

Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

Date: Friday, January 11, 2019 **Time:** 10:00AM-12:00 PM

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

I. **Featured Presentation Topic:** Asian Jumping Worm (*Amyntas* spp) Impacts on Terrestrial Systems

II. **Coordinator Updates** (Allison Zach)

- We are missing 9 members today due to the Federal government shutdown
- Invasive species prevention brochures and invasive plant, insect and aquatic ID guides are available upon request-contact Allison (azach3@unl.edu)
- The program's website advisory council page and species pages have been updated (<http://neinvasives.com/>)

III. **Council Member Updates**

- Kim Todd suggested Christian Elowsky as a future speaker to talk about elms, including hybridization and potential threats
- Brent-New riparian program could provide funds for the big and little blue water basins including monies for eastern redcedar management. 1038-LB passed in 2016 and provides 1 million a year for riparian invasive plant work. Since 2016 they have been fighting to keep the monies. It was previously reduced to half a million and is now down to \$460,000 annually but the legislature is looking to take it all away. If we don't have phragmites control funding phragmites could grow on the rivers causing flooding and loss of infrastructure. Already are have over 3 million a year on waters of the state controlling invasive species. Brent will be testifying if there is an appropriations committee hearing on the topic. Locally seasonal workers needed and Brent has job openings. The weed association annual meeting is in February in Nebraska City.
- Julie- Nebraska Dept of Ag is starting capra beetle surveys in stored grain products for international markets. European corn borer surveys are also underway for people that want to ship west of us. They are also ramping up for 2019 field season.
- Ritch- NRCS for invasive species is determining whether or not to provide assistance to producers that plant eastern redcedar. They are consulting 23 local work groups provided them a group of questions to address of the nature of any particular invasion of eastern redcedar-waht alternatives are they using and what resource issues are ththey trying to address? Livestock windbreaks, living snow fences. After the meetings are completed the NRCS Nebraska director Craig Derickson will evaluate that response and determine what type of policy to implement. Local groups will be meeting through February. Over the summer the NRCS will vet the proposal and implement will be in 2020. No cost effective way right now how to ID female eastern redcedar trees. Cloning males is being done in KS, they are not growing into an upright tree though and could be cost prohibitive.
- Todd (NRD)-Local workgroup meeting are occurring. The Little republican 2nd lowest pumping on record since 2010 this year was 4.85 acre inches average. NRD managers have a weed management area that is active that are in the committee. Clean out project is occurring on Medicine creek down to (harry strunk lake) to the Republican river confluence (9 miles) to control invasive species. Lots of dead downed trees that are hard to navigate. Dept of Natural resources has stated don't wait by the mailbox for a decision

on the proposed diversion project's permit. Diversion project- lawyers are active right now. Right now the issue is legal standing for the 7 objectors, if they have standing then could have public hearing. This will probably not be determine until March if they have standing. Don't know when the hearing would occur. Rolling out a new project for recycling of grain bag in the state. Right now they are put in the landfill or they are burned. The NRD is offering this service free to producers (within one NRD) for recycling. Delta plastics out of Arkansas-is who is recycling the bags-single use irrigation pipes is one thing they produce.

- Steven (NE Forest Service)- Conversation RCPP regional conservation program-KS this week for a meeting, KS is RCPP 13 million dollars, they focus on stream bank stabilization and sedimentation. Mitch and John Erixson were involved-the Republican is connected to Nebraska rivers so working with NE to help. Right now just having conversations and are asking other agencies including NRCS-Don't know what the proposal project would look like. So just fact finding at this time. Starting in the Blue river system as a pilot is being discussed. Beatrice had a meeting and NRD members attended. Can be difficult to get people to plant trees for stabilization to convert areas. EQUIP dollars could be used and KS has experience with this program so outreach would be important for us to do this project in NE. Once farm bill comes out we will know more. Conservation title-of the farm bill-RCPP provides utilization of EQUIP to conservation stewardship program and even CRP in the new farm bill-could pull from existing program. Siltation downstream tributaries is a concern. KS doing a lot of studies, for every 10 miles lose a 2700 acres of land is stripped. There are a couple of job openings in the forest service coming out next week-eastern training fire coordinator to train fire behavior and firefighter training, Agro forester-working with NRCS out of WA to mentor this person (partner with NRCS) could be delayed hired by furlough, Amy Silor-out west director of Parks in CO, now filling that position out west.

IV. The Next Meeting is February 8, 2019

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