

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

May 17, 2023

Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.

Garden Park Conference Room

201 N. 6th Street

Canon City, CO 81212

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 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
Justin Kurth	12/31/2024
Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2023
Fred Smith	12/31/2023

Board Members Absent:

Bud Chess	Life
Roy Roper	Life
Jay Adamic	12/31/2025
Paul Telck	12/31/2025

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Tony Carochi, County Manager
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Greg Langer, NRCS
Bonface Manono, CSU/ NRCS Small Acreage
Jessie Young, City of Canon City
Casey Spurlin, Fremont County Weed Management

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Corrections to March minutes –

Greg Langer stated that it should be Kara – not Tara’s replacement

EQIP applications reference should have been high tunnels - not night tunnels

Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Not present

- **BLM**

Not present

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Welcome Bonface Manono. He has come to us from Kenya.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer working on EQIP applications and CPA workload to keep customers happy.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell reported that rain from last week has slowed them.

Ed asked about rain reports – numbers varied from around county from ~2 inches to ~5 inches.

- **City of Cañon City**

Jessie Young stated treating weeds and mowing.

Ed asked about homeless situation and Jesse stated there are things in the works.

- **City of Florence**

No representative at this point since Tom Piltingsrud is gone.

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

Brittany stated they reported that Devin Everhart is out treating Whitetop this week or next week.

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany stated Pesticide Applicator's Application legislation is waiting on Governor's office at this point regarding the local control topic. June 6th is the deadline.

Both seasonal employees (Donna Landrum and Casey Spurlin) are up and running and present at meeting today. Taking care of stuff in town – Whitetop, Knapweed, tiny bit of Thistle

Ed asked whether or not the winter kill on lawns is affecting weed growth. Bindweed is doing great!

Brittany answered question regarding when to spray - that it is better to spray for weeds after a large rainfall instead of before.

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Donna Landrum stated there is a lot of Whitetop and Knapweed coming up strong all over town and that Bindweed is doing well.

Ed asked if state budget cost sharing grants will cover the coming 12 months.

Brittany responded that with the grant funding and extra List A project they will be fine this year.

Rick asked for a status on Eurasian Watermilfoil at Blue Heron and Brittany responded that they are currently keeping an eye on it and that it may require a fall application but there is not enough at this point to treat.

Rick also asked if there are any new noxious weeds to be aware of.

Brittany responded that the Department of Agriculture is moving plants around on list:

List C will now include Tree of Heaven and Siberian Elm

Ed asked about Russian Olive and Brittany stated that it is on List B.

Rick asked if we should go on the radio to get the word out about noxious weeds. Ed stated he would contact Tate to get in touch with Brittany.

Discussion about online apps to identify plants.

Plant App – not very accurate

Picture This – more accurate

Ed asked about the Hydraulic ditch – Ralph Kunselman stated it is running at about 25% - they have to turn it down when rainfall is heavy.

The ditch over by Home Depot / Grandview ditch is not listed on some website used by contractors and therefore was accidentally damaged creating about \$15K in damage.

Tony stated that the Upper Arkansas Conservancy is starting to document all ditches online.

Old Business:

Ed asked Paul Telck if he would like to be an Honorary Life member when his voting membership expires in 2025.

Paul started on the board around 1991. He has served on and off over the years. He also served as Weed Manager for about 6 years.

Ed Norden motioned that Paul Telck be recognized as an Honorary Life Member of the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board at a designated time when Paul's current term expires as a voting member or when he chooses to retire as a voting member.

The motion was seconded by Rick Romano.

All board members present voted Aye

Ed asked that the BOCC recognize Paul as an Honorary Life Member when the time comes.

Suggestion to interview Paul and have his picture in the newspaper – Ed said he would contact Carrie Canterbury at the Daily Record.

New Business:

Discussion about Justin’s position with Brittany Petterson.

Paul Garrett has officially retired from Fremont County as of June 9 and plans to continue to serve on the Weed Advisory Board.

Ed requested an update on the Pathfinder project – Tony Carochi stated the sides of the building are starting to be erected. Currently waiting on water tap information from the architect. Hoping for completion by time of County Fair.

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.