

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2019
Horning State Farm Demonstration Forest
Plattsmouth, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Brent Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Meyer welcomed all members and guests and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present:

Ryan Chapman
Matt Lukasiewicz
TJ Walker
Dr. Shuhai Zheng
Dr. Tala Awada
Tammy Zimmerman
Larry Heyen
Mike Reed

Mike Sarchet
Brent Meyer
Arden Wohlers
Dave Zorn
John Erixson
Charles Brooks
Rich Tesar

Task Force members absent:

Patrick O'Brien
Mark Czapslewski
John Orr

Roderick Imm
Rodney Ely
Kevin Adams

Guests:

Aaron Clare
Randy Group

Andrew Zahn

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin

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

Sarchet moved to approve the minutes with one change (page 3), Tesar second, motion carried.

3. Old Business:

None

4. New Business:

a. 19/20 Grant Summary – Mitch provided a handout (attached) of the FY19/20 grant summary.

b. Meyer advised the members that their membership would expire February 2020. Those members wishing to continue on the Task Force need to reapply. Mitch will send the online application link to the members. Those members who do not plan to continue need to let Mitch know.

5. Lower Platte WMA Update

Mike Reed provided a presentation on the activities of the Lower Platte Weed Management Area (Attached). Tesar pointed out that ice jams continue to be a major problem in his area of the river. Maintenance of the river channel has helped to improve water flow. Reed stressed that funding was not available soon enough for efficient planning.

6. Work Groups

a. Goals, Objectives, and Reports

Existing document is current.

b. Vegetation Management and Treatment

Erixson reported no new update. He asked what is wanted from the work groups. There is a need to have a more refined focus. What was the impact from the recent flooding? Rowe Sanctuary recently reported that the Central Platte seemed to function well during high water events. Is there information available from USGS stream gauges or other sources? Does the Niobrara have an issue with introduced phragmites?

c. Survey and Monitoring

Survey data is an important tool for Weed Management Areas. Photograph documentation of before and after treatment really tells a good story. Are Weed Management Areas compiling this information and documentation?

d. Education and Awareness

Sarchet reported he is still pursuing FFA grant for class room projects. Water districts and NRDs may support with funding. The public seems better informed about invasive weeds but more awareness needs to be done.

Working Lunch

e. Funding and Incentive

Wohlers reported that he spent some time with the chairman of the appropriations committee recently. He stated that he is well informed. Central Platte WMA is working to create a trust to fund work on the Central Platte River. NDOT is looking for new partners for their Wetland Mitigations program.

f. Awada reported that two 1 page documents have been created. She asked if there were any new objectives needed from this group.

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. Meyer asked the members to volunteer to host. Location to be determined.

Tesar moved, Sarchet seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned