

N E B R A S K A



INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Nebraska Invasive Species Council

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2024

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

8100 S 15th St, Ste B, Lincoln, NE 68512

Online Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2323231972>

Meeting ID: 232 323 1972 | Passcode: 8100

Voting Members Present:

Justin King
Brent Meyer
Dennis Schroeder
Kris Stahr
Kim Stuhr
John Thorburn
Jon Spurgeon

Voting Members Absent:

Steven Jara
Trevor Johnson
Jon Nikkila
Kim Todd

Non-Voting Members Present:

Travis Connot
Justin Krahulik
David Nielsen

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Chris Helzer
Ritch Nelson

Advisory Support Members Present:

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Natalia Bjorklund
Carson Jones
Mitch Renteria
James Thiele
T.J. Walker

Advisory Support Members Absent:

Jeremy Gehle
Lorri Grueber
Kassie Karssen
Mike Koenig
Bret Schomer
Gary Stone
Jennifer Weisbrod

Guests Present:

Scott Erthum
Keith Koupal
Josh Nelson
Jena Paugels
Blayne Renner

1. Call to order – Stahr called the meeting to order at 10:07 am CST.
2. Review and approval of [October 2024 Meeting Minutes](#) - Thorburn moved to approve the minutes, Stahr seconded, motion carried.
3. [Nebraska Prohibited Species List – Invasive Species Action Network \(ISAN\)](#) reached out to Stahr about compiling list of prohibited species for each state on their official website for public use and understanding. Stahr provided Council with current known list of state prohibited species to determine if there are any known state laws/regulations to consider as well as any other ideas of where to look for current laws/regulations on prohibited species and contacts to consult with. Since NGPC cannot regulate private pet ownership, Stahr recommends other organizations review their laws/rules/regulations to determine if they have any control over private pet ownership. Stahr will send the current known list internally through NGPC to see what additional information there is. There are also currently no known organizations that have authority over prohibited/invasive species found in pet

stores. NDA does have the ability to inspect/regulate licensed pet stores that sell dogs and cats through the agency's dog and cat program, but licensed pet stores that do not sell dogs and cats are considered non-standard. If an invasive/prohibited dog/cat species is found at a licensed pet store, NDA has jurisdiction to confiscate the animal, but they are not responsible or able to confiscate non-dog/cat species.

4. [Nebraska AIS Awareness Week Proclamation](#) – Paugels and the NGPC AIS team proposed February 24-25, 2025, to be NE AIS Awareness Week and wants to submit proclamation. The dates are designed to coincide with NISAW, and Paugels wants to know if members think NE IS Awareness Week should be AIS-exclusive or include all IS (aquatic/terrestrial). The Council collectively agreed that they would like to do an all-encompassing NE IS Awareness Week for both aquatic and terrestrial species and that the dates should be moved to spring (late April-early May) when public is starting to go back outside and will begin observing vegetation and doing water activities such as boating. Paugels will make edits to the proclamation and aim to submit it by the end of January 2025. Smith will also begin working with Paugels in January to discuss some possible events and activities to collaborate on during NE ISAW.
5. NISC Member Renewal Poll – Smith created a [survey](#) to determine which members plan to renew their terms on the NISC. Terms are two years, beginning January 1, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2027. Current members should complete the survey by Friday, December 13, 2024.
6. Nebraska Conservation Roundtable Flyer – NGPC asked if the NISC is interested in creating an infographic on invasive species concerns in Nebraska for the annual state senator briefing in January/February 2026. The Nebraska Conservation Roundtable proposed invasive species management as a topic to prioritize and share information for 2026 legislative session. If the Council wants to create the flyer for 2026, the information to think about including on the flyer is key points for audience to takeaway, economic damage caused by invasive species, and action steps to take.
7. 2024 Annual Report – Smith is going to begin putting together the report next week. Members should complete the [Entity Progress Questionnaire](#) by Friday, November 15, 2024. So far, 18 completed surveys have been submitted on Qualtrics. If the survey is too time-consuming, please reach out to Smith to determine the best format to provide information. Smith plans to have a rough draft of the report

available for members to review by November 22 with member approval/feedback needed by Friday, December 13, 2024. Report is due to Legislature on December 15, 2024.

8. Photo Submissions Requests – Smith still needs member photos for 2024 Annual Report. Please email photos to Smith or upload them directly to the [Photo Submissions folder](#).

9. Council member/supporter updates:

King – Lake Maloney vegetation control consultant will provide a report on work next week that King will share with the council at the next meeting. There will be a meeting with Lake Lot Owners to discuss the treatment/study in the 3rd week of November.

Meyer – Meyer and Smith will also be attending the Riparian Vegetation Task Force Meeting on November 20, 2024, which Senator Ibach will also be attending. Meyer also went to the new NACO building in Ogallala and presented to its boards on riparian vegetation management, who plan to take it on as a priority legislative bill for next session. Meyer will meet with Senator Ibach on December 21, 2024, after NACO to clean up the legislation before submitting it during the special session. He also took out two UNL student groups to view phragmites-infested locations in Lincoln over the past month and was able to engage in some interesting dialogue with students on how to control it. The NWCA's NACO conference will take place in Kearney from December 18-20, 2024.

Schroeder – Lots of rain in Nebraska. Not a lot of ground freezing yet in lower areas and out west, there is still lots of vegetation growth and sprouting.

Stahr – Stahr and Paugels went to the Western Regional Panel on AIS. Golden quagga mussels were detected in CA, which is the first time the species has been found in the U.S. Golden quaggas are freshwater invasive mussels with similar impacts as zebra mussels. CBP is getting together with USFWS to prohibit moss balls being imported into US, which may go to Congress.

John Thorburn – Platte River Resiliency Foundation will be hosting a fundraising seminar next month. NRDs are selling trees and shrubs across the state, and lilacs are blooming during uncharacteristically warm transition from fall to winter.

Connot – Currently working on data entry and submitting reports for WASO to review.

Krahulik – USGS merged its water center with its location in KS. They are currently working on reclassifying positions and opening new positions. It is expected that the centers will be fully merged by FY2026.

Nielsen – USDA APHIS is taking requests for biocontrol sites for next year, please email him if you are interested or have a suggested site.

Walker – Cedar control issues are still occurring across the state. He is also looking at non-native invasive cool season grasses in Panhandle to western NE.

10. Next meeting date – Friday, December 13, 2024, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm CST – NGPC
Turpin Outdoor Education Center, 4703 N 44th St, Lincoln, NE 68504.

11. Goals/objectives for next meeting:

- a. Submit annual report
- b. complete member term renewal poll

12. Adjourn – Stahr adjourned the meeting at 11:23 am CST.