

**Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2018  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Platte Conference Room  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

1. Call to order – Brent Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Meyer welcomed all members and asked for introductions.

Task Force members present:

Kevin Adams  
Ryan Chapman  
Mark Czaplewski  
Mike Reed  
Arden Wohlers  
Tammy Zimmerman

Matt Lukasiewicz  
Larry Heyen  
Rich Tesar  
Brent Meyer  
John Erixson

Task Force members absent:

Dr. Tala Awada  
Charles Brooks  
Patrick O'Brien  
Roderick Imm  
Mike Sarchet

Dr. Shuhai Zheng  
Gloria Erickson  
Rodney Ely  
Don Kraus

Guests:

Krystal Knabe, Nebraska Department of Education  
Steven Jara, Nebraska Forest Service

NDA Staff:

Mitch Coffin  
Nicole Ramirez  
Steve Wellman

Zimmerman gave a brief overview of activities within the Department of Agriculture.

2. Review and Approval of September 19, 2018 Minutes:

Lukasiewicz moved to approve the minutes, Czaplewski second, motion carried.

3. Old Business:

- a. RVMTF Fact Sheet – Zimmerman reported that she and Awada had communicated and the fact sheet would be ready for the next meeting.
- b. Webpage – Mitch provided a handout of the draft webpage for the RVMTF. Nicole Ramirez attended the meeting to answer questions and take suggestions. Nicole and Mitch will work on updates.

4. New Business:

- a. State FFA Involvement - Krystal Knabe, Nebraska Department of Education attended to discuss how FFA Chapters might be involved. It was suggested to have local teachers contact their local Weed Management Area to see how they might be able to participate. Krystal would like monthly ideas and said that face to face communication is the best.
- b.& c. Financial Reports, Grant Funds Balance – Mitch provided a handout of the grant funds balance. The handout shows that 43.9% (\$200,115.74) has been spent. The remaining balance 56.1% (\$255,884.26) will need to be utilized by June 30, 2019. All funds have been awarded towards projects.
- d. Summer Tour -2019 – Members discussed having a bus tour to visit several projects across the state. Should the tour have regional stops where local officials could attend? A possible timeline could be June 19 & 20, in the North Platte area.
- e. Task Force Vacancies – Don Kraus (Middle Platte) will be retiring. He submitted his resignation letter and replacement to the Governor's office. Tim McCoy (Game & Parks) will be contacting the Governor's office regarding the resignation of Karie Decker and will start the process for TJ Walker to take her place. Gloria Erickson has not been involved nor has Mitch received any contact from her by phone or email. Mitch will contact Mark Brohman and discuss this situation. The members would like to have Mark or Marilyn represent the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

## Work Group Discussion – Updates

### a. Goals, Objectives, and Reports

Continue with current document until updates are needed. (ATTACHED)

### b. Vegetation Management and Treatment

Erixson reported on a possible special project (HANDOUT). He is working with the Kansas Forest Service and they would like to partner with Nebraska on a joint Blue River basin project. Kansas/Nebraska Partnership (Regional Conservation Partnership Program FY 2020 proposal). Lukasiewicz moved and Czaplewski seconded to support a Kansas/Nebraska Proposal. Motion carried.

Director of Agriculture Steve Wellman stopped by to address the group.

Meyer provided the Director with a summary of Task Force activities over the past ten years. Meyer stressed while funding continues to be an issue, what would the cost be of doing nothing. Wellman stated that budgets are tight and funding will be an issue during the upcoming legislative session.

### c. Survey and Monitoring

Tesar asked what imagery is available for survey and mapping. Members will look into what might be readily available.

### d. Education and Awareness

The group felt that the state FFA as well as local FFAs seem like a good source to draw on. We need to follow-up with Krystal Knabe as things move forward.

### e. Funding and Incentive

No official report but believes that cash match is critical to justify funding into the future.

### f. Streambed Ownership

The group agreed to dismantle this work group. It is believed that it will take legislative action to make any changes.

g. Vegetation Water Use

No report.

Public Comment

There was no one present for public comment.

Open Discussion

Meyer reported Nebraska Educational Television is creating a 360 degree video of the Platte River.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 19 or 20, in the Scottsbluff area. Adams, Wohlers and Sarchet will host.

Meeting Adjourned

Reed moved, Adams seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.