



**COMMUNITY VISIONING: SCOTCH GROVE  
BIOREGIONAL MAPPING  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 16 February 2022

Meeting Location: ZOOM

Report Prepared: 17 February 2022

**ATTENDEES PRESENT**

Nick McGrath, Trees Forever (Meeting Host)  
Charlie Becker, Camp Courageous  
Alex Priest, Seelman Landscape Architecture  
Brett Seelman, Seelman Landscape Architecture  
Bob Helgens, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Brandon Schrader, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
David Naylor, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Glenn Tobiason, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Kylie Algers, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Lance Webber, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Mary Beth Helgens, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Paul Helgens, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Nick McGrath begins meeting at 15:30. Attendees introduced themselves, virtually. Nick discusses the schedule for this meeting. Alex Priest shares his screen with the Bioregional Maps produced by Iowa State University. These maps are located at:  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=84424300d0884544980bc3f29f5f3e24>
2. Nick starts discussing the Historic Settlement Patterns. The group points out various names and locations on the map, including family names and church locations. Bob Helgens mentions that each town was seven miles apart because of horse and buggies travels in the area and the role the railroad played in the development of the Scotch Grove township. Glenn Tobiason reminds the group that Edinburgh was the original county seat, with a post office.
3. Next, Nick discusses the Historic Vegetation map. Glenn adds that this region was populated by Scotch and Germans; the Germans knew how to tile the bogs/wetlands west of Scotch Grove. Nick adds that the area to the east was heavy timber. Brett Seelman explains that "Savanna" is the inbetween of woodland and prairie.
4. The presentation shifts to discussing Present Day Land Cover, which the group confirms is corrects.
5. Next, is the Regional Watershed map. This map shows three watersheds. Bob discusses the role Highway 38 played in shaping this landscape. Dykes were installed along the highway and redirected some of the surrounding creeks. The group discusses that Scotch Grove used to have a flood drain in town that would sometimes overflow. They also discuss the artesian well that is southeast of town.
6. Depth to the Water Table is the next map. David Naylor adds that west of Scotch Grove is the lowest point; shallowest depth to the water table. The area around the Bolster brick building would sometimes flood. The group also discusses the iron bridge which used to lead into town. Charlie Becker adds that Camp Courageous does not have many water issues, the same for Pictured Rock County Park. The group concludes that there is flooding when Monticello floods.

## S.LA \ SEELMAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



7. Next, Nick shifts to the Elevation and Flow map. Bob discusses that he has been thinking about trails, and other potentials community members want to see in this township: connecting Scotch Grove to Pictured Rock County Park, Monticello, and Camp Courageous, which is three miles away driving; two miles “as the crow flies.”
8. Alex Priest then shares several maps of the Indigenous nations that are/were on this land. These maps are located at: <https://native-land.ca> and <https://land.codeforanchorage.org>. He concludes that we should acknowledge these tribes as part of the story of Scotch Grove and within Bioregional Mapping. Additional information about these maps is located here: <https://www.gislounge.com/mapping-native-lands/>.
9. After discussing the Bioregional Maps, Nick discusses the upcoming Focus Groups. The Steering Committee reminded the group that April 9 is the Market Day at Scotch Grove and could be an opportunity to get people to sign up and build consensus for the Focus Groups. The Focus Groups are scheduled for April 23, 9am-12pm. Nick reminds that the Focus Groups need 6-12 participants per group and that an Iowa State intern will be onsite to help. Nick will provide flyers to be distributed. Alex and Nick will update the Scotch Grove website for Community Visioning with links for signup, flyers, and links to Social Media. Alex will also work with Mary Beth Helgens on connecting with area churches and newspapers with Focus Group information. Alex will work with Bob to set up social media to archive the Community Visioning process and as an outpost for community input.
10. Nick concludes with a reminder that the next meeting will be in June and that the design phase will follow.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 16:40.