

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Fremont County Garden Park Building
Garden Park Conference Room
201 N 6th Street, Canon City, CO 81212

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

Board Members Present (in Person)

Ed Norden, Chairman
Paul Garrett
Donna Landrum
Rick Romano
Paul Telck

Board Members Present (via Zoom):

Tony Telck, Vice Chairman
Fred Smith
Justin Kurth

Board Members Absent:

Ralph Kunselman
Jay Adamic
Bud Chess
Roy Roper

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Kevin Grantham, County Commissioner
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Krystina Del Duca, Recording Secretary
Mike Patterson, City of Florence

Others Present (via Zoom):

Greg Langer, NRCS
Kara Harders, CSU/NRCS
Aaron Richter, Bureau of Land Management
Tony Falgien, City of Cañon City

Minutes:

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

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Ed Norden confirmed the reappointment of board members—Ralph Kunselman, Donna Landrum, Fred Smith, and Tony Telck.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Grantham was welcomed to the meeting.

- **BLM**

Aaron Richter thanked Fremont County weed Department for being an excellent partner and said that without their cooperative efforts, BLM would not have a weed program.

BLM is gearing up for the season. A seasonal employee is anticipated to assist with the various programs including Noxious Weeds. Aaron has begun looking into permitting and restrictions on treating the Watermilfoil at Blue Heron.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

None.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer reported that they are currently ranking the EQIP applications. He shared an email from Kara Hellige, of the US Army Corps of Engineers, regarding the EPA's Waters of the US Regulations. Contracts have changed or been placed on hold because of the injunction that the courts issued stemming from the Colorado lawsuit. These regulations changes could potentially impact the weed department.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell said the conservation district has a no till drill available; they have started their preschool garden program; and they will perform their annual regrowth check on County Road 119 in May/June.

- **City of Cañon City**

Tony Falgien said the City has nothing new to report.

- **City of Florence**

Mike Patterson said the City has nothing new to report.

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

None.

- **Other**

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Rick Romano brought information to share regarding the Tree of Heaven in response to Dean Brady's questions from the December meeting. It is currently listed as a species of concern. Through his research, Rick discovered an app that allows the user to record the locations of noxious weeds. The app can be found at <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds/mapping>.

Rick is also assisting Pueblo Community College, Fremont Campus, with Leafy Spurge control. The plant is intermingled within the landscaping on campus and would require hand painting to prevent ruining the areas. He suspects this could be a contributor to the Sand Creek Leafy Spurge problem.

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany Pierce said the department is preparing for the season. The Bobcat spray rig has been sold, and a Kaboda unit has been purchased with some funding from the Fremont Conservation District.

The department is in the process of moving their office space to the new location (1901 East Main). The move should be almost complete by the end of the week. The chemicals will continue to be stored at the airport, but future plans include all equipment and chemical storage to be centralized at the new location.

Brittany gave a presentation at the Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting. The outreach generated phone calls inquiring about weed management. Chemical and wees spray requests have already started along with the non-noxious weed management assistance. A fact sheet has been created to assist those who need a more general weed management plan.

The department is finishing the CDOT projects and working on renewing the agreement for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. CDOT has extended the funding for this.

A new cooperative project is in the planning stages to treat thistle—Canada and Musk—in the Waugh Mountain, Stoney Face Mountain, and Jack Hall Mountain region. The project would be in conjunction with BLM and utilize the same aerial service used for the Elongated Mustard treatment each summer.

Old Business:

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

A committee met and made the recommended changes before the originally scheduled March 2020 meeting. Since meetings have been restricted and cancelled due to COVID regulations throughout the year, this item has been overlooked. Fred Smith made the motion to accept the recommendations and forward the plan on to the County Commissioners for approval. Tony Adamic seconded. The motion carried.

New Business: None.

The next meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.