

Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

Date: Friday, February 14, 2020 **Time:** 10:00AM-12:00 PM

Location: Hardin Hall Room 901, 3310 Holdrege St. Lincoln, NE 68583, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- I. **Nebraska Educational Telecommunications 360 Watershed Video Series Feature on Phragmites:**
 - a. Phragmites 360 video featuring Council Member Brent Meyer:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8ZFUzW9zrk&feature=emb_logo
 - b. Check out watershed 360 video series here: <https://www.pbs.org/watershed/>

- II. **Chris Helzer suggested that we get a speaker to talk about use of Glyphosate and health concerns**
 - a. Allison will check with Kim Todd and Todd Boller to get a speaker
 - b. It would be helpful to put together guidance to send people on this topic

- III. **Coordinator Updates (Allison Zach)**
 - a. Discuss council rack card
 - i. Received 3 edits on the 2nd page of the rack card
 - ii. Will update language in the council outreach section
 - iii. Will put providing brochures and ID guides free to the public for the last bullet
 - iv. Put in the new play, clean, go logo
 - v. It was asked to have the graphic designer confirm the color scheme of the rack card complies with guidelines for color blind people

 - b. USDA APHIS did a risk assessments for 12 plant species:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/sa_weeds/sa_noxious_weeds_program/ct_riskassessments. 4 or 5 of the species show they could be a problem in Nebraska. One of those plants is blood grass (listed as: *Imperata cylindrica* (Cogongrass). Kim Todd stated that it is ornamental, and it will spread by rhizomes when it reverts. It is sold under the name Red Barren
 - i. Chris Helzer asked if palmer amaranth is an issue outside cultivated ground. Does it invade areas that are not cultivated or beyond the edges of fields? Allison Zach will reach out to extension to find the answer

 - c. Council members are invited to attend a presentation on March 4th by Walter Meshaka, who will be visiting and presenting on invasive herpetofauna (**on 04 March 10:00 – 10:50 in Hardin Hall Auditorium (Room 107)**). He was featured on a PBS special last year. <https://www.retroreport.org/video/pets-gone-wild/>

 - d. The **Asian giant hornet** has been identified in Canada and Washington. It kills insects and can devastate honeybee hives. They have killed people in Asia. Here is a video on them: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7zWGOGjLxs>

 - e. Upcoming invasive species webinars and conferences:
 - i. **National Invasive Species Awareness Week is February 24-28th**. There is an online seminar series that week and here is a link to webinars being held each day that week: <https://www.nisaw.org/nisaw-2020/>

- ii. **Missouri River Basin Spring Flood Outlook online seminar by the North Central Climate Collaborative**-register for the online seminar here: <https://northcentralclimate.org/>
 - iii. **The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference 2020 has a call for abstracts due April 16, 2020. The conference will be October 12-14, 2020, in Duluth, MN** <https://www.umisc.net/>
 - iv. **The North American Invasive Species Association (NAISMA) Conference has a Call for Abstracts due March 31st. The conference is October 6-8 in White Fish, MT:** https://www.naisma.org/abstract-submission/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
 - **Here is a link to their agenda from last year's meeting:** https://www.naisma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-Annual-Conference-Program_web.pdf
 - v. **The Missouri River Natural Resource Conference is June 22-24, 2020, in Nebraska City. Here is the agenda:** <https://mnrc.org/conference-agenda/>
 - vi. **National Grazing Lands Coalition will have a 2020 Summer Bus Tour of the Nebraska Sandhills June 14-16, 2020:** <https://www.grazinglands.org/2289-2/>
 - vii. **The Northeast Wyoming Invasive Grass Working Group will have a tour in June 2020 (date is not set yet):** <https://www.invasivegrasses.com/newigwg>
- f. Allison Zach attended a meeting of the Western Invasive Species Coordinating Effort in Denver last week. Spent 2.5 days discussing priorities in the west for preventing and managing invasive mussel species. She was appointed chair of the group in January 2020 and the group is comprised of the aquatic invasive species coordinators of the 19 states west of the 100th meridian
- i. She will be traveling to Texas the first week of March to attend the Mississippi River Basin panel. The meeting will discuss Asian carp management and grant funding opportunities as well as other aquatic invasive species topics
 - ii. She is traveling to Montana next week to present to several resource agency staff and surface water users to present information on invasive mussel management and prevention topics

IV. Council Member Updates

- a. Rick Holland-They have closed the aquatic invasive species specialist position and are reviewing resumes now. They will conduct interviews sometime in March or April. There is also an opening for the Assistant Division Administrator Hatchery position in Lincoln. They did not receive too many quality applicants. They may re-advertise position
- b. Justin King-Colorado declared they have eradicated feral hogs after 15 years of effort. There have been feral hog releases in Canada and North Dakota and Montana is now concerned about them invading their state
- c. Brent Meyer- The 2021 NAISMA conference will be in Lincoln. Belle Bergner from NAISMA came to Nebraska and determined the conference will be held at Cornhusker. The Cornhusker could guarantee 140 rooms, and the room rate will be \$99. Parking is \$5/day. They will provide a shuttle service to guests. The meeting will be held October: 5-8. NAISMA-is a conference for people on the ground to government employees. People can get CEU credits for attending it.
 - They will have 3 concurrent sessions

- Topics to cover: EAB, Asian carp, get speakers from all over the country
- d. Kim Todd-Backyard Farmer's Spring show will start April 2nd
 - e. John Thorburn- There was a news release by the NRCS on the national grazing lands bus tour of the Sandhills which will be in June. It is a 3-day bus tour of grazing lands, native habitat, and Ogallala aquifer information
 - f. Tony Barada-SD and NE had a boarder meeting which included fisheries and law enforcement issues. Trying to decide on Nebraska's side how to address watercraft decontaminations for watercrafts leaving Weigand Marina (Lewis & Clark Lake)-is a publicly owned area. Zebra mussel infestations up the Missouri River at Francis Case and Lake Sharpe were discussed. Game and Parks will be working with WY fish and game to collect bull frog eDNA samples-WY wants to learn genetic samples where these frogs are coming from and how they are related-Game and Parks field staff will get those samples. A Silver carp was reported the furthest up the Calamus River today near Burwell. It was reported to the USGS NAS database.
- V. Kelsey Jolley- The Omaha Sport Show is next week. This is one of the best attended events of the year. <https://omahaboatsportsandtravelshow.com/>
- VI. Chris Helzer-The Nature Conservancy is hiring an assistant on the Platte River and on the Niobrara reserve. They are looking to work on outdoor prairie management work.

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