Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board

May 20, 2026
Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.
Garden Park Conference Room
201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Rick Romano

Board Members Present (in Person):

Rick Romano, Chairman	12/31/2027
Tony Telck	12/31/2026
Ed Norden	12/31/2027
Bryan Welding	12/31/2027
Dean Brady	12/31/2028

Board Members Absent:

Tom Grette	12/31/2026
Paul Garrett	12/31/2028
John Coyle	12/31/2027
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2026
Paul Telck	Life
Roy Roper	Life
Vacant	12/31/2026 (Donna's position)

Others Present (in Person):
Brittany Pierce, Fremont County Weed Management Director
Jesse Young, City of Canon City
Daniel Morse, Fremont Conservation District
Devin Everhart, Canon City Recreation District
Greg Langer, NRCS
Tony Carochi, Fremont County Administrator
Shawn Sutton, Fremont County Asst Administrator / Finance Director
Jacob Jacoby
Donna Landrum, Fremont County Weed Department
Shaun Kohl, Fremont County Weed Department
Rick Guteriez, Fremont County Public Health Director
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve agenda by Ed Norden and 2nd by Dean Brady

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting were distributed at this meeting and via email. Motion to approve minutes by Dean Brady and 2nd by Tony Telck

Chairman's Report:

Rick Romano stated that he is working as a contractor with Colorado Open Lands doing conservation easement monitoring and has been assigned the property in Pueblo County with the Yellow Starthistle. So he is keeping an eye on it.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**
  Tony Carochi introduced Rick Gutierrez, Fremont County Public Health Director

  Tony then went over some project updates:
  The building projects on East Main for Weed Department, Emergency Management and Search and Rescue should be completed by the middle of June

  The Fremont County Airport drainage project is being completed utilizing ARPA Money and is progressing

  The Fremont County Judicial Building is getting five new Roof Top Units to update HVAC

- **BLM**
  Not present
  Brittany mentioned that they are adding ~$40K funding into their 5 year agreement

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**
  Not present

- **NRCS**
  Greg Langer stated that the five year Farm Bill passed the House and is moving into the Senate. Currently running on the 2018 Farm Bill.

  Working on EQIP applications
  Forestry, irrigation, high tunnel, water management
  Cultural Resource clearance is the hold up on the Fremont ditch

  Snow pack report at about 14-16% earlier this month for the Upper Ark

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Daniel Morse stated that the Fremont Conservation District had their 80th Annual Landowners banquet in April

Workgroup meetings completed but were not as well attended in person as was hoped so the Conservation District is giving away a free hat if you complete the online survey

No-Till-Drill is ready to go

Conducting various education and outreach programs for drought planning, agriculture producer business management, fire mitigation / safety including:

Friday July 31st is Family Day at the county fair and they plan to be there
5K fun run

- **City of Cañon City**
  Jesse Young stated weed control is better than in years past

  Training new staff members on weed identification and herbicide application

  Rick inquired about water cutbacks and Jesse stated that they have cut back to 3 days a week for watering. They are modifying tactics and process for watering to conserve water.

  Lakeside Cemetery is gravity fed off of the head pressure from the Canon City treatment plant and watering was delayed as long as possible

- **City of Florence**
  Not present

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**
  Devin Everhart states Whitetop is flourishing – spraying when they can – trying to spray when least people are present and the winds cooperate

  Citizens on Pesticide Sensitivity Registry require additional consideration

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany has hired two seasonals: Donna Landrum and Shaun Kohl

She attended day at the capitol with CWMA in April and contributed a question regarding the acreage requirement to serve on a Weed Advisory Board

Herbicide sales to private landowners are underway

The UACWMA Invasive Challenge 5K is underway May 25 – July 4, 2026
Registration Link: **https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/CanonCity/UACWMAInvasive**

IGA with Chaffee County is being reviewed and forthcoming

List of landowners awaiting weed spraying is growing

Ed asked if legislature has cut weed control grant funding? Yes – another 25% cut
Brittany still charges the state for treating elongated mustard

