

# Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018      **Time:** 10:00AM-12:00 PM

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

### I. Emerald Ash Borer Update

- Julie Van Meter (Nebraska Dept of Ag.) –In Fremont an ash tree was cut down and inspected and they found D shaped holes and larval galleries, they couldn't identify eggs because of time of year. In August EAB are out of fly time and eggs haven't hatched so don't have specimen for USDA to identify. Lincoln find was on a residential property in west Lincoln. USDA and Dept of NE both have traps. NDA-traps at state parks and USDA traps based on modeling where ash are in the state. The EAB find in Greenwood-was in a park. With private property finds-NDA policy do not put out where finds are. Wildlife and diseases do not report where finds are on private property because of livestock facilities could be impacted. NW of Fremont is where the ash tree was found that likely is infested with EAB. EAB trap=not great attractant but will find them if they are common in the area. For bio control you need 22 acres of infested ash to sustain the wasps. And you must promise not to remove ash trees or treat them in that area. Community tree inventories=Forest service has been doing this for years so we have a handle on what types of trees we have throughout the state. 8-25% ash in many communities. There are 44 million ash trees in the state. Weights and measures laws is what is used to regulate firewood currently. Meaning you have to have label on it with the measure on it. Also if name the type of wood it must be correct for all but 10% of the total wood.
- Lorri Grueber (City of Lincoln)-Working plan for Lancaster County and the city council approved the EAB budget. Public comment recovery plan gave plan to city council-didn't make it to the agenda. Have not approved or disapproved of the EAB plan at this time. Plan in October to get them to review it. Phone calls for treatment and wood use have increased-homeowners can adopt an ash tree in the ROW and fund the treatment of that tree. Backlash received by 11 people at the tree board meeting. All of them said just cut ash trees down because we don't want to put chemicals out there because they want to protect pollinators. They have received lots of calls about the ROW ash trees. They have an electronic system they enter info on what trees are being treating and what/how they are treated. The invasive species Council could-say something in pro or con for the City of Lincoln plan-could send letter to the city council. There have been 200 ash tree removals this fall and 400 in the spring will be removed. Door to door peddling to treat for EAB has occurred they say for \$120 they can save your

ash tree. More outreach is needed. People asking why logs are being wasted when ash trees that are removed. The city is providing logs-stock pile behind shop to LPS and corrections-for use in shop classes. Has been contacted by many wood enthusiasts. One person will be creating lacrosse sticks to provide to Lincoln rec. Colorado is going to create a bike- if the city can get kiln dried ash wood to them. People mistook article to think people would be provided lumber but actually logs are what are free. City of Lincoln likes to have blocks of specific trees-need to get away from that for diversity. They are giving out street tree vouchers-trying to reduce maple-usage.

- Justin Evertson (NE Forest Service)- NE forest service has brochures, FAQ and state lottery proceeds to plant trees in communities. Difficult to pick trees- about 50 regionally native species we could use as street trees-could likely get down to roughly 10 trees- easiest trees to grow include: mulberry, tree of heaven, honey locust which can be invasive and they are having trouble deciding what trees to use. Pecan trees would be a good replacement- but unavailable.

## **II. Eastern Redcedar Research Update (Dirac Twidwell)**

Dirac Twidwell Presentation- works with teams on sage brush and different national groups there are different transition occurring. And complexities we are facing. A lot of the questions and a lot of research has been done on ERC. Since pre 1940s-1950s have been looking at ERC so it has been well studied. Ecosystem tradeoffs- there are people that are for or against ERC. So this information is for decision making groups. A report was given to the legislature at the ERC interim study hearing which summarizes 150-200 peer reviewed articles. Dirac is creating living documents-that will be updated as more science is coming out. ERC science literacy webpage-will have this report and other materials. Policy assessments have been done and were asked for policy assessment. Also landowners are asking what the science means. Earth engine- can track this like never before. Directors of BLM and NRCS are funding this in the west. Lots of veining of ERC in the Sandhills. ERC is an inventive species- Naturalized into invasive-ERC was hard to get established but is now easily spreading. Leading edge of cedar is coming in the grass layer had students are looking for seedlings. Doing study now to determine impacts on water from ERC. First time looking at those costs. Don't have estimates in the science on costs. 75% of prairie chicken are in the Sandhills and are impacted by ERC encroachment. On each BUL can give figures of change with ERC. Loess canyons were stabilized a regime change in Nebraska which is the first time to occur. Policy driven science- asking for research on this. Weigh the benefits against costs, Technical guidance for policy is what this part is. Having issues with planting and controlling ERC both with fed and state funding. There is data showing fire is safer than logging or farmers due to equipment.

