Nebraska Invasive Species Council

Meeting Notes

1/13/23

Voting Council Members in attendance: Dennis Schroeder, Kristopher Stahr, Brent Meyer, Justin King, John Thorburn, Craig Allen, Mitch Coffin, Kim Todd

1. Cheryl Dunn Presented on Future Invasive Plants
   1. Medusahead and Ventenata articles in CropWatch, pages 9 and 10 <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/author/gary-stone-extension-educator?page=0%2C8>
2. Coordinator Updates: Weed watch list updates. Add yellow starthistle to future in the west. Move Eurasian watermilfoil to established in the Mixedgrass and Tallgrass ecoregions. There will be a meeting you are all invited to on January 24th at the Cornhusker to discuss sponsorship opportunities for the 2023 NAISMA Lincoln conference.
3. Member Updates:
   1. Kelsey Jolley, USACE: In the early planning stages with our District staff for putting together a Rapid Response type activity and report on how we should respond to future invasives founds at USACE property in Nebraska
   2. Jeremy Gehle, DNR: In December the Department issued an order dismissing the objections.  [https://dnr.nebraska.gov/surface-water/transbasin-diversion](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/dnr.nebraska.gov/surface-water/transbasin-diversion__;!!PvXuogZ4sRB2p-tU!E_Scf5FmiibwfMU5tUoAFWcAsKescgQN_AuNdTDpv_JbsRjYR8mJx_HlW4HoyI8BStVclK_E7vWM9qHfKNodENLh2A$)

AGAIN this order only dismisses the objections based upon standing, and does not relate to the merits of the application itself.  The objectors have until January to appeal the dismissal, and the Department is currently aware that at least 5 of the parties will appeal.  The appeal will be heard by the Nebraska Supreme Court.  The appellate process is expected to take several months.

* 1. Kristopher Stahr, NE Game and Parks: Hiring 10 aquatic invasive species technician positions
  2. Brent Meyer, Weed Control Assoc.: hiring 7 technicians. Following 3 bills including: LB 40 buffer strip bill (Sen. Blood Dept of Ag buffer strip program). Watching what they use as the definition of invasive and noxious. LB 158 introduced by McDonald 2 million dollars for riparian area control of invasive species. Also following LB 281. The weed control association will have a training Feb 7-8 in Columbus.
  3. Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy: start this summer on research project looking at wild plum and smooth sumac. Trying to hire a technician. Will be doing multiple treatments to deal with patches that we don’t want to impact surrounding species.
  4. TJ Walker, NE Game and Parks: hired someone in the SW with NRCS working on cedar management. Also hired a Audubon Nebraska Game and Parks North Platte position. More positions will be added from the America the Beautiful grant funds
  5. Kim Todd, public interest member-starting planning for new segments for 2023 let her know your ideas. They had 175,000 households per month reached in 2022 with Backyard Farmer
  6. Erin Biggs, Nebraska Dept. of Ag-she is the entomology survey coordinator and replaced Julie Van Meter on the Council. They have a hiring posted for 3 interns for the summer