**Nebraska Invasive Species Council**

**August 12, 2022 Meeting Notes**

1. **North American Invasive Species Management Association 2023 Lincoln, NE Conference Planning**
   1. Field Trips:
      * For a field trip highlight field treatment of invasive plants using argos and airboats in river systems
      * Kris Stahr there are 14 lakes around Lincoln with Eurasian watermilfoil
      * TJ Walker-Mahoney State Park could stop there
      * Mike Reed-Could go to Spring Creek Prairie for a tour (they have woody encroachment issues)
      * Could have a tour at Homestead National monument-terrestrial prairie tour
      * Could shock for silver carp in salt creek
      * Highlight the Pioneers Park drone research on leafy spurge. There is a full time UNL person on the identification of Phragmites using drones
      * Tour on Eastern Redcedar in the saline wetland properties in BULs
      * Could have a bike tour and discuss the landscape industry. Discuss Eastern redcedar and Euonymus that are potential problems in the urban setting and who is selling what
      * Could take people to Mead on way to Mahoney
   2. **Workshops:**
      * Nebraska Forest Service workshop on woody plants. Different ways to treat forestry invasives including identification and control
      * People that want alternatives that is not Garlon or Tordon for control. How do I control plants with organic controls (woody or herbaceous species)
      * Emerald ash borer or other western edge species of concern
      * Aquatic plant management workshop- talk about how we sample and identify Eurasian watermilfoil
      * Play clean go-workshop on using the campaign in social media
      * There could be a session on invasive annual grasses and control measures
   3. **Topics to Highlight-**
      * Jumping worms, emerald ash borer, salt creek tiger beetle
      * Have someone from Penn State who can talk about spotted lanternfly research, distribution and management.
      * Woody encroachment
      * What invasive species are being sold in stores (finding moss balls and other plants being found in the garden centers)
      * Invasive aquatic plants
      * What we have accomplished with the legislature with $2.7 million a year for invasive species control work
      * TJ Walker-droughts and shipping hay from North Dakota to TX, wondering what is being delivered (weed free forage program)
      * Cheatgrass and Bayer giving a talk on their new product Rejuvra
   4. **Break Out sessions** 
      * Biocontrol-integrated pest management topics from USDA-have had a summit as part of it to say where things are in the pipeline
      * Speakers from chemical companies
      * Invasive species in stores
      * Resistance in the chemicals and controlled environment ag-what in the ag is getting its way out (modes of action)
        + UNL good research at Mead about drought resistance
   5. **Socials**

* Mahoney State Park can fit 200 people
  + Extra fees to attend socials
  + War Horse by spring creek prairie is a new casino
  + Making a cider or beer
  + Barred Owl bar at Innovation Campus
  + Spring Creek Prairie-host bats and brews
  + Look at past conference ideas
  + **Could offer mentored activities:** local Nebraska highlight people local history highlight activities
  1. **UNL Centers to involve**
* SNR, Forest Services
  1. **Keynote Speakers:**
  + US Reps (could be from other states)
  + Gerry Steinhauer
  + Platte River Time Lapse

1. **Prevent, Contain and Control Proposed as the Mission of the Council**
   1. Prevention is what we are hoping to happen
   2. Help prioritize where resources direct and what we are going to emphasize
   3. Providing education and outreach and collaboration on invasive species in Nebraska
   4. Someone proposed Prevent, Educate, Eradicate as Mission statement

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

1. Kris Stahr (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission): Wagon train lake is being renovated for white perch renovation currently. They have 24 people from 12 barrels of chemical going in the lake and 6 back packing recruits up the tributaries. Kris has conducted 30 vegetation surveys total. He found brittle naiad in Lewis and Clark reservoir. 4500 watercraft inspections have been completed so far by 6 full time and 2 part time technicians. Technicians are on until Labor Day. All zebra mussel veliger samples have been negative. 3 of 5 hatchery inspections have been completed. Most concerning at Weigand marina (Lewis and Clark) with increased water clarity which makes the Eurasian watermilfoil go crazy now have zebra mussels on Eurasian watermilfoil on their stems spreading them.

TJ Walker (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission): Great Plains Grasslands Initiative 26 partners mentioned in the America the beautiful grant application for 5 million dollars over 4 years. Had partners for national forest service funding for 1.5 million for McKelvie Forest and wetland work in both of those.

Will find out between Sept and Nov if got the grant. Many people applied for the fund over 1 billion dollars is being requested.

1. Mike Reed (Nebraska Weed Control Association): Arundo and phragmites stems were being sold and were found at hobby lobby. Legislative funding $2.7 million is being used by projects across the state. More than a decade ago LB 701 had about $5 million dollars then a decade went by with funding sources in flux. Then Senator Hughes provided support, and the funds have expanded. In the northwest corner of the state there is $1 million dollars in a 1,500 miles of rivers and streams in one project area.
2. Julie Van Meter (Nebraska Department of Agriculture): Has been conducting survey of spongey moth (new name for gypsy moth). Signed a contract with a company to do potato cyst nematode surveys. Moving into field surveys in August including nursery grower and fall dealer inspections. Names of some species are being changed because the names can be offensive terms to certain groups of people.
3. Kelsey Jolley (US Army Corps of Engineers)-testing at lakes for eDNA for zebra mussels and had a false positive. Later this fall will do a rapid response exercise and sample for zebra mussel veligers and for adults. May do an exercise to better understand how to handle these false positive situations in the future.
4. **Public Comment-**no public comments

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