- Next legislative session- is when they want to have the legislative report out to the public to finalize the ERC interim study.

- Craig Allen- The Council should look at making ERC a controlled tree in Sandhills counties. Can remove 50% of a windbreak to remove female trees can be a useful tool. Can replace removed females with a new tree. Guidance and design would be helpful when you sell trees so people know upfront what is needed to control ERC.
- Todd Boller-if there is funding for ERC removal in an area there shouldn't be cost share for ERC plantings.
- John Erixson-clone of the males is being looked in and has an opportunity to do that as the forestry service. Right now there isn't a replacement for ERC currently. Male only ERC could cost \$3 vs. \$1 per seedling. Burning vs. mechanical-need to look at the person specifically with the chain saw vs. a machine cutting them down. Need to look at western states to look at costs attributed and research to human life utilizing various logging systems. NRDs need to be in the conversation because they work with landowners and know where ERC are needed. What changed in the system now that wasn't an issue 15 years ago that should be part of the conversation which is difficult.

### III. Coordinator Updates (Allison Zach)

- Adaptive Management Plan-the updated plan will be sent to the Governor and Legislative Ag. Committee in early October.

### IV. Council Member Updates

- **Mitch Coffin**- doing fall inspections right now. They have identified counties with some infestations. Husker Harvest day-lots of people and have been commenting on ERC control.
- **Dave Tunink**-sampling for zebra mussels-no more positives. Waiting for the USACE EA to renovate Cunningham Lake to freeze out the new zebra mussel infestation.
- **Julie Van Meter**-finishing survey seasons. Soil survey projects upcoming.
- **Brent Meyer**-This week in Kearney-tour of platte valley hosting to see progress on invasive from funding. Helicopter demonstration at event. But can't spray if it is windy. Afternoon on Tuesday is the tour and Wednesday is the meeting.
- **Carmen Thompson**-
- **Todd Siel**- The interbasin diversion application is with the DNR. The public comment period has ended and there were 7 options 2 options requested (call for hearing)-including the Audubon, OPPD. It will be a couple months before hearing anything publically. Eastern redcedar (ERC)-NRDs and NRCS do plantings is funding plantings. There are 23 NRDs and all of them have differing policies on ERC. There are 11 directors on the lower republican NRD- all of them have planted windbreaks with ERC and all but 1 are also trying to control them in the pasture. Lack of management is the issue with ERC.
- **Terry Julesgard**-ERC is a management issue. People put money in their budgets to control ERC and want to keep their windbreaks. The NRDs have discussions on what to do on ERC every month.

- **Gary Hellrich**- it is expensive and hard to maintain ERC in windbreaks. Lower platte south NRD-dedicated a substantial amount of money for the cover crop program to aid in certain watershed areas in the district. \$50,000 in seed money and \$100,000 next year for demonstration plots only.
- **Justin King**- asked about pirate bug article and Julie Van Meter said as crops come out the pirate bug bites you to see if you are a plant. Cooper nuclear station will have outage in the next couple of weeks. Will see how treatments have been working on the zebra mussels.
- **Carmen Thompson**-haven't put any grazers on the yellow flag iris infestation at agate fossil beds but have had high school students trample it- and it has been working. It compacts the mud.
- **Todd Boller**-Phrag spraying with helicopters is coming up.
- **John Erixson**-single engine air tanker will be released tomorrow. 7 fires were used in SD this year so they will be paying us for their use. Single engine will be at hot springs if we need it. Live fire exercise involving 35 fire departments and aerial applicator to practice transition from type 4 to a type 3 practice out by Gering. Fire on the ground and transitioned between the teams. Plan to do it again next year.

### **The Next Meeting is October 12, 2018**

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