Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board

March 19, 2025
Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.
Garden Park Conference Room
201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Rick Romano

Board Members Present (in Person):

Rick Romano, Chairman	12/31/2027
Tom Grette	12/31/2026
Donna Landrum	12/31/2026
Paul Garrett	12/31/2025
Paul Telck	12/31/2025
Tony Telck	12/31/2026

Board Members Absent:

Ed Norden	12/31/2027
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2026
John Coyle	12/31/2027
Vacant	12/31/2024 – Need a replacement
Roy Roper	Life

Others Present (in Person):
Brittany Pierce, Fremont County Weed Management Director
Tony Carochi, Fremont County Administrator
Shawn Sutton, Fremont County Assistant Administrator
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner
Steve Wolfe, City of Florence
Aaron Rictor, BLM
Daniel Morse, Fremont Conservation District
Bonface Manono, CSU Extension
Kelsey Storey, CSU Extension
Jesse Young, City of Canon City
Greg Langer, NRCS
Devin Everhart, Cañon City Recreation District
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve agenda by Tony Telck and 2nd by Donna Landrum

Minutes:

The minutes from the January 15, 2025 meeting were distributed at this meeting and via email.
Motion to approve minutes by Tony Telck and 2nd by Donna Landrum

Chairman's Report:
The Fremont County Weed Management Plan has been updated by a sub-committee of this Weed Advisory Board.
Revised version was distributed at today's meeting.
Tony Telck motioned to approve the modified Weed Management Plan as distributed at today's meeting.
Donna Landrum seconded the motion
Brittany to submit the updated Weed Management Plan to the BOCC for approval

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**
  Dwayne McFall is serving on the NACO Inter-Governmental Disaster Reform Task Force
  Dwayne stated that the state legislators will once again be considering the cross-over legislation due to a 10th circuit court case.

- **BLM**
  Aaron Rictor stated that BLM credit cards and funding agreements are frozen
  Weeds agreement with Fremont County is not affected yet
  Running on existing balance of funds, approximately $50,000, with no additional funding so putting some things off that are not critical

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**
  Kelsey Storey started in January of this year and has nothing to report at this time

  Bonface Manono did not have anything to report

- **NRCS**
  Greg stated EQIP had under $440,000 to spend with ~$19,000 left
  Future IRA (Inflation Reduction Act – not Irish Republic Army🤣) funding has been frozen – the older ones are moving along
  Reduction in Force (RIF) - They have a hiring freeze and ~ 42 probationary employees have been terminated throughout the state of Colorado
  Speculation about office closures

  EQIP funding is at about 45 – 50 million for 2025 instead of the ~$100 million when the IRA money was still available

  NRCS is down about 60 staff members from a few months ago

Aaron talked about BLM RIF, fire related temporary positions, lots of rumors going around
Voluntary Resignations are taking place also

- **Fremont Conservation District**
  Daniel Morse stated conference in February went well

  2024 Weed Fund Grant money came in and he gave Brittany a check
  2025 Noxious Weed Fund Grant was awarded at $145,000 – Colorado State Legislature may reduce the budget – so planning on 20% less

  Daniel is working on Canon City library garden with Jesse and City of Canon City

  Not going to do Home & Garden show in 2025

  79th Annual Landowner's Banquet is on April 25, 2025
  Register on website:
  https://www.fremontcd.org/79th-annual-landowner-s-banquet

  Local work group - May 9th at Pathfinder Park

  Discussion about potential office location changes

- **City of Cañon City**
  Jessie Young stated that the median project is under warranty with Pyramid Construction
  It took 18 people all day to pull the weeds, get herbicide down, water it in
  Mainly dealt with pumpkins and corn last year

  Spraying and applying product when able
  They have doubled their acreage for weeded areas

  The mule operator did not come through for him due to weather – same situation with drone operator last year

  Dealing with mostly thistle at this point

- **City of Florence**
  Steve Wolfe stated that road and sidewalk projects are dominating their time at this point

  Rick mentioned that the Russian Olive is coming back in force near bridge on Highway 67

  The road project on Highway 67 is opening up to one-way traffic today and could potentially be complete in about 2 weeks

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**
  Devin stated they are trying to get pre-emergent herbicides down
  Doing tree trimming

Soccer season starts Saturday – so that is their focus right now

Weed Director's Report:
Rick asked Brittany to add a helicopter icon to elongated mustard on the list of Noxious Weeds that she created.

Brittany stated that she has not started spraying yet
She is waiting on grants to come through to buy parts to get her rigs put back together

Fremont County will most likely hire only one seasonal this year in mid April

Cost Share has decreased from $10,000 to $5,000 for Fremont County
That money could be shared with Custer County – but no plan at this point
Fremont County will be prioritized over Custer County
Only one project this year – elongated mustard
Trying to hire drone operator to spray in zipline area – funded through grant

Rick asked about CDOT contracts and Brittany stated that those ended July of 2024

US Forestry agreement is in DRAFT form and will stay that way until funding is secured
If there is work to be done it is a possibility for this year

Need to revisit money coming from Conservation District again since Cost Share funding has decreased

Aaron mentioned that the America the Beautiful grant could be an option

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Paul Telck discussed the Master Gardner program through CSU Extension
He passed around a flyer about Tree Grafting & Fruit Tree Diseases clinic
Kelsey stated that there are many other clinics available too

Rick announced that Roy Roper will be 100 years old tomorrow – March 20, 2025

Old Business:
None

New Business:
None

Adjournment / Next Meeting:
The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.