

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2021  
10:00 a.m. CST  
Virtual**

1. Call to order – Mike Reed called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Reed welcomed all members and guests and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present - virtual:

Ryan Chapman  
Mike Sarchet  
Dennis VanWey  
Mike Reed  
Kevin Adams  
Zac Peterson

Brent Meyer  
Dr. Shuhai Zheng  
Dave Zorn  
TJ Walker  
Dr. Tala Awada

Task Force members absent:

John Orr  
James Skavdahl  
Tammy Zimmerman  
Rich Tesar

David Carr  
John Erixson  
Nate Munter  
Larry Heyen

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin

2. Rich Walters provided an update of the Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA). Platte Valley WMA and West Central WMA have joined to cover the Platte River from Lake McConaughy to Columbus. To date 7 million dollars has been spent on that stretch of the Platte River dramatically reducing the total acres of invasive weeds. However, he cautioned that PVWMA continues to take aggressive action outside the main channel. Most of the work is done by helicopter and airboat. The project involves 700 landowners. One helicopter is working on the east half and a second helicopter will begin on the west half around September 25, after irrigation shuts done. Cost share program to assist landowners outside the main channel. A drone has been used to spray some hard to reach areas has been successful. The North Platte choke point is being addressed to limit lowland flooding.

3. Review and Approval of June 16, 2021 Minutes:

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

4. Reed gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lower Platte project. The project starts at the Columbus bridge downstream to the Missouri River plus the Elkhorn River. To date, 90 acres had been treated. A drone is being utilized in some areas that that other applications are not possible. Previous drone work does look promising.

5. Public Comment:

None

6. Old Business:

None

7. New Business:

None

8. Open Discussion

Members commented that there appears to be more helicopters available for this type of work but are equally excited about the potential for more applications using drones. A drone has the potential to be used in sensitive areas.

Sarchet commented about regrowth of previously treated patches. There does not appear to be any education of landowners in the panhandle area.

Mitch reported that a FFA teacher reported the use of phragmites seed head stalks being used as an ornamental at a booth at Husker Harvest Days. Mitch and the local county weed control superintendent visited with the booth operator and asked that the seed heads be disposed in the trash which he did.

9. Schedule next Meeting

The December meeting will be virtual. The proposed schedule for the next four meetings is as follows.

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Thursday, June 16, 2022

September 8, 2022

Meeting adjourned.