical Farmers of Iowa
- Prairie Moon Nursery
- Prairie Nursery
- Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS)
- Shooting Star Native Seeds
- Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition
- Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors
- Stock Seed Farms
- Story County Board of Supervisors
- Story County Community Foundation
- Story County Conservation Board
- Story County Soil and Water Conservation District
- US Water Alliance
- Walmart
- The Xerces Society



ADMINISTRATIVE & MARKETING REPORT



Mike Kellner

Marketing Coordinator
Fall 2018 - Present



Jackson Donels

Marketing Assistant
Summer 2019 - Present



Carman Rosburg

Office Manager



Penny Brown-Huber

Executive Director

2019 Accomplishments:

Marketing

- Maintained organizational social media channels administration, and created and published social media posts and associated photography and infographics. Channels included Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.
- Designed and produced program and event flyers and info sheets.
- Provided photography and videography (including editing and processing) for in-house and partnered programming.
- Produced and distributed press releases for new staff and grant announcements and events.
- Created content and maintained organizational website www.prrcd.org.
- Tracked all organizational analytics for social media and website reach. Conducted continued assessment, formulated and implemented strategies based on reach and communication goals.
- Assisted with contracted clients on events, brochures, website updates, annual meeting and training session communication, and publicity needs. This included a website redesign and implementation and video production for Iowa Agricultural Mitigation Inc., and the creation and implementation of a new website for Technical Service Provider Network.
- Conducted Prairie Rivers of Iowa branding retreat and instruction, refined elevator speech, and began refinement and implementation.
- Designed logo and return card for Friends of Conservation fundraising promotion.

Administrative

- Provided bookkeeping, fiscal management, and payroll services to small businesses and non-profit organizations.
- Provided strategic planning facilitation for a resource and conservation development non-profit organization.

Marketing involves many activities and strategies to share the message of Prairie Rivers of Iowa, along with raising our profile in the communities where we work today.



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Reed Riskedahl

President

Reed joined Prairie Rivers in 2011 from Marshall County. He was elected President of the Board in 2018. Originally from rural southern Minnesota, Reed and his family have been Iowans for 38 years, with 28 of those years based in Marshalltown.

Reed has a B.S. in business. He has had extensive volunteer involvement and leadership positions in and around Marshalltown, as well as work experience in retail, service, manufacturing, construction and real estate.

Reed is active in the Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce, where he serves as the government affairs chair person. He also serves as chair person of the Marshall County Extension Council and is a Master Gardener and a Master Conservationist.



Jim Richardson

Treasurer

Jim Richardson is a grain farmer from Webster City and current Prairie Rivers of Iowa board treasurer after previously acting as president and secretary. He also serves as a member of the Iowa Agricultural Mitigation Inc. and Hamilton County Conservation boards.

He holds a B.S. and an M.S. from Iowa State University in Ag Education and Professional Ag and brings to the board experience as an Air Force pilot, agricultural banker, sales manager and college professor.

Jim is married to his wife Donna Moore, has two grown sons, three granddaughters and a grandson.



Mike Cox

Vice President

Michael Cox is the Prairie Rivers of Iowa board vice president. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University in 1992. He's been in the conservation field for 26 years has worked in non-profit and public sectors in Vermont, Alaska, and Iowa where he currently serves as the director of Story County Conservation.

He grew up on a small farm in Iowa where his values for open space and environmental quality took root. Michael sees the role of environmental health as part and parcel with social and economic health and community betterment and values providing people with opportunities for outdoor recreation.



Jan Sherwood

Secretary

Jan Sherwood has been Vice President at Shekar Engineering in Des Moines since 2003. Shekar Engineering is primarily a construction firm specializing in heavy construction. He has a degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University and brings to the Prairie Rivers of Iowa board his experience preparing client projects ranging from site development planning, residential subdivisions, road and railroad design and environmental consulting.

He has had the opportunity to have many work experiences at several places around the country as well as close to home in Ames, IA. He began at Trinity Engineering Company in Huxley as vice-president. During the 1990's, Jan was branch manager for the Ames-based environmental engineering firm Blattert and Associates. Later in the 1990's he owned Sherwood Engineering in Ames that focused on land development. He's also been a project manager in Savannah, GA and Galveston, TX working on municipal engineering projects for waste water treatment plant design, street & drainage improvements, elevated storage tank design and storm water permitting.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



David Andrews

Board Member

David Andrews grew up on a diversified grain and livestock family farm operation near Melbourne, Iowa where he continues an active management role. He's done agricultural consulting work in Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Tanzania and has managed large agricultural projects in Romania and the Philippines.

