

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

Wednesday, May 19, 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
Tony Telck
Donna Landrum
Rick Romano
Paul Telck
Ralph Kunselman
Jay Adamic
Donna Landrum

Board Members Present (via Zoom):

Board Members Absent:

Fred Smith
Paul Garrett
Bud Chess
Roy Roper

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director
Kevin Grantham, County Commissioner
Debbie Mitchell, Fremont Conservation District
Shannon Espinoza, Recording Secretary
Greg Langer, NRCS
Aaron Richter, Bureau of Land Management

Others Present (via Zoom):

Kara Harders, CSU/NRCS

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report.

Spoke on the rainfall – 2.53” for May. The rainfall will bring good weed growth.

Welcomed Shannon Espinoza as the new recording secretary.

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Dwayne McFall reported on Cottonwood and Bear Creek run-off. The burn scars have not been producing much sediment, so that is a good thing. Hardscrabble is producing some sediment, meaning there is some washing away at the Junkins burn scar.

He also reported that FAR is reporting cheatgrass along the South Canon Trails – specifically Mutton Bustin'. They initially wanted to have a group of individuals set aside time to go pull it up. Dwayne indicated he had referred them to Brittany. Aaron Richter indicated BLM would certainly be willing to assist if the List C weed is creating issues.

- **BLM**

Aaron Richter said a fuel specialist has been working on a hydroaxing project for habitat improvement and fire mitigation around the YMCA burn scar. They have gotten mulch and seed down but they are seeing natural growth in the area as well.

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Nothing to report.

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer reported that they are currently 3 active tamarisk contracts that should wrap up this year. There have only been three new contracts this year and they are trying to get additional money for more. They are going back to a better process that includes more project planning instead of modifying contracts as they go. When done this way, work is planned out better and there are minimal modifications to the contracts.

- **Fremont Conservation District**

Debbie Mitchell has checked Florence River Park weeds as follow-up on the Russian Olive Project of CR119 in Florence.

UACWMA Annual meeting tentatively scheduled for November 10,2021

FCD Local Work Group Meeting will be June 11, 2021 in Penrose

FCD Annual Banquet scheduled for October 8, 2021

- **City of Cañon City**

None.

- **City of Florence**

None.

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**
None.
- **Other**

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Paul Telck asked about a weed walk. Brittany indicated no walk is in the works at this point, but mentioned Kayla in Chaffee County may be planning one. The last one in Fremont County was in 2019. Rick Romano suggested that it may be a good idea to include FAR in this discussion since they are out there anyway. This idea seemed to be well received by others at the meeting. Ed asked what ongoing education can be done with FAR and identification signage was brought up.

A discussion on trail signage and the cost of implementing said signage ensued, as well as discussion of potential stakeholders and what timelines might be necessary. Ed mentioned it was worth inquiring about and that the Rec district and City of Canon City would need to be part of those conversations if permissions are needed.

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany Pierce said Donna started back with her this week and they have been very busy.

There will be Eurasian watermilfoil treatment on Thursday to Blue Heron Ponds with BLM.

An elongated mustard treatment project will commence in July or August in the Wellsville area using aerial applicator Leonard Felix.

Treatments in general have been spotty this year due to weather conditions.

She has also been planning a project with contractor Cade Pickering in the Grape Creek area, which will focus on spraying Scotch Thistle. They plan on utilizing pack mules equipped with spray rigs.

Brittany purchased a small subscription to the state biocontrol program to see how it works. This will be for department use for now and not available to the general public. Paul Telck asked her what type of biocontrol insects she requested and Brittany responded that they plan on sending a variety to help address leafy spurge, diffuse, and Russian knapweed, depending on what is needed where. Rick Romano mentioned the state Ag website mentions five or six varieties for leafy spurge, including flava and nigricutis, both of which Paul indicated have been used here before.

The weed identification chart has been completed. It is online, includes both noxious and non-noxious species, and you can sort by name alphabetically and by color.

The State Land Board wants to complete projects sooner this year – mid-June is the time frame if anyone knows of noxious weed issues on state land.

Old Business:

- The ‘Priorities & Procedures’ and the ‘Noxious Weed Management Plan’ were approved by the Board of County Commissioners at their April 27th, 2021 meeting. The ‘Priorities & Procedures’ are good for three years before they must come under review again, per state statute.

New Business:

None.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.