

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2019  
Lower Republican NRD  
Alma, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Brent Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:03 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  
Dr. Tala Awada  
Mark Brohman for John Orr

Mike Sarchet  
Rich Tesar  
Mike Reed  
TJ Walker  
Dr. Shuhai Zheng  
Charles Brooks  
Rodney Ely  
Steven Jara for John Erixson

Task Force members absent:

Patrick O'Brien  
Tammy Zimmerman  
Roderick Imm  
John Orr

Matt Lukasiewicz  
Larry Heyen  
John Erixson

Guests:

Merle Illian – TVWMA  
Jim Bowen – SWWMA  
Dennis VanWey - TVWMA

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin  
Tim Stortz

2. Review and Approval of March 19, 2019 Minutes:

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

3. Old Business:

- a. RVMTF Fact Sheet – Awada asked if there were any corrections or additions to the fact sheet. She asked that comments be sent to her.

4. New Business:

- a. Grant Fund Balance – Mitch provided a handout (attached) of the FY18/19 grant fund balance. 69.7% (\$317,803.06) has been spent. The remaining balance 30.3% (\$138,196.94) will need to be utilized by June 30, 2019.)
- b. FY19/20 Grant – Application notice and instructions will be sent out on Friday, June 21. There is \$456,000.00 available for riparian projects.
- c. Meyer reported that the Nebraska Weed Control Association approved up to three \$500 scholarships for local FFA chapters for riparian projects. The hope is that they would partner with a local WMA. Sarchet would like to see local NRDs to partner with local FFA. Brohman stated that PIE grants from Nebraska Environmental Trust would be a good fit.

5. Weed Management Area Update

Merle Illian, project coordinator Twin Valley Weed Management Area (TVWMA) provided two handouts (attached). One being a funding summary since 2006 and a summary of projects completed. Merle stated that county participation is critical for success. The county weed superintendent needs to be the first contact with landowners and to build relationships with these landowners. Merle also stated that the Republican River drops about 4 feet per mile.

Jim Bowen, new project coordinator for the Southwest Weed Management Area (SWWMA) gave a brief history of Harlan County Reservoir. SWWMA plans to increase projects on the upper Republican River. They plan to work with and partner with Twin Valley Weed Management Area. Currently they are focusing on increasing county involvement and making contact with landowners whom boarder the Republican River and its tributaries to increase awareness throughout this stretch of the river.

## 6. Work Groups

### a. Goals, Objectives, and Reports

Continue with current document until updates are needed.

### b. Vegetation Management and Treatment

Members are concerned with the recent flooding in several river basins. Many areas have been impacted outside of the river and stream channels. Will task force funding be available for these areas that are so far from the channel? The initial impact may not be known for several years. The flooding has certainly changed the entire flood zone in many areas. Awada will reach out to someone at UNL for some possible imagery that may aid in future planning. Another concern is the amount of hay and forage that has been shipped in from other states. Producers need to be vigilant and deal with possible new weed problems that may have come in hay.

### c. Survey and Monitoring

Aerial survey on the Lower Platte and its tributaries is scheduled for July 8. So far they have been finding phragmites in several stages of growth. This is due to some areas being flooded. Platte Valley Weed Management area just completed some survey and treatment work in the Central Platte.

### d. Education and Awareness

Was discussed during new business. Walker stated that Game & Parks would like to be involved.

### e. Funding and Incentive

Need to look for additional funding sources. Walker said that Game & Parks may be able to assist with projects involving invasive species only.

### f. Vegetation Water Use

Awada has information of vegetation water use on several plants. She plans to have a one page document for the next meeting but reminds everyone that it will show an average.

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

## Open Discussion

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 18. Meyer suggested to keep the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> open for a possible tour one day or the other. Possible meeting sites, Mead Research Center, North central or northeast Nebraska or North Platte.

## Meeting Adjourned

Sarchet moved, Adams seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.