

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Bluffs Business Center
Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Brent Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Meyer welcomed all members and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present:

Kevin Adams
Ryan Chapman
Mark Czaplewski
Brent Meyer
Arden Wohlers
Dave Zorn

Mike Sarchet
Larry Heyen
Mike Reed
Patrick O'Brien
Dr. Shuhai Zheng
Charles Brooks

Task Force members absent:

Dr. Tala Awada
Rich Tesar
Rodney Ely
John Erixson

Matt Lukasiewicz
Tammy Zimmerman
Roderick Imm
TJ Walker

Guests:

Steven Jara, Nebraska Forest Service
Mark Brohman, Nebraska Environmental Trust

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin
Joe Edwards

2. Review and Approval of December 19, 2018 Minutes:

Czaplewski moved to approve the minutes, Sarchet second, motion carried.

3. Old Business:

- a. RVMTF Fact Sheet – Mitch handed out the fact sheet (attached) that was created. Members are encouraged to review and provide comments and suggestions.
- b. Task Force Vacancies – Mitch reported that Dave Zorn (Middle Platte) and TJ Walker (Game & Parks) have been appointed by the Governor. Mark Brohman (Nebraska Environmental Trust) has submitted his application and is waiting for confirmation from the Governor's office.

4. New Business:

- a. Grant Fund Balance – Mitch reported that there were no disbursements from the grand fund since last meeting. (43.9% (\$200,115.74) has been spent. The remaining balance 56.1% (\$255,884.26) will need to be utilized by June 30, 2019.)
- b. 2019/20 Grant Proposals – Meyer had solicited proposals from projects statewide as to their need for funding in FY19/20. He provided a handout (attached) outlining that there is a need for \$898,000.00 with a projected \$792,400.00 in cash match. Members agreed that state funding is necessary to be used as leverage for additional funding sources. Brohman state PIE grants up to \$3,000.00 are available. PIE Grants support the presentation and dissemination of information and perspectives that will stimulate enhanced environmental stewardship in any category eligible for Trust funding.

5. Work Groups

a. Goals, Objectives, and Reports

Continue with current document until updates are needed. Add Dave Zorn to this work group in place of Don Kraus.

b. Vegetation Management and Treatment

No report at this time.

c. Survey and Monitoring

Need to explore what data or imagery is available. There are a number of groups or agencies that may have aerial data but need to find out what is available and how it could be used regarding invasive plants. There are concerns of how the recent flooding will impact the landscape in the flooded areas. Will this event uncover new weed problems as well as deposit weeds in areas that were not previously affected. New infestations might not be noticed for several years.

d. Education and Awareness

Heyen would like to join the Education and Awareness work group. Sarchet stressed the need to get FFAs involved regionally and statewide. Next steps, what type of projects are needed by each WMA where local FFA chapters may be able to help? A few task force members will meet following this meeting to begin to draft a document that could be sent to the state FFA office for consideration.

e. Funding and Incentive

What other sources for funding are available. Meyer asked members to forward any grant opportunities to the task force group.

f. Vegetation Water Use

Zheng will contact Awada to see if any new information is available.

Public Comment - There was no one present for public comment.

Open Discussion

Nine Mile Creek Presentation – Becky McMillen, Insight Creative Independent Productions presented a new video she is creating regarding Nebraska's river systems.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on June 19 - 20, in the Norfolk area. Meeting Adjourned

Adams moved, Reed seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.