

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
Fremont County Garden Park Building
Garden Park Conference Room
201 N 6th Street, Canon City, CO 81212

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m.

Board Members Present (in Person)

Ed Norden, Chairman
Ralph Kunselman
Paul Garrett
Donna Landrum
Rick Romano

Board Members Present (via Zoom):

Tony Telck, Vice Chairman
Fred Smith
Jay Adamic

Board Members Absent:

Justin Kurth
Paul Telck
Bud Chess
Roy Roper

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Sunny Bryant, County Manager
Mia Cory, Fremont Conservation District/NRCS
Arley Garrison, CDOT
Krystina Del Duca, Recording Secretary
Dean Brady, Brady's Garden Center
Joe Loop, Guest

Others Present (via Zoom):

Greg Langer, NRCS
Kara Harders, CSU/NRCS
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Aaron Richter, Bureau of Land Management
Tony Falgien, City of Cañon City
Kevin Grantham, incoming County Commissioner

Minutes:

The minutes from the January 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Ed Norden had nothing to report.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

None.

- **BLM**

Aaron Richter thanked the Weed Department for their hard work this last year. The Fremont County Weed Department handled the majority of the application for BLM this past year.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Kara Harders reported that the programming focus was switched to online. Victory Gardens have been popular during the pandemic, and on-site consulting has been available as needed.

- **NRCS**

None.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Mia Corey reported that the Conservation District has been checking on the regrowth of the Russian olives and tamarisks on the Florence River Park and the Penrose Water properties. Upper Ark Outreach has been put on hold.

- **City of Cañon City**

Tony Falgien said the City has nothing new to report.

- **City of Florence**

None.

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

None.

- **Other**

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Dean Brady of Brady's Garden Center suggested having educational pamphlets in the local garden centers to educate landowners about NRCS, Fremont Conservation District, BLM, the Weed Department, and various resources available.

Possible new apps to identify plants were also discussed along with the state watch list and possible upcoming changes to the List C species.

Ralph Kunselman referenced an article in the LaJunta Ag Journal regarding packages of seeds arriving unsolicited in the mail. He encouraged the board to remind people to contact the Department of Agriculture if they receive some.

Weed Director's Report:

- **2020 Annual Report**

Director Brittany Pierce gave the Annual Report for 2020. Partners for the year included more than three dozen government agencies, Fremont Conservation District, Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area, and private landowners and managers. Cost-share through the conservation district for weed spray and herbicides at wholesale cost were successful programs this past year.

The two largest cooperative projects were the Elongated Mustard treatment and Grape Creek. The Elongated Mustard Project started in the spring of 2015 as a cooperative with Chaffee County, BLM, HPP, SLB, and private landowners where 160 acres were treated. In 2020, only two acres were identified and treated. The Grape Creek project is in cooperation with BLM using Wilderness Weeds, Inc. to treat Scotch Thistle in hard-to-reach areas along Grape Creek. In 2020, 24 acres were treated.

List A Species focus has been on Myrtle Spurge, Giant Reed and Japanese Knotweed. Biocontrol has been used as a suppression treatment for List B and List C species. Canada Thistle Rust, Russian knapweed gall wasp, gall midge, Diffuse and Spotted knapweed weevil and Northern tamarisk beetle have been applied and monitored this year. 150 acres were treated throughout the season with thistles being the most common type of weed.

Goals and expectations for 2021 include a new location for the weed department (1901 E Main Street), new methods of conducting visits and education, expanded biocontrol and continued cooperation with federal, state, and local entities to monitor and treat noxious weed species found within the boundaries.

Old Business:

- **Discussion/Approval of revisions to 'Priorities and Procedures' & 'Noxious Weed Management Plan'**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

- **Expiration/Reappointment Weed Board Members—Tony Telck, Fred Smith, Ralph Kunselman, and Donna Landrum**

Expiring members were reminded to turn in a letter of interest if they would like to be considered for reappointment to the board.

The next meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.