

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

January 18, 2023
**Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.
Garden Park Conference Room**
*201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212*

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Ed Norden

Board Members Present (in Person):

Ed Norden, Chairman	12/31/2024
Tony Telck, Vice Chariman	12/31/2023
Paul Garrett	12/31/2025
Donna Landrum	12/31/2023
Rick Romano	12/31/2024
Justin Kurth	12/31/2024
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2023
Jay Adamic	12/31/2025
Paul Telck	12/31/2025

Board Members Absent:

Fred Smith	12/31/2023
Bud Chess	Life
Roy Roper	Life

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner
Tammy Childs, Interim County Manager
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary
Mariah Pillmore, State Land Board
Tom Piltingsrud, City of Florence
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Steve Stultz, Fremont Conservation District
Greg Langer, NRCS
Devin Everhart, Canon City Recreation District
Aaron Richter, BLM
Mia Cory, CSU Extension
John Coyle, Ark Valley Weed Management

Minutes:

The minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Ed Norden had nothing to report other than no quorum at November 16, 2022 meeting.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Dwayne McFall stated that an RFP is currently out for remodeling and replacing the large metal garage doors at the 1901 E. Main St. property. This is on the south end of the outside building. It will be used for chemical storage and equipment secured storage.

Brittany's request for additional funding to maintain equipment ~\$35,000 was approved today by the Board of County Commissioners.

- **BLM**

Aaron Richter stated that he really does not have anything to report but wanted to thank Fremont County for providing weed treatment. The Eurasian water milfoil at Blue Heron treatment was completed for the second year in a row. One pond has been cleaned up completely and a second pond only required one additional treatment. He stated that the helicopter project for the elongated mustard went well. Aaron also stated that half of the Grape Creek project has been completed and Brittany Pierce indicated that it will continue when the contractor is physically able.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Mia Cory stated Master Gardner's are hosting a workshop on February 4th at 4-H building in Canon City. There is a \$10 registration fee and you may call the CSU Extension office to sign up.

Jeremy McNeely is no longer the CSU Fremont County Director as of February 2nd. He is moving into the Fremont County Event Coordinator position.

Ed Norden asked how long it will take to fill the CSU Fremont County Director position and Mia stated that they should anticipate at least six months to fill Jeremy's position.

Ed Norden asked about the status of Custer County and Mia stated that Reggie Foster is the new CSU Custer County Director.

Commissioner McFall stated that Chaffe County recently hired a new CSU Director as well due to the fact that Kurt Jones moved into the role of CSU Regional Director.

Mia stated that it is likely that Julianne will be the interim replacement for Jeremy.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer stated that he has 14 EQIP applications for Fremont County and they are still working on reviewing eligibility.

Greg Langer advised that Fremont and Chaffee counties are the only places in Colorado that have a very rare plant (not a noxious weed) called Brandegees Buckwheat. He distributed snow tell equivalent maps showing that the Arkansas Basin is currently at 84% of normal year-to-date precipitation. He noted that the drought monitor is at none - D2 currently in Fremont County.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell stated they have one drill rental on the books for April. The Upper Ark Cooperative Weed Management Area annual meeting is February 8th at the Abbey. Registration information is available on their website at www.fremontcd.org.

Debbie is planning to retire this year and the job opening is posted on their website. They also have open board positions available.

Ed Norden asked if Debbie would be eligible to be a board member after she retires and Debbie stated “No”.

- **City of Cañon City**

Ed Norden said that an email was received stating that the City of Canon City would not be in attendance.

- **City of Florence**

Ed Norden celebrated the fact that the City of Florence is in attendance.

Tom Piltingsrud stated the City of Florence elected in 2023 for spraying of the Mountain Park and River Park.

Brittany mentioned the Coal Creek ditch that goes through Florence being full of bouncing-bet *Saponaria officinalis* (List B weed). Tom asked if this was new and Brittany stated that she recognized it as of Fall 2022. Tom requested an estimate from Brittany because he has money budgeted. Brittany stated that she would look at it to determine an estimate.

