

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2017  
Dawes County Fair Grounds  
Chadron, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Brent Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Meyer welcomed all members and asked for introductions. Task Force members present:

Don Kraus  
John Erixson  
Rich Tesar  
Dr. Shuhai Zheng  
Kevin Adams

Patrick O'Brien  
Brent Meyer  
Larry Heyen  
Arden Wohlers  
Rodney Ely

Task Force members absent:

Dr. Tala Awada  
Gloria Erickson  
Matt Lukasiwicz  
Mike Clements  
Mark Czaplewski  
Roderick Imm

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Greg Ibach  
Mike Sarchet  
Karie Decker  
Ryan Chapman

Guests:

Dan Wordekemper  
Rod Stolcpart

Kristi Paul  
Jeff Schledewitz

NDA Staff:

Tammy Zimmerman  
Mitch Coffin

Jeff Lampmann

2. Review and Approval of May 31, 2017 Minutes:

Wohlers moved to approve the minutes, Kraus 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. Tesar offered to host the next meeting. The date will be October 5, 2017 near Waterloo. More details will follow.

5. Work Group Discussion – Next Steps

Meyer complimented the members who have signed up to serve on a work group. He stressed the importance of these work groups to assist the task force as they develop strategies to combat invasive plant species in riparian areas.

a. Goals, Objectives, and Reports

NDA submitted the annual report on behalf of the Task Force which was due on June 30, 2017. This report is attached.

Members agreed that goals need to be established and guide the work groups. It was suggested setting annual, two, five and ten year goals. There is a constant need for landowners to continue control efforts with on-going follow-up treatments to maintain effective control. It was suggested that the nine mile creek project needs to be discussed in the future. This was maybe the first joint partnership of this kind to take place in the state.

Members – Don Kraus, Mark Czaplewski

Others -

b. Vegetation Management and Treatment

Tesar stated that he would like to serve on this group. He says there is a need to control vegetation and brush on high sandbars which would prevent them from turning into islands. Lower water flows is a perfect environment for sandbars to become infested with invasive vegetation.

Members asked how many NRD's are active statewide. Mitch will send a request to WMAs and ask how much support they receive from their NRD.

Members – John Erixson, Game & Parks, Tala Awada, Rich Tesar, Kevin Adams.

Others – NRCS?

c. Survey and Monitoring

Members would like information from each WMA regarding survey and monitoring since 2007. It was suggested that committee members need to visit sites first hand to get a feel for what is taking place and the challenges' that each WMA faces. This work group should contact WMAs to schedule site visits. There is a continual concern regarding upland infestations that are not being controlled and drain into the riparian areas re-infesting previously treated areas. Members – Rich Tesar, Rod Ely, Forest Service, Game & Parks, Brent Meyer, Kevin Adams, Larry Heyden  
Others –

d. Education and Awareness

Committee needs to explore what education and awareness activities are taking place by each WMA. Who is their target audience and how are they achieving education and awareness. Are they using local youth groups, FFA, 4H etc? Have WMAs utilized the Nebraska Environmental Trust PIE grants? Erixson stated that the Forest Service, Conservation Coordinator may be able to assist. Members – Ryan Chapman, Mike Sarchet, Rod Ely, Rod Imm, Brent Meyer  
Others – Bob Wilson

e. Funding and Incentive

Funding projects in riparian areas is always a challenge. Landowners need to take ownership of their problems. County Weed Control Authorities need to be more aggressive in dealing with noxious weed infestations. Meyer stressed to not rule out any source for possible funding or assistance. Members – Mike Sarchet, Matt Lukasiewicz, Arden Wohlers  
Others –

f. Streambed Ownership

Task Force members are concerned that this task is too large since most landowners, citizens and recreationalist may not support the idea. Members – Matt Lukasiewicz  
Others –

g. Vegetation Water Use

It is a well-known fact that plants use water. There are miss leading reports regarding how much water plants actually use. Zheng will attempt to collect some data.

Members – Shuhai Zheng

Others –

Meyer stressed the importance that work groups need to schedule their own meetings to discuss what each work group would like to bring forward to the Task Force. Work groups are also encouraged to seek out additional members outside the Task Force to provide input. Only two work groups have identified additional members.

Working Lunch – Group Exchange

Weed Management Area Reports

- a. PRIDE Weed Management Area – Kristi Paul  
(PowerPoint Presentation Attached)
- b. Middle Niobrara Weed Awareness Group – Rod Stolcpart  
(PowerPoint Presentation Attached)
- c. High Plains Weed Management Area – Jeff Schledewitz  
(Handout Attached)

Next meeting Thursday, October 5.

Power outage in Chadron, meeting adjourned.