

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2022
9:30 a.m. CST
Hubbard Training Center
Niobrara Valley Preserve
Johnstown, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Mike Reed called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Reed welcomed all members and guests and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present:

Jesse Bradly for Dr. Shuhai Zheng	Mike Reed
Dave Zorn	Nate Munter

Task Force members absent:

John Orr	David Carr
James Skavdahl	John Erixson
Tammy Zimmerman	Larry Heyen
Kevin Adams	Ryan Chapman
Dennis VanWey	Mike Sarchet
Brent Meyer	TJ Walker
Dr. Tala Awada	Rich Tesar

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin

Guest:

Scott Erthum

2. Review and Approval of March 17, 2022, Minutes:

Zorn moved to approve the minutes, Bradly second, motion carried.

3. Old Business:

A job description for a statewide weed management area coordinator is being formalized and plan to present it to the director and the Legislature. This position

would work with and inform non-active counties and coordinate all Weed Management Areas projects.

4. New Business:

a. 22/23 Grant Funds

Mitch reported that the Grant notice was disseminated on May 9, and six applications were received by the May 27, deadline totaling \$2,680,295.50. The grant awards were to be announced on June 24, but to date this has not been done.

b. 21/22 Grant Summary

Mitch reported that to date \$569,425.44 (87.4%) of the \$641,179.00 has been spent. All expenses need to occur on or before June 30, 2022.

5. Task Force Involvement in Grant Rollout:

Members expressed a concern that they would like to be involved in the scoring of applications and awarding grants. They believe they would feel more connected and engaged in the whole process.

6. Public Comment:

None

7. Yellowflag Iris:

Scott Erthum, Brown County Weed Control, reported that he found a large infestation of yellowflag iris in Long Pine State Park and a cabin development called Hidden Paradise. Scott found what he believed is the source on Long Pine Creek. He provided education and awareness to the adjoining landowners and the property owner where he believes the infestation started. All property owners were cooperative and allowed Scott to apply treatments to the infested areas. In cooperation with the property owners, he will continue to monitor the situation. Scott has received positive reaction from everyone involved.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September 22, possibly in the southwest area of the state. Reed will contact Southwest Weed Management.

Meeting adjourned.