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Jake Jacoby

Has a herd of goats and is looking for anybody interested in using his goats for weed control
His goats like Knapweed and Leafy Spurge
Jake inquired if there is a policy regarding goats -
Dean Brady stated that there is possibly some sort of regulation in the City of Canon City regarding hooved animals
Jesse stated that he would send Jake the City Ordinances regarding goats

The May 12, 2026 BOCC meeting had water status updates from Canon City, Florence, Park Center, and Penrose Water

Donna Landrum inquired about run down properties and Tony Carochi suggested contacting Fremont County Planning & Zoning at 719-276-7360

Old Business:

Paul Telck commemoration – article in The Florence Reporter, March 2026 (attached as last page of this document)

New Business:

None

Adjournment / Next Meeting:
The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.



Fremont County Weed Management staff: Dean Brady, Paul Telck (center), Rick Romano, Brittany Pierce, Tony Telck, Tom Grette, and Bryan Welding. (photo courtesy of Fremont County Weed Management).

Honoring Paul Telck

A Legacy of Stewardship

By Brittany Pierce

Fremont County Weed Management recognizes the retirement of Paul Telck from the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board and honors his transition to Life Member status in acknowledgment of decades of service and foundational contributions to the county's weed management program.

Telck played a key role in shaping what is now considered modern weed management in Fremont County. His work in the early 1990s helped establish a science-based, integrated approach at a time when many programs were still developing.

Beginning in 1991, Telck initiated biological control efforts targeting leafy spurge through the release of Aphthona flea beetles. He later documented these efforts in a 1996 report that demonstrated measurable reductions in plant density at established monitoring sites. His approach combined biological control with grazing studies, herbicide timing, and growing degree-day tracking, laying the groundwork for long-term, data-driven management strategies.

A distinctive element of Telck's work was the integration of youth education into applied field practices. Through the Champs or Bust 4-H Entomology Club, local students participated in monitoring release sites, linking scientific learning with real-world land Management.

In 1997, Telck began serving on the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board, where he later became Board President. He went on to serve five years as Fremont County Weed Control Coordinator, during which time he helped transition the program from limited resources to a fully functioning, cooperative system.

When Telck took on the role, the county had no dedicated weed management equipment. Through grant funding and partnerships, he assembled the county's first herbicide application equipment and modernized operations with automated roadside spraying systems. He also helped establish cost-share programs to support private landowners in managing priority noxious weeds.

Telck worked closely with numerous agencies and partners, including Colorado State University, the Fremont Conservation District, NRCS, Denver University, CDOT, BLM, and private landowners. He also served on the steering committee of the Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Management Cooperative, helping coordinate efforts across jurisdictions.

In 2004, Telck led Fremont County's participation in one of Colorado's first aerial tamarisk treatment projects, marking a significant advancement in regional weed control efforts. His contributions were recognized that same year when he was named Weed Manager of the Year by the Colorado Weed Management Association.

Telck's approach to weed management was deeply influenced by his lifelong involvement in agriculture and education. As noted by his son, Alan Telck:

"Paul was heavily involved in 4-H in his youth and continued that involvement throughout his adult life. He had a consistent focus on entomology. His later use of biological controls for leafy spurge was likely shaped by projects in 4-H, including helping youth track codling moth hatches with Growing Degree Units and pheromone traps, work on state award winning projects such as grasshopper control using Nosema locustae, and disease management in beekeeping."

That foundation carried through his professional work, emphasizing practical, science-based solutions and long-term stewardship of the land.

Beyond his weed management career, Telck has dedicated over 26 years to the CSU Extension Master Gardener program, sharing his expertise in tree grafting and entomology. His foundational work as Coordinator established the systems and partnerships that maintain Fremont County's state-level recognition today. As he retires, the County and Weed Advisory Board honor his leadership, vision, and enduring impact on local land stewardship.