

Nebraska Invasive Species Council (NISC) January 14, 2022 Virtual Meeting Notes

The agenda for this meeting was placed on the [Council's webpage](#) on 1/3/22

I. Presentation on the October 2023 North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Conference in Lincoln, NE (Belle Bergner, NAISMA Executive Director)

Belle said it would be helpful to start identifying the following for the conference (Allison Zach will coordinate with NISC members and others to start identifying these items):

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

II. There are 2 bills currently in Congress named the Recovering American's Wildlife Act (RAWA): [H.R.2773 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#) & [S.2372 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#). Each bill as currently written (ACW) includes federal funds that would be awarded annually to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and to Tribes in Nebraska

- ACW if RAWA were to pass NGPC would receive \$17 million/year from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in state wildlife grants (SWG). Currently NGPC receives \$700,000/year in SWG. ACW RAWA funds require a 25% match which must be primarily non-federal
 - ACW in RAWA a certain percentage of RAWA dollars would be designated for Threatened & Endangers Species, other categories, and administrative costs
 - If RAWA were to pass ACW NGPC would have 6 months to submit a work plan, to the USFWS for approval then the RAWA dollars would come to them
- TJ Walker (NGPC Wildlife Division Assistant Administrator) stated that NGPC's Wildlife Division receives roughly \$12 million/year in [Pittman-Robertson Funds](#) (PR) currently
 - He stated that PR and SWIG could double federal dollars in the Wildlife Division if RAWA were to pass ACW

Melissa Panella (NGPC Wildlife Diversity Program Manager) said the NISC identifying the following would be helpful:

- Priority Invasive species data to collect
- General Invasive Species Research topics

- **For each item identified for the 2 bullets on Pg. 1 provide the following:**
 - Estimate of funds needed to accomplish items identified for the 2 bullets above
 - Estimates for timeframe needed, break them into 3-to-5-year blocks for items identified for 2 bullets above. NGPC is expected to put together a 5-year work plan that could be completed and to demonstrate successes in that time frame. NGPC would then report successes to the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and to congressionals.

III. Council Coordinator Updates (Allison Zach):

- We will vote for the NISC's logo at our February 11, 2022 meeting
- Allison has the following outreach/education materials contact her if you would like some at invasives@unl.edu or (402) 472-3133
 - [Spotted Lanternfly](#) Identification Cards
 - [PlayCleanGo outreach materials](#)
 - There is a new bill in the Nebraska Legislature which would allow NISC meetings to all be virtually only ([LB 908](#))

IV. Petco Aquatic Invasive Speices (AIS) Finds (Kristopher Stahr)

Kristopher went to a Petco in Nebraska and found a White Crayfish which is a [Category 1 State listed AIS in NGPC's Fisheries Regulations](#). The Crayfish came from a farm in central Arkansas. More often than not this crayfish species is likely a bycatch. He inspected Petco stores in Iowa & Nebraska 5 stores total. He found in some of the stores other crayfish species. PJAC and the USFWS has been working with Petco and PetSmart retailers since the [moss ball situation the occurred in 2021](#). Kristopher sent pictures of the crayfish he saw at the Petco stores to experts for them to identify the species. Found frogs and tad pols also-sent an email to the voting council members this week

- **NGPC Fisheries Regulation (REGS) Status:** AIS REGS were approved by the NGPC and were sent to the Attorney General's and Governor's offices for approval
- **Kristopher has 7 AIS technician positions open. Please forward the following opening to anyone that might have interest: [3 \(3 month technician positions and 4 \(7 month technitains positions\)](#)**

V. Council Member Updates

TJ Walker (NGPC) mentioned [LB 805](#) Change provisions relating to prioritization of applications and intent to appropriate funds under the Noxious Weed Control Act and [LB 953](#) Change provisions relating to open burning permits and provide limitations on liability and nuisance relating to land-management burning

Michelle Koch (NGPC) mentioned [LB 1015](#) Adopt the Perkins County Canal Project Act and the [LB 1023](#) Lake Development Act. She stated that those types of projects could be susceptible to invasive species. LB 1015 the Perkins County Canal has a direct link to the Platte River

Mitch Coffin (Nebraska Dept. of Ag)-Staff was able to do lots of Fall inspections. With the very dry weather he is concerned that a lot of invasive species weren't controlled. Upland Phragmites is becoming a real problem in most counties. Counties are doing a lot of mapping of invasive species found

Ritch Nelson (NRCS) NRCS offices throughout the state have some copies of the [Reducing Woody Encroachment in Grasslands](#) Guide

Steven Jara (NE Forest Service) Forest Service will be having virtual workshops. They have some in person interviews coming up. The Conservation Education Coordinator and a Western Area Forester will be open by the beginning of February

Julie Van Meter (NE Dept of Ag) Khapra beetle surveys are underway at 3 sites at green exporters throughout Nebraska. Those beetles are not known to occur in the US. Surveys are important to show US is free of it. Gypsy moth traps are here but not the lure. 2 gypsy moth traps 2 found in 2021 around the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas. Education and outreach efforts-many are virtual

John Thorburn (Tri-basin NRD) Platte River Resiliency Fund-real early stages looking at hiring or working with a fundraiser for that. No experience in that realm not sure how to proceed there. s

Craig Allen (UNL CRAWL)-There is a project at Bare Ranch with invasive trees to put fire in the Denton hills. There is also a extension grassland roadside woody species inventory for eastern redcedar, Honeylocust then Autumn olive

Cindy Stuefer-Powell (Nebraska USDA APHIS)- a golden paper wasp native to Chinese was found in Nebraska. In the port where the equipment came from, they found 50 wasps.

- David Nelson-is their new Director of the Nebraska USDA APHIS
- Hiring a seasonal person

Contact the NISC Coordinator with Questions or Revisions to Meeting Notes:

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