



**Nebraska Invasive Species Council**

**Meeting Agenda**

**February 13, 2026**

**Nebraska Department of Agriculture, 245 Fallbrook Blvd Ste 200, Lincoln, NE 68521**

**Zoom Meeting Link: <https://unl.zoom.us/j/96272869898> | Meeting ID: 962 7286 9898**

**Voting Members Present**

Steven Jara  
Trevor Johnson  
Justin King  
Josh Nelson  
Jon Nikkila  
Dennis Schroeder  
Jon Spurgeon  
Kris Stahr  
Kim Stuhr  
John Thorburn

**Voting Members Absent**

Kim Todd

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Travis Connot  
Ritch Nelson

**Non-Voting Members Absent**

Derek Asche  
Chris Helzer  
Justin Krahulik

**Advisory Support Members/Guests Present**

Natalia Bjorklund  
Carson Jones  
Jonathon Knacke

Jena Paugels  
 Gary Stone  
 TJ Walker  
 Ashley Sipherd  
 Christian Sipherd

1. Call to order – Trevor Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am CST
2. Approval of [January 2026 Meeting Minutes](#) – Kris Stahr motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Trevor Johnson seconded, motion carried.

3. Agenda

Terrestrial Invasive Species Lists – Shannon Smith revealed the updated Terrestrial Invasive Pathogens and Diseases [List](#) and [Disclaimer](#), Terrestrial Invasive Insects [List](#) and [Disclaimer](#), and the Terrestrial Invasive Wildlife [List](#) and [Disclaimer](#) created in the workgroups for guests and members to review.

For the Terrestrial Invasive Insects List, Natalia Bjorklund recommended adding the lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) as an established invasive species to the list. She checked in with Jeff Hamik, the Vector-Borne Disease Program Coordinator/Public Health Entomologist with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, about adding any additional invasive insect species to the list. He recommended that we also add the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) as a priority invasive species to the list, which has been found in the state in 2019, 2020, and 2025 in York, Jefferson, and Dawson County. The newly updated list for insects is as follows:

#	Common Name	Species Name	Category
1	Asian Jumping Worm	<i>Amyntas</i> sp.	Priority
2	Asian Longhorned Beetle	<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	Potential
3	Asian Longhorned Tick	<i>Haemaphysalis longicornis</i>	Potential
4	Asian Tiger Mosquito	<i>Aedes albopictus</i>	Priority
5	Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>	Established
6	Cereal Leaf Beetle	<i>Oulema melanopus</i>	Potential
7	Common Pine Shoot Beetle	<i>Tomicus piniperda</i>	Potential
8	Deer Tick	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	Established
9	Emerald Ash Borer	<i>Agilus planipennis</i>	Priority
10	Gulf Coast Tick	<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>	Priority
11	Japanese Beetle	<i>Popillia japonica</i>	Established
12	Lone Star Tick	<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>	Established
13	Mountain Pine Beetle	<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>	Established

14	Sirex Woodwasp	<i>Sirex noctilio</i>	Potential
15	Spongy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Potential
16	Spotted Lanternfly	<i>Lycorma delicatula</i>	Potential
17	Walnut Twig Beetle	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis</i>	Potential
18	Yellow Fever Mosquito	<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Priority

Natalia also provided the most recent [state quarantine information](#) for [Columbia Root Knot Nematode](#) and [Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut](#). Shannon added the information to the [Terrestrial Invasive Insect Species List and Disclaimer](#).

For the Terrestrial Invasive Wildlife Species List, Kris Stahr recommended removing the American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) since it is technically an aquatic invasive species. It is not currently listed on the [state's aquatic invasive species list](#), and its status in Nebraska as an invasive is disputed since it is considered native to some areas of the state.

John Thorburn also wondered whether the snow goose (*Anser caerulescens*) should be added to the list. They cause some damage as [millions stop and stage](#) along the Rainwater Basin and Platte River in central Nebraska and along eastern Nebraska and the Missouri River corridor during their spring migration from February through March. However, since they are migratory and do not stay in the state long-term, the Council determined that they do not need to be added to the list. The newly updated list for wildlife is as follows:

#	Common Name	Species Name	Category
1	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Established
2	European Starling	<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>	Established
3	Feral Hog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Priority
4	House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Established
5	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Established
6	Nine-Banded Armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	Watchlist
7	Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Established
8	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Established

Shannon updated the [Terrestrial Invasive Wildlife Species List and Disclaimer](#) to reflect these changes.

