

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021
1:30 p.m. CST
Virtual**

1. Call to order – Mike Reed called the virtual meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Reed welcomed all members and guests and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present:

Ryan Chapman	Mike Sarchet
Dennis VanWey	Brent Meyer
TJ Walker	Nate Munter
Dr. Shuhai Zheng	Rich Tesar
James Skavdahl	Tammy Zimmerman
Larry Heyen	Mike Reed
Kevin Adams	John Erixson
Dave Zorn	Dr. Tala Awada
Zac Peterson	

Task Force members absent:

John Orr	David Carr
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Guests:

None

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin

2. Member Introductions

There were two new members (James Skavdahl and Zac Peterson) recently appointed and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

3. Review and Approval of December 18, 2020 Minutes:

Sarchet moved to approve the minutes, Meyer second, motion carried.

4. Old Business:

None

5. New Business:

a. 20/21 Grant Summary

Mitch provided a report outlining that \$407,760.43 has been spent to date with a remaining balance of \$298,239.54. The 20/21 grant funding ends on June 30, 2021.

b. 21/22 Grant Announcement

Mitch reported that call for proposals was disseminated on March 1, 2021, deadline for submission of proposals due April 1, 2021 with grant awards on May 7, 2021.

c. Work Groups

Reed asked members again to sign up to serve on work groups committees. Members reviewed the list of work groups and did not recommend any changes. Reed stressed the importance for committees to meet and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

d. Legislative Update

Meyer reported that he was not aware of any legislation that may impact the riparian funding. He stated that \$706,000.00 is still in the 21/22 budget for riparian grants.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Open Discussion

There was discussion if there is a need to checkup on projects. Could Task Force members monitor projects in their area? Mitch reported that Noxious Weed field staff and himself do periodically visit project sites. While in the past Mitch has supplied a summary of the grants, he can supply each member with the entire application of approved projects.

8. Schedule next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be in person on Wednesday, June 16. Reed and Walker will select a meeting location in the Niobrara River area. Meeting adjourned.

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