

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

January 17, 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 12:02 p.m. by Ed Norden

Board Members Present (in Person):

Ed Norden, Chairman	12/31/2024
Tony Telck, Vice Chairman	12/31/2026
Rick Romano	12/31/2024
Donna Landrum	12/31/2026
Jay Adamic	12/31/2025
Paul Garrett	12/31/2025
Paul Telck	12/31/2025

Board Members Absent:

Roy Roper	Life
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2023
Justin Kurth	12/31/2024

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Tony Carochi, County Manager
Shannon Davey, CSU Extension Office
Steve Stultz, Fremont Conservation District
Greg Langer, NRCS
Casey Spurlin, Fremont County Temp.
Jessie Young, City of Canon City
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner
Aaron Rictor, BLM
Jenna Yslas, Recording Secretary

Minutes:

The minutes from the November 15, 2023 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report:

Ed stated there needs to be an election of officers the first of every year according to the bylaws. He also stated that he would like a review of bylaws to be talked about under new business today. Ed inquired about contact with the City of Florence, Britany stated she has reached out to them about this meeting along with other things to no avail. Dwayne confirmed she has the correct contact.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Dwayne –recent trip to DC working with the Feds, pertaining to the poor health of our forest and making it more friendly to incise a smaller company to contract for long term (10 to 20 years) in order rid the forest of these little to no value trees. The goal is to get them to be more flexible with their standards in order to make it feasible for a contractor.

- **BLM**

Aaron – No specific report.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Shannon Davey – She has Master Gardner classes 2 times a month. Check the website for more details.

- **NRCS**

Greg – Sign ups for the conservation Stuart ship program - payment went up from \$1500.00 per year min. for a 5 year contract to \$4000.00 per year on the contract. Stop by office for more info.

Greg also mentioned snow pack for the year is 74%

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell reported Daniel Morris has been hired as her replacement.

The Upper Arkansas Cooperative Annual informational weed meeting will be February 8th – more information is available via the Fremont Conservation website

- **City of Cañon City**

Jessie Young – planning for weed apps in the next 30 days. Watching the weather to see what will need to happen in the coming year.

- **City of Florence**

No representative from the City of Florence at this point.

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

Not present

Weed Director's Report:

- Upper Ark Collaborative Weed Mgmt. Area (UACWMA) has changed its location from the Abbey in Canon City to the Pueblo Events Center. Abbey has shut their doors for the time being. This training event is open to the public and will take place Thursday, February 8th. It is a full day with great speakers and this course will also offer Continuing Education Credits towards Colorado Pesticide Applicators Licenses. The cost is \$60 if paid in person and \$65 online.
- CCHS has completed 2 kiosk signs. We are waiting for a school logo to complete the sign portion of the project. Hopefully will have at least 2 of them completed before summer. Canon City Rec. Dist. Is on board to get them out on the trails and offered to help. Installation may need some help with that. Perhaps some volunteers to get them set in the ground.
- Submitted State Noxious Weed Grant in December. Asking for funding to help with Custer County landowners. Also asking to get a seasonal to train and work in Custer County specifically. This person will be job eligible at the end of seasonal work with Fremont County to be a potential Weed Manager for Custer County. This will help offset our time spent working on these projects outside of the County. Waiting to see if State will approve.

Parkdale quarry ~ has had issues with leafy spurge in and around its property and mining operations historically. More notably along the Tallahassee creek area and bordering what was known as Harvey Ranch. This was first noted to the permittee by Fremont County Weed Advisory Board, Soil Conservationist and NRCS in 1997. Surveys and monitoring of the site were conducted and plans specifically towards Leafy Spurge removal and other noxious weeds were prepared with the intent that the land operator would implement these conditions. The plan does address the sensitivity of the site and the threat that the weed species could impact on a long term or short-term scale.

More recently the current land operator Front Range Aggregates amended the application in 2021 to extend the permit and add 700 acres of minable area on BLM bordering land. It was also noted that granite deposits were to be moved on to private land.

Periodically Fremont County Weed Management has made some applications to the property and around the mining operations which follow along Tallahassee Creek. Primarily the majority of the work has been conducted on the BLM property that borders the quarry. Without consistent contact it was lost as to how frequently applications and monitoring have been done on the quarry itself. The only known applications of which FCWM has made physical applications to the Parkdale Quarry were in 2022, 2020, 2015 and 2014.

There is a date that has not been decided yet in February that will be used to meet with the Parkdale Quarry Managers. I plan to be there to look at the area and get a better perspective at the initiative to implement their Weed Plan. I have a few contacts that are available as to who to get in touch with should I need to make additional arrangements to survey or discuss further. An update at the next board meeting, should this contact take place, will be given then.

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

No Roundtable talk.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Election of officers :

No elected secretary / Never has been.

1 year term for Chairman Nominations: Tony made a motion to elect Rick. Motion was seconded by Jay Adamic.

Temp chairman Nominations: Tony nominated Jay as vice and Paul Garret seconded it.

Review of by laws: – Ed proposed having a committee look at these bylaws.

Maybe easier to get members for the county board if they didn't have to own 40. Ed put it up for a vote. Brittany will send out an email with current bylaws and encourage everyone to look over them and we can talk more next meeting. Commissioners need to be involved.

Brittany discussed treating the BLM land out by the Parkdale Quarry – the permit states Fremont County Weed Management will control ... but Brittany has NOT been out there – leafy spurge is spreading like crazy

Ed suggested that Brittany get with P&Z and Commissioners – Brittany stated that she contacted P&Z and will be joining them on their site visit in February. Fred Smith has expired and does not want to renew. It is not being advertised that we need new members but is on the website. No word from Ralph.

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.