

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

November 16, 2022
**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.

Board Members Present (in Person):

Ed Norden, Chairman	12/31/2024
Tony Telck, Vice Chairman	12/31/2023
Paul Telck	12/31/2022
Donna Landrum	12/31/2023

Board Members Absent:

Rick Romano	12/31/2024
Fred Smith	12/31/2023
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2023
Jay Adamic	12/31/2022
Paul Garrett	12/31/2022
Justin Kurth	12/31/2024

Bud Chess	Life
Roy Roper	Life

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Dwayne McFall, Commissioner
Tammy Childs, Interim County Manager
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Greg Langer, NRCS
Steve Stultz, District Conservation Tech
Jessie Young, Parks Department, City of Canon City

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m. for lack of a quorum.

The minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting were presented in hard copy format to all attendees. Since a quorum of the board was not present the minutes were not approved. So the minutes will need to be approved at the January 18, 2023 meeting.

Brittany's Weed Management Annual Report will also be presented at the January 18, 2023 meeting.

The following are notes from discussions that ensued:

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell stated there is not much happening.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer stated that the Earth Team Award was earned at the state and national level from the 165 hours that were recorded. This included time for activities such as food to table activities, educational opportunities, forest property markings, and other projects.

USDA - Inflation Reduction Act – \$19.5 billion available for agricultural conservation - work horse program (EQIP) will see approximately \$8.5 billion increase, deadlines can be extended until 2031 – extra money to help get more projects done. Brittany asked if the ditch projects would be included in this. Water management entities (ditch projects) have a corporation clause that requires AGI. The ditch company applies for the funding – but then they have to get the AGI from the individual property owners of the ditches. Dwayne asked what the match would be and Greg explained cost sharing can be anywhere from 60% - 85% depending on status i.e historically underserved areas, veteran owned, etc...

Some other initiatives are in the works such as Climate Smart Ag and Urban Ag – Greg did not have the list with him but suggested stopping by his office to check it out.

Act Now is another one and if ranking of applicant meets criteria they can be approved for funding and obligated the same day.

Greg passed out Drought Monitor reports – snow pack is at 92%

Ed stated it is pretty early for snow pack reports

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Dwayne McFall mentioned an interesting item regarding snow tell information and how it may be getting updated due to LiDAR monitoring for more accurate information.

Then he discussed the Statewide Pond Management Project from the State of Colorado Division of Water Resources. Due to the lawsuit from the State of Kansas – the State of Colorado is taking action on pond owners.

In Fremont County the majority of the ponds are in the Arkansas River Basin. Fremont County is only allowed 30 acres surface area for ponds. The Water Commissioner is giving warning that ponds in violation need to be drained.

]Ponds that will be allowed to stay must meet certain criteria such as

1. Over 50 years old (1972)
2. Storage decree or Water right or augmentation plan

They will be allowed to keep the pond for fire suppression.

Dwayne is currently looking at 5 ponds but only 2 of those meet the requirements to be a Fire Suppression Pond.

The Water Commissioner has been contacting pond owners and informing them of the pond requirements then the owners are required to go through their County Commissioners to fulfill requirements.

The State of Colorado is allowed to change the rules until May of 2023.

If a drain order is issued the county has 14 days to execute.

Now that Fremont County has a full-time engineer – he will be able to assist the County Commissioners with pond analysis.

Upper Ark is not actually over exaggerating on their reports

Dwayne stated that evaporation is not being taken into consideration. Ed stated that the ditch projects and all the additional federal funding mentioned by Greg could tie in.

Ponds that used to be gravel pits are also being considered – even those for erosion control and established by the Corps of Engineers.

Dwayne stated that his plan is to submit the ponds that meet the criteria, and all others will need to be breached. This may even effect BLM lands and Blue Heron.

- **City of Cañon City**

Jessie Young stated fall cleanup is underway, mowing has ceased for the year and sprinklers have all been winterized.

Ed inquired about the big snow storm that pulled down branches last month. Jessie stated that tree clearing is always an issue with citizens calling in with reports of a downed tree and the species of the branches in the right of way do not match the trees there.

Dwayne inquired about leaf pick-up and Jessie stated that he handles leaf mulching from municipal grounds and does composting back behind lakeside. The Canon City Street Department handles public leaf pickup – mostly ends up in the dump.

Ed inquired about noxious weed control in Canon City in the right of way. Jessie stated that he has not use noxious weed control however he has done weed maintenance.

Jessie stated that the property owner is responsible for maintenance in the front of their property on the right of way.

Royal Cascade Trail – 2.7 miles closed for lambing season – so weeds are taking over and trails are not maintained since sheep do not know how to maintain a trail (lol).

Jessie stated that the chemicals he uses do the job. Goat's head is always an issue – suggested use pre-emergent – hoping to use more in the coming year. They previously had a bad experience with pre-emergent checmicals.

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany Pierce will deliver her Annual Report at the January meeting due to the lack of quorum at today's meeting.

The BLM elongated mustard aerial application has been completed as of July 2022. 68 acres were sprayed. They were also able to complete the Eurasian watermilfoil treated in the Blue Heron pond. Cade Pickering with Wilderness Weeds treated half of Grape Creek – he will complete it next year.

3 seasonal employees were employed this season and 2 left early.

Additional projects on BLM and State lands were completed.

Brittany is working on grants and Annual Pesticide Applicators training February 8, 2023 at Pathfinder Park.

Brittany stated that their CDOT agreement renews annually around July 1st for the noxious weed treatment and they work a very large area for CDOT. Renewed in July of 2022 and plans to continue going forward.

Brittany stated that By-Laws state cost share when contracting. John Coyle does weed spraying on a contract basis – how would she invoice him – Ed suggested that Tammy and Brittany run it by the Commissioners to determine how to invoice correctly through cost sharing.

Ed stated that a clear understanding of the guidelines is needed to determine

Brittany stated that she would contact the following board members with expiring terms that need to be reappointed at the December 13th BOCC meeting:

Paul Telck	12/31/2022 (he was present and stated he would like reappointment)
Jay Adamic	12/31/2022
Paul Garrett	12/31/2022

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, January 18, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.