

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

January 19, 2022
Fremont County Garden Park Building
Garden Park Conference Room
201 N 6th Street, Canon City, CO 81212

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

Board Members Present (in Person):

Ed Norden, Chairman
Paul Garrett
Donna Landrum
Rick Romano

Board Members Present (Zoom):

Jay Adamic
Tony Telck

Board Members Absent:

Fred Smith
Bud Chess
Roy Roper
Paul Telck
Ralph Kunselman
Justin Kurth

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Sunny Bryant, County Manager
Dwayne McFall, County Commissioner
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Mia Cory, Fremont Conservation District
Devin Everhart, Recreation District

Others Present (Zoom):

Sean Garrett, City of Florence
Patty York, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Kara Harders, Colorado State University

Minutes:

The minutes from the November 17, 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 the lack of moisture. Fremont County is under Stage I Fire Restrictions. The Canon City Project on Rhodes is still underway. Fremont County got the CO for Pathfinder Park Event Center. CSU Extension will be out at Pathfinder Park and will be good to go this week.

Ed Norden stated from September to December of 2020 we had just over 21 inches of snow. From September 2021 to date we have had 7.71 inches. The mountains are doing better but not at the snowpack.

- **BLM**

A representative was not in attendance but sent a written report. Brittany reported they got a contract submission from Martin Marietta on Parkdale Quarry for them requesting to expand their operation onto BLM, with an estimated footprint of around 700 acres and over 100 years of mine life. The current mine property and nearby BLM has a leafy spurge problem. BLM is currently reviewing the mine and reclamation plan, and we will have some requirements for weed control (that would only apply to BLM lands, the staging and processing areas are on private), but Aaron is assuming the county may also have to approve the expansion, so he wanted to give a heads-up just in case you or the board wanted to evaluate the weed plan they have on file with the county. He saw something submitted from 1997 where the weed board weighed in, and I'm not sure they are following the plan or that it's effective.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Kara reported they discussed updating the fact sheets at the annual meeting. They discussed coming up with herbicide recommendations. The small acreage information may be updated as well.

- **NRCS**

Debbie Mitchell stated the EQIP eligibility is January 21, 2022.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Upper Ark Cooperative Weed Management Area Annual Meeting is February 10, 2022; we will be at the Fremont County Home & Garden Show March 11 & 12, 2022; and, Fremont Conservation District will be having their Annual Banquet on April 22, 2022.

- **City of Cañon City**
Not in attendance
- **City of Florence**
No report
- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**
Devin reported they have an application for the Mile High Youth Corp to get them back. They did work last year and they hope to have them continue the project. There are quite a few trees dying in the area. They had a fire on the Riverwalk Trail and it burned about 150 feet. They have replanted some trees in the Riverwalk area over time. Ed asked if the Recreation District still uses their irrigation rights for Griffin Park and Devin said they do.
- **Other**
Justin with State Land Board stated that they have been a partner and would like to continue the partnership. They do not have the manpower to do the work themselves but want to continue working with the Weed Department moving forward.

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany Pierce stated that they finished their grant for the State Weed Fund.

The annual conference will be located at the Abbey. The fee is \$50 for the application, which includes lunch.

Brittany has been checking equipment to make sure they are on track for the start of the season.

The group discussed the Canon City Rhodes Avenue Project. There is a small List A species of Japanese Knotweed and she is looking at the project to ensure it doesn't spread. Brittany has been told the project is on hold until possibly the fall. Brittany asked Patty York from the Colorado Department of Agriculture to join the conversation to get her input. Patty stated it is difficult to know what the plan is for the construction. She is willing to come down this summer and look at the project to determine a good plan. Ed asked where the infestation was and it is on public right of way on Rhodes Avenue. The ditch from the end of Rhodes to the river is the County's responsibility. Brittany said they treat this area every year and are careful not to spread it. The concern is transferring the soil from that area to another area. An option may be to move the soil to a parking lot and spread it out to kill off the plant.

Ed noted that the City of Canon City has not had a representative attend these meetings. There are a few areas that Japanese Knotweed is confined and they have done a good job of keeping it confined. Patty stated that she thinks we have an advantage with the dry climate. Patty indicated that the roots may be about 15-foot spread, but they would need to dig in the soil to determine the exact amount. Brittany hopes to come up with a plan with the City to do the project properly.

Brittany might be doing outreach for the 4-H Club. Paul Telck said he used to take 4-H kids out to do biocontrol releases.

Ed asked Patty to give an update at the state level. The grants have closed and there are \$750,000 of funds available but they have received more than that in requests. They are reviewing the grant applications at this point. They will finish the review in mid-February and award the funds after that. The state had an opportunity with USFS for projects totaling \$3.7 million around the state. They had to provide matching funds so there is a total of \$7.4 million capacity. She submitted to Forest Service on the date the fires in Boulder occurred. They are expecting \$700,000 from the state, which includes \$100,000 to run the office. They had a new Noxious Weed Specialist in September. He is working on projects to help disseminate information throughout the state. They want a collaborative effort to eradicate weeds.

Ed stated that at the county level Fremont County has tried to make efforts and asked how this compares to other counties. Patty stated that they have tried to do outreach to improve county involvement. They are hoping to get more funding to try to improve some of the programs.

In the aftermath of the wildfires, it is dependent on what vegetation is there to start with as to what grows back. Noxious weeds take advantage of disturbed areas so this can prevent native species from coming back. In Boulder County, they have a large location of a list A species. The state still helps with the funding for the elongated mustard project.

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.