

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

November 20, 2024
**Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.
Garden Park Conference Room**
*201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212*

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m. by Rick Romano

Board Members Present (in Person):

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

Board Members Absent:

Justin Kurth	12/31/2024
Roy Roper	Life

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Fremont County Weed Management Director
Tony Carochi, Fremont County Administrator
Daniel Morse, Fremont Conservation District
Aaron Richter, Bureau of Land Management
Jesse Young, City of Canon City
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve agenda by Ed Norden and 2nd by Tom Grette

Minutes:

The minutes from the May 15, 2024 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were approved as circulated.

Motion to approve minutes by Tony Telck and 2nd by Paul Telck

Chairman's Report:

Rick Romano & Ed Norden have been reappointed through 12/31/2027

Justin Kirth has not submitted a reappointment request.

A new member needs to be selected to fill the Board vacancy left by Jay Adamic.

Selection of Vice Chairman commenced

Nomination from the floor for Tom Grette by Ed Norden and 2nd by Tony Telck

Motion approved unanimously to appoint Tom Grette as the new Vice Chairman

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Tony Carochi, Fremont County Administrator, spoke for the commissioner.

The Fremont County Facilities Director, Erik Sebek, passed away.

Brittany Pierce will be getting her own office space on Main Street in Florence for Fremont County Weed Management.

- **BLM**

Aaron expressed gratitude to Fremont County Weed Department for getting Royal Gorge area treated, especially the Helicopter project with Leonard on the elongated mustard and Grape Creek

Grape Creek had a lot of thistle and black henbane. 48 acres were treated by Cade Pickering of Wilderness Weeds on his mule.

The Weeds Agreement between BLM and Fremont County expired at the end of September, 2024 for transfer of funds between BLM and Fremont County and Brittany was able to get it renewed

Budget uncertainty for future years but the 5 year agreement in place allows for at least the next 5 years.

BLM also has an agreement with Chaffee County that may be able to transfer to Fremont County to cover due to turnover of staff in Chaffee County.

EIS approved 7 new chemicals in July at the national level for BLM – now they need to be approved at the local level and get through the NEPA approval process.

The seven approved herbicides are Aminocyclopyrachlor, Clethodim, Fluazifop-P-butyl, Flumioxazin, Imazamox, Indaziflam (effective for cheatgrass), and Oryzalin.

BLM reports accomplishments based upon project acreage in polygon areas.

He estimates over 3000 acres of project areas for 2024.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Not Present

- **NRCS**

Not present

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Daniel Morse stated that 2024 has been a transitional year. December 11, 2024 will be last day for old District Manager that he is replacing.

Custer County is seeking funding on its own for 2025 instead of piggy backing on Fremont County.

Grant services and opportunities were discussed.

Cost Share is being increased from \$8000 to \$13000 and grant services are being offered through the Conservation District office.

The Conservation District Board is fully staffed with only one alternate position available at this time.

- **City of Cañon City**

Jessie Young reported that they are in the planning phase for the upcoming year.

Canon City hired Nutrien Ag Solutions – Dustin Polasek – for drone spraying Rejuvenate to treat their mountain biking trails.

The drone covers about a 6 foot wide area and flies at about 25 feet in the air above the trail.

- **City of Florence**

No representative from the City of Florence.

Ed Norden talked to City of Florence Mayor Steve Wolfe and needs to do so again

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

Not present

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany presented her annual report as summarized on the next two pages.

Hoary Cress mites were discussed on the Biocontrol slide – they eat White top

The Fremont County Weed Management Plan needs to be renewed once every 3 years. It is time to get it on the January 2025 agenda for the Weed Advisory Board.

Daniel asked a few questions about cost sharing for private land owners.

Fremont County Weed Management ~ 2024 Summary ~

Partners ...

- Private landowners and managers
- Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Fremont Conservation District
- Government Agencies (BLM, NRCS, USFS, City of Canon City, City of Florence, Fremont DOI, CDA, CSU Extension, CSFS, Custer County, Canon City Rec. District, CDOIT, USFWS, HPP, CPW, DNR, SLB, Others ...)

