

# Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019

**Time:** 10:00AM-11:30 PM

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

### I. Missouri & Platte River Flooding and Invasive Species Concerns

- Discussion among attendees on concerns they must be proactive with invasive species spread by recent flooding
- Invasive plant concerns
  - Mitch: Movement of hay-Dept of Ag-staging sites where off loaded hay-where it was staged-many of them were at fairgrounds. He has not seen the record of where hay was going to or coming from. People do not donate their best hay so it could include invasive plants. This will be a long-term problem.
  - Brent: last week there were plant association management area meetings. Flooding has displaced phragmites patches and it is likely we will see new phragmites infestations in new areas in the coming years.
  - Landowners-weeds are the least of their concerns, so outreach is not likely needed at this time-local level awareness is needed. Counties-will be looking for species they have not seen before
  - Julie-Fire ant-regulations importing hay-we want to certify hay for fire ants-hay products can move insects, eggs and nematodes in dirt or hay. Dept of Ag-blanket statement on hay for the hay hotline-there are invasive species concerns for importing hay-tell people to watch out for small red ants
  - Cover crops-Kim Todd-see if they can go into the new sand spots (8 feet) of sand on some fields-introducing cover crops that are sand friendly. Darren Redform-will have a cover crops segment next week on backyard farmer
    - Kim-New Show-Backyard-digging deeper-NET has it on Facebook and posts it on You Tube-it is a topic specific discussion format. Could do it on Flooding- booked through the end of May-do it in June-and capture footage-to show examples of what you are seeing that was not there before or what you should be looking for
- Southeast-sampling last year for zebra mussel-on Platte River up to Fremont no veligers were found
- Flooding has put rough fish in Fremont lakes & Two rivers
- Callery Pear-Look into how to regulate this tree and consult Ohio Dept. of Ag on how they worked with the industry and regulated this tree
  - In eastern Nebraska-they are a problem but not so much in the west
  - Kim & Julie could discuss this with NNLA-board meeting
  - Rick- we need to demonstrate the cost to dealing with the plant- need to find a way to quantify cost in how it impacts citizens
  - Noxious weed process is through rules and regulations at the Dept of Ag-not the legislature-have USDA APHIS risk assessment is used to list a species
    - We could create a do not plant list
    - Need to work with independent nurseries not box stores to stop sales of Callery pear since they have no one locally with buying power
- Julie will look into her Dept of Ag regs: talk about this next month, then create a working group to do a do not plant ban on Callery pear-recommendation that we regulate firewood-Do not have a reg currently -have the legal authority-but not the

political support-to regulate firewood as a commodity. Is firewood a threat and Dan Kinney-Dept of Ag. Could get info.

- 35 states now USDA says states cannot regulate firewood as a commodity- Standardized approach

## II. Council Member Updates

- Rick-Dave Tunink's position at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has been hired, Tony Barada is the new Assistant division administrator for Fisheries management. Someone was hired for the rivers and streams program manager has been hired they will be doing monitoring on Asian carp distribution and threatened and endangered species. Many of NGPC lakes have had impacts from the flooding and over the next year plus will be doing species surveys to assess fisheries management needs. NGPC will have press releases as they reopen areas
- Kevin-The Nebraska Fish and Wildlife Coop Unit is trying to fill 2 positions as Craig Allen and TJ Fontaine has left the unit
- Julie-NE Dept of Ag has 3 new people starting this week, 2 interns and one full-time person. Started with survey work. Adding a tick survey looking at getting a better handle on what ticks and diseases they carry in Nebraska. Working with Dept of Ag animal people to get ticks. Had confirmation on emerald ash borer last month confirmed in Lancaster County. Found an EAB in a tree the city forester cut down a tree and Julie inspected it and found
- Kim- teaches plant ID and design courses and adding a new class this fall. Online invasive species class teacher-meeting on Monday. Questions for backyard farmer-video of yellow-flag iris-call from Maine. Give Kim ideas for Backyard Farmer. Research tech manages our gardens-new person starting.
- Mitch- Noxious weeds field staff are doing follow ups-hard time getting around the state because roads are bad. Seed sampling is finishing. The only violation was low germination on oats. Industrial hemp-down to its last reading on the floor. If it gets passed-it will be a small-scale program this year and larger program in 2020. Cypress spurge they are planting a lot of landscape plantings, and many people are confusing for the noxious weed leafy spurge
- Brent: Sun spurge & cypress spurge-is a plant being planted in Lincoln use the Plant@net app for plant ids. Leafy spurge-is in bloom now. Musk thistle started to bolt this week- spurge is ahead of the grass right now. So, it is easy for inspectors to see it. Legislature still has funds in the vegetation task force aquatic noxious species control
- Jonathan-the city of Kearney- is removing eastern redcedar on the west side of town
- The US Army Corps of Engineering will be doing work due to the flooding on the MO River-they will be taking lots of borrow pits for the levees-between new wetlands-created by borrow pits-that will fill with phragmites.

## III. The Next Meeting is June 14, 2019

Council Contact: Allison Zach, Nebraska Invasive Species Program Coordinator  
Phone: (402) 472-3133, Email: azach3@unl.edu