

Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

Date: Friday, March 8, 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: Feral hogs in Nebraska Status & Diseases in Bighorn Sheep by: Sam Wilson, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (furbearer and carnivore biologist)

II. Coordinator Updates (Allison Zach)

- Jonathan Nikkila is a newly appoint public interest member from Kearney

III. Council Member Updates

- Julie Van Meter- Gearing up for inspection season-getting 2 technicians for the summer. USDA has funding from farm bill funding into the plant protection act-50 million a year for invasive species work. Nebraska will be getting it for honey bee pest survey, kapra beetle and potato cyst nematode, firewood outreach and other species-targeting girl scouts for the outreach-to see how the organizations-train the trainer events so how incorporate-the 5 stage badge-5 step program for trainer to get that badge funds are for materials
- Kelsey-zebra mussel eradication at lake Cunningham is underway because the lake was drawn down in the winter of 2018. The next step is rotenone treatment to kill the Asian carp. After that occurs gates will be put up to keep people from launching while the lake is left to refill naturally
- Mitch- did a round of seed sampling on bird seed this winter which they hadn't done it in many years. 20 years ago found a lot of weed seeds in the tested bird seed. The sampling this year did not find any invasive or noxious weed seeds in the bird seed tested. Field staff are doing seed sampling trying to make rounds to the growers and dealers to collect samples to be tested. The 2nd of April is new superintendent training. Could be 15 new weed superintendents-not all new people-people that have been there 3 years or less are asked to attend the training in Kearney
- Dusty- Tree sales were substantially less than in the past year, and the trend has been a continued decrease. This year they had 380,000 vs. 800,000 last year. The Association of National envirothon competition will be in Nebraska next year. In July of 2020, teenagers from across the nation will come to the event. They will need volunteers to put it on. Need to put together of curriculum and test for the event. The University of Nebraska will be providing housing for the event in Lincoln
- Steven-Monday a bill went to the appropriations committee for 3 million for the tree recovery act-senators asked about utilization of ash trees-the hearing was long going from 1:30-6:30 PM. They are filling a forestry position in Scottsbluff. Also an Agroforester position, and fire training coordinator are being filled
- Ritch- NRCS have struggled with initially providing aid in the control of vertebrate species-assisted with the control of carp in wetlands have sorted some of that out some of the southeastern states-providing cave traps to feral hogs

- Chris Helzer-hired new employee for fire partnerships in the Sandhills, work with ranchers and partners to get more fire on the ground for Eastern redcedar control. June 29th is bioblitz on Platte river prairies-starting long term monarch and Fredal butterflies surveys with master naturalists and volunteers for plant and butterfly surveys. If people need training for their organization on plant identification the Nature Conservancy can host it on the Niobrara or on the Platte have lots of habitat types they can provide ID training. Let him know if interested and they include habitat restoration and management here is his email: chelzer@tnc.org.
- Justin-NPPD met with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) that manage the canals, that work with fish salvage permits. Salvage permits are issued so people can get fish from canals-they must follow bag limits. There is a concern that people take fish from the canals and stock them elsewhere which could introduce Asian clam, Asian carps, and diseases into that waterbody. NPPD gave permission to NGPC to modify salvage permits to stop stocking from canals. The salvage permits may in the future stipulate the fish taken must be dead so they can't be stocked elsewhere and no water can be taken from that waterbody
- Brent-The riparian vegetation task force has \$467,000 left in the budget currently but the appropriations committee will have a chance to review it and there could be hearing on it. There is a training in April 3-4 in Kearney training for weed free foreage inspectors-to certify them.
- Rick- fisheries trying to get approval to open the aquatic invasive species (AIS) coordinator position. They have already opened AIS technician positions

IV. The Next Meeting is April 12, 2019

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