

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021
1:00 p.m. CST
Virtual**

1. Call to order – Mike Reed called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Reed welcomed all members and guests and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present - virtual:

Ryan Chapman
Mike Sarchet
John Erixson
Mike Reed
Dr. Tala Awada

Brent Meyer
Nate Munter
Dave Zorn
TJ Walker
Zac Peterson

Task Force members absent:

John Orr
James Skavdahl
Tammy Zimmerman
Larry Heyen
Dr. Shuhai Zheng

David Carr
Kevin Adams
Rich Tesar
Dennis VanWey

Guests:

Senator Dan Hughes
Rob Schultz

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin

2. Senator Dan Hughes attended the meeting to discuss his proposed legislation to add additional funding for riparian vegetation management. Currently he is considering asking the Legislature for 3 million dollars a year to support ongoing efforts statewide. Senator Hughes encouraged all members to talk to their Senator and ask them to support this legislation. He needs support to achieve success when introducing legislation. Senator Hughes asked the members how much funding is needed to maintain previous work and future projects. Members stressed the need for a long-term funding source to ensure that funding is available when needed. Some years there is more demand for funding than other years. Also, some projects may require multiple years to complete, and the

current system only allows for one fiscal year at a time. Members feel that long term funding encourages other partners and funding sources to participate. The current weather patterns also dictate how much work may or may not be needed in a particular year. Tributaries also need to be aggressively addressed as these are feeding larger river systems.

- Multiyear projects are needed along with single year projects.
- Need creative projects, something outside the box.
- Does legislation need to stay within 100 feet of the main channel, or should it be expanded?
- Can funds be carried over from one year to the next?
- Use a 1-3-year funding process to create larger long-term projects.

Senator Hughes needs information and feedback soon so a bill can be drafted and ready to introduce in the first ten days of the session which begins January 5, 2022.

3. Review and Approval of September 16, 2021, Minutes:

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

4. Public Comment:

None

5. Old Business:

None

6. New Business:

Walker stated that they are seeing a 30% increase in costs on projects his agency is overseeing.

7. Schedule next Meeting

The March meeting may be held at Innovation Campus with a working lunch. Awada will work on securing a meeting room. The proposed schedule for the next three meetings is as follows.

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Thursday, June 16, 2022

September 8, 2022

Meeting adjourned.