

**Fremont County  
Weed Advisory Board**

March 15, 2023

**Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.**

**Garden Park Conference Room**

*201 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Canon City, CO 81212*

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Ed Norden

**Board Members Present (in Person):**

Ed Norden, Chairman	12/31/2024
Tony Telck, Vice Chairman	12/31/2023
Paul Garrett	12/31/2025
Donna Landrum	12/31/2023
Rick Romano	12/31/2024
Jay Adamic	12/31/2025
Paul Telck	12/31/2025

**Board Members Absent:**

Justin Kurth	12/31/2024
Fred Smith	12/31/2023
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2023
Bud Chess	Life
Roy Roper	Life

**Others Present (in Person):**

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director  
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner  
Tony Carochi, County Manager  
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary  
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District  
Greg Langer, NRCS  
Devin Everhart, Canyon City Recreation District  
Jessie Young, City of Canon City

**Minutes:**

Ed Norden formally welcomed Tony Carochi, new Fremont County Manager  
Ed asked Paul if he would stay on Weed Board after his retirement from Fremont County and Paul replied “yes”.

The minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were approved as amended to correct the spelling of EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program and note that Kathy Lutz should be noted as the Recording Secretary.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Nothing to report.

### **Agency Reports:**

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Dwayne McFall stated he is following current legislation regarding the applicator legislation. State of Colorado legislators are discussing moving applicator laws to be under local control instead of the state. Preference is to keep control at the state level to avoid local entities making their own rules which would over complicate the application process. Brittany Pierce has written a letter for submittal to Governor Polis.

Property on East Main is being re-assessed due to flood plain - considering tearing building down and rebuilding. The ditch to the west of the property floods the building, especially when full of weeds. So retention wall will be built to prevent flooding of the building.

A new building is being constructed at Pathfinder Park and will hopefully be completed before the county fair this year.

Ed asked about flood survey and Dwayne stated northeast corner will need fill – but not sure of height. Fill dirt will need to be brought in.

Ed asked where the fill dirt comes from and Dwayne responded that he does not know.

Ed asked if the House of Representatives just killed the latest waters of the US and Dwayne responded that the House voted 287 to 170 (or something like that) to deny the plan. Then it will go to the Senate and Biden has stated that he will veto it if it gets to his desk. This would effect every property owner that gets irrigation water that runs off property. Paul confirmed. Would also require Corps of Engineers to clean your ditch.

- **BLM**

Not present

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Mia Cory gave report for submittal to be presented by Debbie Mitchell.

Debbie stated that Julianne Dinkel has been officially appointed as the County Executive Director. A CSU Extension position will be coming open for an Ag Natural Resources 4-H agent.

Dwayne McFall stated Julianne will continue as 4-H agent the open job description is being written.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer stated Tara's replacement interviews happened back in November for a small acreage management specialist.

The new hire is coming from Kenya – his name is Bonface Manono. April 10, 2023 is tentative start date depending on ability to leave the country of Kenya. He was interviewed via Teams / Zoom.

EQIP Application deadline is Friday March 17, 2023.

9 EQIP applications in Fremont County ranging from forestry to night tunnels.

Back in 2018 they had a TCP Riparian project down along the river and as of a couple months ago they cancelled the last contract in that project – so now the project is completed.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell stated they had their Upper Ark Cooperative Weed Management annual meeting in February with 70 people in attendance.

They will be at the Home and Garden show on March 24<sup>th</sup> & March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Their Annual Banquet is March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Abbey Events Center. Anybody interested in attending can register online through their website.

No-Till Drill Rentals have begun and all weekends are reserved but there are still plenty of weekdays available.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Fund grant that the Fremont Conservation District gets for the Upper Ark Cooperative Weed Management area was fully funded this year for \$126,215. The participating counties are Fremont, Chaffee, Huerfano and Teller Park Conservation District.

Dwayne asked if Debbie is recruiting anybody for her position since Debbie is planning to retire this year and they have open board positions available. Debbie replied No.

- **City of Cañon City**

Jessie Young stated that he is trying to get ahead of the weeds before they start. He has put pre-emergent down everywhere that he could.

They have done invasive tree removal along the Arkansas Riverwalk (mostly Russian Olive). Unfortunately had to leave a bunch for bank stabilization. His goal this year is to try to get ahead of things before they become a problem.

He is working with a company out of Denver called Helena that Shane Gifford with Yard Crafters has worked with them in the past. Inquiring about wetting agents for watering parks due to restrictions in the Front Range to keep a quality turf without using much water.

