

**Fremont County  
Weed Advisory Board**

March 16, 2022  
Fremont County Garden Park Building  
Garden Park Conference Room  
201 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Canon City, CO 81212

The meeting was called to order at 12:14 p.m.

**Board Members Present (in Person):**

Ed Norden, Chairman  
Tony Telck  
Paul Garrett  
Donna Landrum  
Rick Romano  
Justin Kurth

**Board Members Present (Zoom):**

Jay Adamic

**Board Members Absent:**

Fred Smith  
Bud Chess  
Roy Roper  
Paul Telck  
Ralph Kunselman

**Others Present (in Person):**

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director  
Sunny Bryant, County Manager  
Dwayne McFall, County Commissioner  
Alicia Stone, Recording Secretary  
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District  
Greg Langer, NRCS  
Devin Everhart, Recreation District

**Others Present (Zoom):**

Tony Falgien, City of Cañon City

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved as presented.

**Chairman's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Agency Reports:**

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner McFall commented about a legislative issue that would have banned sales or advertising of gas-powered lawn equipment in parts of the state as part of a push for green initiative. Luckily that portion of the bill has been shut down.

Ed Norden asked if fuel prices are being watched and asked what the price of jet fuel was. Commissioner McFall stated not yet, but will probably need to start. County Manager, Sunny Barnes, added that jet fuel is about \$6.00/gallon.

- **BLM**

No report.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

No report.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer stated the deadline for EQIP applications is approaching and there are 10 eligible as of right now. They will be ranked by this Friday. The forestry project last month through South East Fremont, Custer, and Huerfano Counties will cost a little bit of money. The deadline is April 1, 2022. There may be a potential to use leftover EQIP to cover some of the cost. They lifted the COVID restrictions in the building. The doors are open, no appointments needed, and no masks are required. Administration is pushing urban Ag and climate smart commodities. Information on the program can be found at farmers.gov. We are now at D2 severe drought on the drought monitor, which is a little better. The Arkansas Basin is at 91% snow pack and is at 141% for the month for precipitation. Ed Norden asked what the water equivalent is compared to snow.

Greg stated that it is the percent of moisture in the snow. He noted that we recently changed our 30 year average to 1990-2020, as opposed to having years in the 80's that made the average higher. Ed asked if Urban Ag is classified as small farms. Greg stated that small farms fall into that category. Greg noted that they are working with Ag start and the Fremont Economic Development for urban farming.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell stated that they were at the Home and Garden Show the weekend of March 11 & 12, 2022 and there was a great turnout. The Drought Resilience Symposium is on March 25 & 26, 2022, the last day to register is March 18, 2022. The Fremont Conservation

District Annual Banquet is April 22, 2022. They will be scheduling their local work group meeting at their April Meeting.

- **City of Cañon City**  
No Report
- **City of Florence**  
Not in attendance
- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**  
Devin Everhart reported that they are working on dates to work on fallen trees. He noted that there are more trees down than branches.

### **Weed Director's Report:**

Brittany Pierce stated they have been doing a lot of outreach and training over the last few months. The total award to the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area (UACWMA) group was for \$90,000.00 but no changes were made for Fremont County's portion. The grant included the aerial treatment to the Elongated Mustard project in Wellsville. Leonard Felix from Olathe is still contracting with Fremont County for 2022, but with an increase to his estimated prices due to inflating gas and labor prices. This was already adjusted into the grant funds.

The Eurasian watermilfoil that is present at Blue Heron ponds in Florence will continue for additional treatments this season through Horizon Vegetation Management. This year's treatment should conclude the final application to the ponds until further monitoring indicates new growth patterns.

Plans to utilize biocontrol in Canon City alongside the 4-H kids will be planned in late May to early June, probably on a weekday. The control to be released will likely be a tamarisk beetle to some parts of the River Walk, which has been approved by the Rec District. The Palisade Insectary is willing to donate these beetles for educating the youth. Other plans to release a puncturevine weevil in the fall are being discussed with the Palisade Insectary and Penrose Park. One suggestion is to reach out to FFA.

A recycle day is being discussed with Clean Harbors to safely remove electronics, pesticides, and specifically herbicides in conjunction with another County recycling event sometime in April. A cap on the amount of waste to be collected will likely be required, as I will be the first collection the County has issued in several years. Vouchers may be a good way to cap the amount of waste. The date will be determined once both vendors are able to schedule a date. Ed asked if the County is looking to do things the same day. Sunny stated they are and it may be held at Pathfinder Park. They are working with a new vendor for electronics and they are looking at a weekend in April.

Brittany noted that they are working on getting UTV's and spray rigs, as well as getting two seasonal employees.

### **Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:**

Ed asked if the county had any Covid money to use for the community. Commissioner McFall stated that they have ARPA funds and are currently taking applications from small businesses and non-profits.

The group discussed using drones to look at infestations. Brittany stated that they need permission from landowners and from BLM to do so. It would also require having the IT department go with, as they have the certification to fly the drone. It would be easier to work with landowners by Cottonwood Creek off of Highway 9, but they will need written approval from them.

Devin discussed the Tamarisk on the Riverwalk and noted that there has been some big Russian Olives removed. They also discussed what is happening with the Rhodes project, the City of Canon City is in charge. Tony with the City wasn't sure of when that will be starting, but noted that there will be a meeting held next week about it.

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

None.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.