

El Dorado Zebra Mussel Team
Wed., August 4, 2004
Wichita, KS

Introductions

Bob Pitman conducted the meeting
Notes taken by Tina Proctor

1. Use of PDA's

One of the questions is "Where did you learn about nuisance species?"
Newspaper was the number one answer but not on the drop-down list.

Problem with tabbing over. David said on the 100th Meridian website, there are instructions on how to install the boater survey on the PDA. There is an upgrade which will fix the tabbing problem.

One group did paper copies and then entered then into the computer. David said there is a place to enter the data into a computer so it directly goes into the database. David will provide the URL. In some cases this works better if there is a large group of people to get information from.

Sometimes paper is faster, depending on skill of recorder. Maybe we could make up some codes which would make the PDA faster. A dropdown box with names of lakes would speed things up. Also a dropdown for dates.

Bob asked what do we need to do to address resistance to using the PDA's?
Coast Guard auxiliary got some paper surveys done but no one used the PDA.
Pam said she needs to train some people and get more people involved.

There was some concern that Page 4 slows the interviewer down. Where have you been and when, etc.

Action: David will get URL to participants where they can enter the data directly into the database rather than putting it onto their computer and transferring to the database.

Action: Pam would like to train CGA volunteers – would like some help with this.

2. Any concerns from water users in Kansas and Oklahoma?

Doug Nygren – Not too many concerns yet. After seeing the PVC pipes at El Dorado where water is definitely restricted, he thinks there will be more concern.

Some power plants are concerned that are in different river drainages. Wolf Creek power plant has the ability to backwash with hot water to get rid of *Corbicula* – could also work with zm's. La Cygne power plant staff will be visiting with Wolf Creek next week to share information.

Cities may have a bigger problem than power plants. El Dorado, Augusta both take water out of El Dorado Reservoir. Also Santa Fe reservoir has lots of boating. Winfield has a lake with lots of boating—3-4 boat ramps. Eureka City Lake staff are asking people who have been in El Dorado Reservoir NOT to enter the lake. There is good awareness about the problem.

People are realizing they have been to Kaw and then have put in at other lakes even when they didn't know about zm's there.

Chad Beckman at OSU was at Kaw Reservoir to set out PVC pipe samplers. Found veligers in zooplankton surveys. Highest densities were 50 per cubic meter – which are extremely low. At the dam, densities were 6 per cu. meter. No adults have been found yet. Oolagaw Reservoir – 30 per liter; last week 175 per liter. Rapid increase in numbers. 1000 liters in a cubic meter. At El Dorado, they were getting 50 per liter.

Bob McMahon surmised that the population might have been in El Dorado for six years. After the drawdown of 3 ½ feet, it was clear that there were 3-4 year old zebra mussels in the millions. So Tom Mosher agreed, that it would have been 5-6 years. That is a lot of time for them to already have been transferred.

KDWP have put out 500 PVC pipe traps all over the state that have been checked weekly. State hatcheries all have the traps and are regularly checking them. None have shown up elsewhere yet this summer. A week may be too frequent, because they can move if their habitat is disturbed. [Note: velligers were identified in Cheney Reservoir on 8/4/04]

Kansas had the traps made at the prison honor camp for minimum wage so they cost \$2.50 per trap.

Physical attributes at El Dorado:

Tom thinks all the water bodies in Kansas are suitable for zebra mussels. Walnut Creek has regular flashing, changing substrate, probably not conducive to zm's, except for maybe backwater areas.

3. Outreach

Kansas

- Windshield fliers at El Dorado
Every boat registration gets a flyer
- Front cover of 04 edition of boating information: zebra mussel
Only have to renew once every three years, so it will take a while before every boater gets information.
- Large flyer at boat shows
- Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Stickers at offices and reservoirs

Fisheries staff – how do they move gear from lake to lake? Craig Johnson at El Dorado -- Keep boats out for a week. High pressure power washer that uses hot water is used when boats are removed from the water.

Kansas has two different sizes of metal signs.

USFWS, R6 gave KDWP \$8,600 for signs and outreach.

It is more effective to put the sign on the ramp, not just in the kiosk, because they get way more notice.

Press releases can be posted on 100th Meridian Website.

As of August 19 – Jason Goeckler will be “unclassified” ANS coordinator for Kansas.

City of El Dorado sent out a newsletter with water bill with a small section on zebra mussels.

Any problems with marina and boat owners at El Dorado? They had to spend \$7,000 to change the underwater braces at the marine. They can accommodate bigger drawdowns. Discussion about whether to have another drawdown this year. Wait until there are complaints because of amount of zms in shallow water.

Oklahoma

- There is an outdoor writer in OK City who is interested in the topic.
- Will post sign at Kaw Reservoir as infested waters.
- Creating sign that is similar to what Tom M. did for Kansas.
- National Public Radio did a story on Monday – regarding Kaw Reservoir

[Note: golden algae in Oklahoma – had a kill last year. Spores can be transported in the Jet Stream.]

4. PDA Boater-Survey Responses – David Britton

David showed maps where the surveys were done and where boats went from there. He will put it in a report and put it on the website under El Dorado response team. Most people put their boats back into El Dorado. Number 2 is Table Rock Lake in Missouri.

The good news is that 95% were aware of zebra mussels and 39% aware of other ANS.

Tournaments – 10-12 per year at El Dorado: crappie, bass, walleye. If they launch from KDWP facility, they must have a permit.

Kansas Bass Chapter Federation meets in the winter. It would be a good idea to meet with them to discuss what they would be willing to do to give message to boaters when they arrive for the tournament.

Kansas going on-line for boater registration. Using a vendor who could provide survey information – may be able to get hundreds of responses. Discussion about how to create a valid survey design. 30,000 per year.

In Oklahoma, boater registration is done by the motor vehicle people. Not being done electronically yet.

Suggested Action: Use 100th meridian website where people could fill out the survey from all over the country. How do you get this to be valid?

5. What are the needs now?

Kansas will be taking the ANS plan on the road to meet with citizens.

KSWP wants to develop a clean species list. If it isn't on this list, you can't have it without a permit. They have a short prohibited list. Class C misdemeanor for violations.

States are encouraging federal government to have a national screening process.

HACCP training: Provide training in fall or winter. Perhaps two days in Kansas and two days in Oklahoma. Also need to target Nebraska and South Dakota. Kansas fishery staff usually meets in February. Everett said there are a couple hundred ACOE staff that could be trained.

Action: Bob and Tina will help set up training courses in the winter.

How to complete more boater surveys? Jeff said he would like the idea of a link to the 100th meridian website so that people getting boater registration can link to the survey. Discussion about bias toward people who have computers. Will get many more surveys however. Continue in person interviews. In Kansas, the creel surveys ask people where boaters went last.

Who has PDA's? Casey, Pam, Craig (2).

Two man crew at Kaw – could be doing surveys. Bob said there is one at OSU as well. Pam said she could give hers to Jeff who will give to staff at Ponca City, OK (Kaw). Coast Guard Auxiliary could do more work on weekends if people could get reimbursed for overnight stays and food. Pam can send paper forms to KDWP and they will put them on computer. Unit from Jason Goeckler can go to Porter, OK.

Doug – any changes in fish population or in water quality in Oologah? Chad would like to get a research project on phytoplankton changes.
ED – will they be evaluating water quality? Tom – they collect information every year.

Action: Kansas would like the Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker signs. Tina will work with Tom.

Action: Bob will put the sign up sheet on the 100th Meridian website.