Ed asked where his primary focus is along the river and Jessie stated they go from Black Ridge up to the college campus, starting at the homeless camp and working their way up.

Brittany stated they got their IGA approved on February 28, 2023 for Canon City and Fremont County with some verbiage changes otherwise remained the same to what they had in 2007.

Ed asked was there a cost share? Brittany replied they will be doing an estimated proposal for the year and that is the amount that would be received for each year.

- **City of Florence**

Not present

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

Devin Everhart reported that they are trying to get Rouse Park project done.

Preparing for soccer season – which begins next Saturday.

There is no water yet – not until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Brittany stated Oil Creek got water yesterday.

**Ed changed order – permanently – Weed Director will go now and then Board member reports.**

**Weed Director's Report:**

Brittany stated she has been working on a couple of projects for the Weed Department.

One such Outreach project is a Boot Brush Kiosk where they have signage placed along public areas so that people are aware of noxious weed species. She is working with Department of Agriculture for funding to help offset the costs and the Canon City High School welding club students are volunteering to help install the signs. Sometime in the next year they plan to place them along the Riverwalk and a couple of other local places.

Ed asked who will decide what information will be on the signs and Brittany stated that she will make the decision. There are some requirements of what species must be posted and it must be noxious weeds within the area limited to 2 or 3 species per sign.

Ed stated that Fremont Adventure Recreation posed a question regarding Cheatgrass along some of the trails. Possibly working with FAR to post signage along their trails. Brittany stated that she and Aaron Richter of BLM did not find any Cheatgrass when they drove out there last Monday or Tuesday.

Ed stated that Rick is promising snow soon that will help eliminate weeds.

Brittany is looking at acquiring bigger equipment to update what they have at the shop. They purchased a new truck which will help with monitoring, scouting and moving chemicals.

She is also looking at some ATV's – not definite about what is needed yet – so no purchase has been completed yet.

Brittany is writing a letter to Governor Polis regarding Amendment to Pesticide Applicators legislation. Sunset Review is expiring and Polis is trying to initiate changes to give individual control to local entities. Brittany inquired if anybody would like to join her in stating that uniformity among applicators is necessary. The Department of Agriculture has been notifying local governments about this potential legislation change.

Dwayne suggested sending the letter to the sponsors of the legislation as well as Polis and Ed suggested sending more information out via email to board members so that they can be well informed.

Brittany will be at the Home and Garden show on March 24-25.  
She has a seasonal position opening with a start date hopefully mid April.

She is already having calls coming in for herbicides sales.

Dwayne asked if Florence has a representative – Ed and Brittany stated Tom was present at the last meeting. Ed stated that Tom is temporary because his last day with the City of Florence is May 8<sup>th</sup> the same day the new City Manager starts. Tom is well versed with City of Florence water issues so hopefully he will bring the new City Manager up to speed. The new City Manager is coming from Kansas.

Rick asked if the Leafy Spurge along the river walk has been treated and Brittany replied that she released some flea beetles due to how close it was to the water.

Donna asked if anything was done to the Leafy Spurge growing up near the college.

Rick stated that his predecessor's daughter had been digging it up and selling it at the flea market in Pueblo – but it wasn't actually Leafy Spurge – it was Potentillo.

Donna stated there are other noxious weeds up near the college growing in the flower beds.

Rick will meet with Gordon – Brittany stated somebody with turf and ornamental will be needed.

Ed had to leave for physical therapy.

#### **Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:**

Rick stated he asked Ty Foster if he would be interested if he would want to be on the board.

We should have a training or meeting where we could invite local landscapers – since they have eyes on everything. This would promote early detection rapid response. Some time during their off season train them regarding noxious weeds.

Brittany said the Annual Meeting for the Uper Ark would be a good venue for this. They could get on the mailing list or attend for information and earn credits as well.

Tony Telck stated that it is too dry - Cheatgrass hasn't sprouted yet. Moisture this weekend – watch out.

Donna asked to see what's going on at ditch with no water in it near Forestry??. Delwin Brady, South Canyon is president maybe. Now would be a good time to check it out.

Rick asked if Greg could give a snow pack report. Greg stated 78.

Donna asked what's going on in front of the Humane Society? Brittany stated they are covering the culvert, the soil was removed and put into containment place being monitored.

#### **Old Business:**

Donna asked about the people behind that veterinarian area that was treated. Brittany needs to talk to them.

Dwayne asked how to keep people from planting Giant Reed in their home landscapes – it is an invasive species that should not be planted near water areas.

Donna – drove through Four Mile and saw Giant Reed planted in yard.

**New Business:**

None

**Adjournment / Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.