This may be continued from the property of Freia Hooper-Bradford that was discussed in 2022 as contaminated with bouncing-bet.

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

Devin Everhart reported nothing except that Rick is retiring in February 2023 after 40+ years.

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

- **State Land Board**

Mariah Pillmore is out of Pueblo and representing the State Land Board. She is the Southern Region Resource Specialist for the State Land Board. Her office monitors tenured ag leases and range monitoring, looks for prairie dogs and noxious weeds. They offer a noxious weed cost share program and thank Fremont County for being one of their biggest partners.

Ed Norden asked how noxious weed management fits in the State Land Board budget.

Mariah answered the Northeast District Office administers the program and controls the noxious weed budget – this is the office where Mariah sends applications. Her office does NOT have staff for noxious weeds – if it is identified on state grounds they have the land leasee take care of it utilizing funds from State Land Board.

A question was raised regarding if anybody has been checking Table Mountain and Brittany stated the north Table Mountain has nap weed and thistle and the south Table Mountain only has a small amount of thistle. Brittany stated they have maintained it in the past.

Commissioner Dwayne McFall suggested contacting Planning Department for the SRU to determine who to contact to make sure that it is being sprayed.

Tony Telck stated that pre-emergent had been sprayed in the past and it was effective.

Mariah was thankful for being informed about Table Mountain.

Ed Norden thanked Mariah for joining the meeting and welcomed her back any time.

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany Pierce presented her annual report for 2022. Attached Annual Report Summary for 2022

A discussion was held over the following topics:

Elongated Mustard Treatment has been ongoing since 2015 – based on information from National Weather Association – the snow fall has a large impact on this species. Brittany will keep monitoring it.

Budget – Ed Norden asked about CDOT line item and Brittany stated that it is ALL the counties. Plans for 2023

Ed Norden stated that this report should be presented at an upcoming BOCC meeting.

Upper Ark moved from November to February

Ralph asked about freezing killing noxious weeds

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Board Members with terms expiring in December 2022 were reappointed at the December 19, 2022 BOCC meeting. Paul Telck, Jay Adamic, and Paul Garrett now have a new term expiration date of December 31, 2025.

Ed Norden asked when new officers are elected per the By-Laws. Brittany handed a copy of the by-laws to Ed. The By-Laws state that officers will be elected at the January meeting of each year with a 5 year limit.

Ed Norden - Chairman

Tony Telck – Vice Chairman

Kathy – Secretary

Brittany introduced the cost share topic to the group.

How would Fremont County utilize John Coyle or other contractors to spray areas that the Fremont County is not able to deal with due to time or man power constraints.

John Coyle stated that he knows how other counties handle it. He invoices Conservation District and they bill the land owner at full rate. Then the land owner is refunded at the end of the year. Other counties handle it differently.

Per document circulated at meeting:

“B. Reimbursement: The Cost Share Program will pay up to 50% of the cost of herbicides, the cost of professional herbicide application, and/or mechanical control, up to a total of \$500 per landowner per calendar year. The noxious weeds may be treated with herbicide by the landowner or their assignee or by a commercial applicator. Although landowners may personally apply herbicides to the weeds or utilize any agent for application purposes, reimbursement for labor costs shall only apply to a professional certified pesticide applicator. Any use of a landowner’s employee for herbicide application purposes shall not be reimbursable. Cost Share funds may be withheld if it is found that treatment was not done in accordance with the applicable WMP or other Federal or State requirements.”

Brittany needs clarification on how to calculate reimbursement. Should it be based on the cost of the herbicide alone or the cost of the herbicide plus labor for application. Can other people utilize the cost share program if they apply the herbicide themselves or hire a contractor.

Brittany has not been promoting the cost share. She sells herbicide at whole sale costs to citizens and educating them on proper application / treatments.

Brittany stated that

Ed Norden stated that the Weed Advisory Board can not allocate funds so the BOCC would have to be involved.

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.