For the [Terrestrial Invasive Pathogens and Diseases List and Disclaimer](#), Shannon needs some assistance from the Council regarding verbiage and information to be included. Specifically, she would like assistance from the Council reviewing the Common Characteristics section of the document.

To add the updated lists to the website before the end of the month, Shannon asks that council members review current lists and provide feedback by **Wednesday, February 18**.

[Interagency Response Chart](#) – Shannon would like council members to review the current chart of contacts for reporting various invasive species sightings by **Wednesday, February 18**. Once the current contact list is approved, Shannon will create a PDF document to be distributed to the council members and their respective organizations.

[NISC Website Updates](#) – Shannon is working on getting all the remaining terrestrial invasive species added to the website. However, individual information pages will still need to be created for most species after her departure. She is working on a SOP for the acting coordinator and the future coordinator that will contain all the pertinent information on how to edit and update the website on the Next-Gen CMS platform. Per the Council's request, she will also create a comprehensive list of all invasive species on the website, and which ones still need information pages created and/or completed.

In addition, Shannon will add all upcoming meetings to the website but will not list the location. Instead, the contact information for the acting coordinator will be listed so individuals interested in attending meetings who are not on the Council can receive the location.

Shannon emailed one of the website developers to ensure that website traffic is being tracked for 2026 to be featured in next year's annual report.

Coordinator Contingency Plan Updates – Shannon is continuing to work on a coordinator SOP for the acting coordinator and future coordinator. She will share the document along with the prevalent files with Kris Stahr and Jon Spurgeon prior to departure. They will be uploaded to the Nebraska Cooperative Research Unit's drive and added to multiple USBs.

#### 4. Member/Supporter Updates/Comments

Gary Stone: High, dry, windy! [Controlling Invasive Weeds and Pests in Pastures](#) webinar series started February 9.

Kim Stuhr: No updates.

Dennis Schroeder: No updates.

Steven Jara: Hiring wildland fire fuels crew in Ainsworth with Brown, Rock County through wildfire defense grant.

Travis Connot: No updates.

Carson Jones: No updates.

Jonathon Knacke: No updates.

Jon Nikkila: No updates.

Trevor Johnson: Keeping an eye on legislative bills tied to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. [LB807](#) – Eliminate the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force and provisions relating to grants and provide for grants relating to weed management from the Water Resources Cash Fund – was placed on Select File on February 10. It would move the riparian vegetation management fund from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.

John Thorburn: [LB1204](#) – Adopt the Nameplate Capacity Tax Facility Standards Act and change provisions relating to property tax exemptions and the nameplate capacity tax – had a hearing on February 12 and is currently pending on Select File. Seedlings, trees, shrubs are now being sold, reach out to your local Nebraska Resources District to purchase.

Natalia Bjorklund: Also following legislative bills tied to NDA. Hopefully, funds will increase this session for the program.

Justin King: No updates.

Josh Nelson: No updates.

Jena Paugels: No updates.

Jon Spurgeon: Continuing silver carp movement research through the NE Coop Unit. Working on hiring a new NISC coordinator. Held meeting last week on egg drift research in conjunction with the UNL engineering department.

Christian Sipherd: Working on research with eastern redcedar biochar project.

Ritch Nelson: Natural Resources Conservation Service is rolling out program funding through [EQIP](#) for \$44 million. Funds are used for invasive woody control on grasslands. Funds can also be used for controlling invasive annual grasses using Rejuvra (Indaziflam).

Kris Stahr: 4 of 4 [7-month positions](#) and 4 of 6 [3-month positions](#) for Temporary Conservation Biologist II have been hired so far for the Nebraska Game and Park Commission's AIS Program. On February 17, the AIS Program will start their first herbicide treatment of the year on curly leaf pondweed. 7 waterbodies will be treated over the next two weeks. Treatment waterbodies include Liberty Cove, Ravenna, Prairie View, Czechland, and Smith Lake.

Kris attended the Senators Breakfast on February 10 with Shannon at Billy's Restaurant in Lincoln, held by the Nebraska Conservation Roundtable. About 12-14 senators attended, and attendees really appreciated the dry bags of items created by Jena and Grace from the AIS Program.

Shannon has extra copies of the [invasive species infographic](#) at the breakfast available in the coordinator's office that can be used for the future events by council members if needed.

5. Next Meeting Date – March 13, 2026, 10 am – 12 pm CST at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The Council requested that Trevor reserve the room for every meeting through the end of 2026.
6. Adjourn – Trevor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am CST.