Most recently, he retired as executive director of the nonprofit Michael Fields Agricultural Institute whose focus is education, research, and policy initiatives to promote organic agriculture in East Troy, Wisconsin.

David and his wife and daughter have moved back close to the family farm in Ames, Iowa. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees from Iowa State University and is currently managing director of AgHound, LLC where he stays busy consulting with conventional and organic farmers.



Kelly Foss

Board Member

Kelly Foss has been the executive director of The Downtown Farmers' Market in Des Moines since 2000 and brings to the Prairie Rivers of Iowa Board her experience of advancing the market's development while giving encouragement and training to hundreds of local entrepreneurs, growers and artisans.

She also serves on the Farmers Market Coalition Board of Directors and connects communities to the health, social and economic benefits of farmers markets and related causes sharing her knowledge by leading educational workshops, speaking at conferences and networking with advocates across the country.

Kelly lives in Des Moines with her family and in her spare time enjoys visiting farmers markets, cycling, yoga and Hawkeye football.



Linda Murken

Board Member

Linda is a lifelong resident of Story County and still lives on her family's farm west of Gilbert with her husband, Jim Noland. She is the chair of the Story County Board of Supervisors, has served on the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission, is past president of the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County, was a founding president of the Gilbert/Franklin Township Fire and Rescue Agency and has volunteered and served on the board of ACCESS (local victim advocacy agency).



Bob Ausberger

Board Member

Bob Ausberger grew up on a farm north of Jefferson and attended school there. He went on to teach 7th and 8th graders after graduating from the University of Iowa. After teaching for four years, he returned to Greene County to farm. Bob has always been interested in soil and water conservation which led him to begin no-till farming in the late 1980's. His son David currently works the farm which is still 100% no-till along with other conservation practices including terraces, contours, cover crops, a mile of buffer strips along Buttrick Creek, tree planting along the creek, wetland establishment and using compost for soil health. David also works with the Iowa Soybean Association to monitor water leaving the farm. Bob and his wife Joyce also have a daughter, Susan Hawthorne, who is married to a Calhoun County farmer.

His interests include the Lincoln Highway and since 1990 has been actively educating the public of its importance. He helped form the Greene County Lincoln Highway Association, the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the national Lincoln Highway Association.



Erwin Klaas

Board Member

Erv Klaas lives in Ames, and is a founding member of Prairie Rivers of Iowa and has served on the board since its beginning. He is currently a member of the executive board of the Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition, member of Friends of Ada Haden Heritage Park, member of the Iowa Environmental Council, an Ames Climate Action Team member and serves on the advisory committee for the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust.

He retired in 1999 as a wildlife biologist with the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey after 30 years of federal service. He grew up on a bottomland farm along the Mississippi River in eastern Missouri and received his Bachelor of Science in wildlife conservation in 1956 from the University of Missouri, and in 1963 and 1970 respectively, earned a master's and doctorate in zoology from Kansas University.



Eric Nielsen

Board Member

Eric Nielsen is a resident of Hardin County and is active in local government as a city council-person for Steamboat Rock. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from Iowa State University and is a self-employed forester for Resource Services.

He brings to the Prairie Rivers of Iowa board his experience in planting, maintaining, marketing, assessing, and phytoremediation of native grass establishment, resource management and forest products.

PRAIRIE RIVERS OF IOWA STAFF



Mike Brandrup
Forestry & Land
Management Specialist
2012 - 2019



Abby Brayton
Watershed Assistant
2018 - 2019



Penny Brown-Huber
Executive Director
2011 - Present



Jackson Donels
Marketing Assistant
2019 - Present



Jan Gammon
Lincoln Highway Heritage
Byway Coordinator
2015 - Present



Kayla Hasper
Watershed Coordinator
Fall 2013 - 2019



Dan Haug
Watershed Educator
2017 - Present



Mike Kellner
Public Relations &
Marketing Coordinator
2018 - Present



Meredith Ponder
Lincoln Highway Heritage
Byway Assistant
2015 - 2019



Carman Rosburg
Office Manager
2005 - Present



David Stein
Watershed Coordinator
2019 - Present



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