

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2023
10:00 a.m. CST
VITUAL**

1. Call to order – TJ Walker called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Task Force Members Present:

Ryan Chapman
Tammy Zimmerman
Nate Munter
Dr. Tala Awada

TJ Walker
Steven Jara for John Erixson
Dr. Shuhai Zheng
Brent Meyer

Task Force Members Absent:

Mike Reed
Dave Zorn
Larry Heyen
Dennis VanWey

Rich Tesar
David Carr
Kevin Adams
Mike Sarchet

Guest:

None

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin
Trevor Johnson

2. Review and Approval of March 16, 2023, Minutes:

Meyer moved to approve the minutes, Chapman second, motion carried.

3. Grant Process:

Walker started the discussion on how the grant process works and how could the Task Force be more involved. Mitch reported that the current way of processing grants is the way it has been done since the beginning. He followed-up by saying that doesn't make it right or wrong. Zimmerman expressed a concern if are Task Force members directly or indirectly involved. Would that appear to

favor one project over another? Is there a need for a detailed summary or spreadsheet of reimbursement to projects that the Task Force could receive?

4. 22/23 Grant Cash Summary - Mitch had emailed the cash summary of the 22/23 grant funds to all members. As of today 68.6% of the funds have been utilized with 31.4% remaining. He said that many of the projects are doing work now and he expects a large portion to be reimbursed in the upcoming month.
5. 23/24 Grant Update - Trevor reported that five projects have been approved by the Director to partially fund five projects. Contracts will be prepared and sent out.
6. Open Discussion – Walker reported that a new Nebraska Invasive Species Coordinator will be hired. There is some thought that this person could also serve as a Statewide WMA Coordinator. This all depends on current and future funding.

Meyer updated members on the 2023 NAISMA Conference to be held in Lincoln.

Walker stated that Game & Parks received a 4-million-dollar grant, America the Beautiful Challenge grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Next Meeting is tentatively set for the week of September 11.

Meeting Adjourned.