

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2017
Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center
Alda, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Brent Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Meyer introduced Brice Krohn, Vice President of the Crane Trust. Brice gave a welcome and overview of the Crane Trust property and their mission to provide habitat for sandhill crane and other wildlife species. Meyer welcomed all members and asked for introductions. Task Force members present:

Mike Clements
Dr. Scott Josiah
Matt Lukasiewicz
Brent Meyer
Larry Heyen
Dr. Shuhai Zheng
Arden Wohlers
Mike Sarchet
Kevin Adams

Roderick Imm
Brian Crabtree
Greg Ibach
Rich Tesar
Karie Decker
Ryan Chapman
Mark Czaplewski
Don Kraus
Rodney Ely

Task Force members absent:

Dr. Tala Awada
Gloria Erickson

Patrick O'Brien

Guests:

Rich Walters
John Erixson

Merle Illian

NDA Staff:

Tammy Zimmerman

Mitch Coffin

2. Review and Approval of March 8, 2017 Minutes:

Tesar moved to approve the minutes with two changes, (add Mark Czaplewski present at the meeting and change the wording in #4 to read, "helped save 67 million". Czaplewski second, motion carried.

3. Old Business:

Meyer asked if there was any old business to discuss. No old business.

4. New Business:

Meyer asked if there was any new business to discuss. No new business.

5. Weed Management Area Reports:

Rich Walters, Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA) gave an overview of the activities of the PVWMA since 2008. (Handout attached)

Merle Illian, Twin Valley Weed Management Area (TVWMA) gave an overview of the activities of the TVWMA since 2007. (Handout attached)

6. During lunch the members discussed activities that have taken place by the previous Task Force. Ibach reported that the Legislature appropriated \$475,000.00 for grants in FY17/18. He also stressed that cash match and in-kind are important when applying for grant funding.

7. Work Group Discussion & Review:

Members discussed and reviewed the Work Group document presented by Meyer. He explained these are the same work groups that were developed by the original Task Force.

The members felt that all the work groups listed are valuable and agreed to keep them all. Task Force members should send Mitch an email requesting which work group(s) they would like to be involved with. Meyer asked the members to compile a list of other agencies or people outside the Task Force to serve on work groups.

Meyer suggested that the next meeting be held in Chadron, July 27. This date and location would enable Task Force members to attend the Leafy Spurge Task Force Tour & Conference to be held in Chadron on July 25-26, if they wish. The members agreed with the idea to spread the meetings around the state.

8. Meeting adjourned.