Cooperative Projects ...

Bureau of Land Management 2024 Projects:

- Elongated Mustard—Fremont/Chaffee County - 15 acres
- Grape Creek—Wilderness Weeds—Fremont/Custer County—48 acres

About the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area:

Formed in 1998, the UACWMA aims to manage noxious weeds on a watershed basis. The UACWMA is comprised of ten counties, seven neighboring Conservation Districts & includes county, state, and federal agencies as well as private landowner participation. The UACWMA applies for grant funding & shares resources across county boundaries to accomplish goals.

Biocontrol Releases

- ⇒ Puncturevine weevil (*microlanius* spp.) - 6 acres
- ⇒ Leafy spurge flea beetle (*laccertosa/ sphithona nigricutis*) - 6 acres
- ⇒ Northern tamarisk beetle (*dioshabda carinulata*) - 10 acres
- ⇒ Field bindweed mite (*aceria malherbae*) - 6 acres

The Palisade Insectary supplied biocontrol insects for treating leafy spurge, tamarisk, puncturevine, and field bindweed species in the 2024 season. These releases were introduced on private and county owned properties with the understanding that monitoring and cultivating practices may need to take place in future seasons.



Rights-of-Way and County Properties ...

- County-maintained rights-of-way
- Pathfinder Park
- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Ecology Park
- Western Fremont Park
- Airport



Education and Outreach

- Boot Brush Kiosks—City of Canon City & Canon City Rec. District
- Weed Walk at Bear Creek Park w/ UACWMA
- Home & Garden Show
- Custer County Lunch & Learn
- Site Visits/Weed Management Plans
- Weed Identification Booklets & Handouts



Fremont's List-A's ...



Giant Reed, Canon City



Japanese Knotweed, Canon City



Myrtle Spurge, Canon City



Elongated Mustard, Wellsville

Private Landowners ...

Cost-share through Fremont Conservation District

Fremont Conservation District funds assisted 52 landowners in treating more than 46 acres of noxious weeds and covering over 2,600 gross acres in Fremont County!!!!



Herbicide at wholesale cost!

During 2024, FCWM distributed over \$7,000 worth of herbicide ... Enough to treat 750+ acres!

Acres ...

Fremont County treated 234 acres of weeds by ground and contracted 62 acres for a total of 296 acres during the 2024 season!



Weed Type	Acres Treated
List A Species	17
Thistles	148
Knapweeds	38
Whitetop	16
Leafy Spurge	17
Salt Cedar/ Russian Olive	11
Other List B Species	18
List C, Bareground & Misc.	31
TOTAL	296

Financials ...

2024 Budget
 Beginning balance \$123,456.13
 Revenues \$193,481.01
 Expenses \$172,091.98
 Ending Balance \$144,845.16

2025 Estimated Budget
 Beginning balance \$144,845.16
 Revenues \$163,300.00
 Expenses \$266,397.00
 Ending Balance \$41,448.16

Thank you!!!



- Fremont County Commissioners
- Weed Advisory Board
- Fremont Conservation District
- Other Partnering Agencies

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Tony Carochi announced that Grandview Avenue bridge is reopening on Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Rick Romano stated that he spoke with a retired veterinarian property owner in Pueblo who identified Succlea Sucliano (spelling) (noxious weed) in Pueblo County – it will kill cattle quickly – keep an eye out for it

Eurasian Watermilfoil is present in the Arkansas River

Ed Norden suggested that the BOCC consider replacement for Justin Kurth. There is an opening for the Weed Advisory Board listed on the Fremont County website.

Paul Telck suggested a slogan “Pay before you spray” to get landowners to pay for herbicide.

Old Business:

By-Laws were approved at May meeting

Signature page – signed by all board members present

By-Laws will be submitted to BOCC for approval following this meeting

New Business:

No new business

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

Tony Telck moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, January 15, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.