

Nebraska Invasive Species Council (NISC) Virtual Meeting Notes

Virtual Meeting Date & Time: Friday, April 8, 2022, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (CDT)

- I. **Featured Presenter:** TJ Walker (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Management Section) **Topic:** [Nebraska Great Plains Grassland Initiative \(GPGI\)](#)
 - a. Priority areas in EQIP-Use \$1.2 Million dedicated EQUIP funding going to GPGI
 - i. These funds come from the Wildlife Initiative Fund pool
 - b. \$1 million/year collectively from partners
 - c. 25% landowner match is required
 - d. America the Beautiful funding could be used for this initiative
 - e. Looking at the Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to use if that bill passes
 - f. Landowner education
 - i. Andy Bishop USFWS produced mailings
 - ii. UNL encroachment risks are highlighted on the Eastern redcedar literacy UNL website
 - iii. Will be doing some workshops likely in the future on why GPGI's efforts are important

II. NISC Coordinator Updates (Allison Zach): **See attached slides**

- The annual [North American Invasive Species Management Association will be held in](#) Lincoln, NE from 10/17/23-10/19/23. The conference has 4 concurrent tracks normally. It is a robust conference which includes 1 full day of field trip choices
- [NISC Website is being updated to improve flow and the Council's webpage](#)
- NISC Logo -the voting Council members will be presented with 4 options for logos and they will vote before the May NISP meeting to select the FINAL logo for the Council

III. Council Member Updates (including invasive species Education/Outreach, Prevention, Management, Research or Other Initiatives):

- **Melissa Panella-** The [Recovering America's Wildlife Act was voted upon and was passed out of the senate committee by](#) 15 to 5 votes. A handful of markups that people brought forward but no changes were made to the proposed legislation. The version that they reviewed did have edits in it. Minor changes did include a ramp up option in the first year would get 25% then 50% 75% then 100% of funds by year 4 going to awardees. Next the House and Senate versions have to be combined. Then vote on the House floor then Senate floor then to the president. Congress will be on recess soon then reconvene the week of the 25th of April and we will watch for a date where it can reach the floor.
- **Kristopher Stahr-** hiring 7 aquatic invasive species technicians. Starting watermilfoil management in May or June. Getting some chemical in North Platte to treat confirmed hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil. Surveying other waterbodies for the species Next month sampling for veligers and in house sample analysis will occur
- **Mitch Coffin-**noxious weed program new superintendent training was recently held
- **Steve Jara-**Hiring a forester and agroforester

- II. **Rob Schultz**-LB805 and 805 watching those and the session is closing soon funding for Nebraska rivers and streams invasive plant control. He talked with Steve Wellman about proposed changes in the noxious weed rules for non-native phragmites expressed their concerns about allowing that

IV. Public Comments-None

NISC Coordinator: Allison Zach, Email: invasives@unl.edu, Phone: (402) 472-3133, Website: <https://neinvasives.com/>

LB908 & NISC MEETING FORMAT

- LB908 - Provide additional requirements for virtual conferencing under the Open Meetings Act
- >1/2 of Council meetings could be virtual if not taken an action at meeting

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT (RAWA) UPDATE

Senate Bill: Passed out of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee markup 4/7/22 with no wording changes

- Next Floor votes on RAWA

\$17 million (not finalized) annually for At Risk Species in NGPC's State Wildlife Grant

- Nebraska Legacy Plan
- Non-game species mainly
- Senate voted on it yesterday

INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- 。 **Compile lists of regulated species**
- 。 **Identify Knowledge Gaps**
- 。 **Determine Decision Making Process**
 - What species do we need to research
 - What research is need for invasive species management

NISC MEMBER UPDATES

- Invasive Species Initiatives Including:
 - Prevention
 - Research
 - Management
 - Legislation/Regulations
- Public Comments

OUTREACH MATERIALS



PLANNING NEEDS



- UNL Centers to involve in the conferences
- Field Trips
- Special Sessions
- Topics to highlight at conference
