

# WELD COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Board members present included: Jean Mark, Ron Broda, Cami Hillman, Ralph Anders, Dennie Kutcher and Chuck Birkmeyer. Board member Lynette DeWolf along with Commissioner Steve Moreno were absent. Public Works Deputy Director Curtis Hall and Supervisor Tina Booton was present.

Introductions were carried out. The only amendment to the agenda was to switch the 5-year comparison with the grant submissions piece. The modification was accepted by the board. Jean moved, and Cami seconded the approval of the November minutes.

Term limits were asked about. A term is 3 years. A member can serve 2 full terms. If they finish someone's term, they may serve longer on the board. Tina will provide the board members terms at the May meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

### I. Mapping Update

Tina reported that she has been working with the County GIS department to determine the needs for the State weed mapping requirement. It was decided that they would transition to Collector software which is a part of the Esri software package and the same as what the Forest Service uses. Then this data can be uploaded to EddMapsWest to meet the State requirements. We should have the template completed and functioning by April 1. We will be using I-pads – planning to have 5 available to map. Tina will plan on demonstrating it at the May.

Tina also provided a copy of the email from the Department of Ag with regards to which species will need to be reported on by the middle of October. Of the 15 species, 11 of the species are present in Weld County.

absinth wormwood,	black henbane,	Canada thistle,
Chinese clematis,	hoary cress,	houndstongue,
leafy spurge,	oxeye daisy,	plumeless thistle,
Russian olive,	salt cedar,	spotted knapweed,
diffuse knapweed,	spotted/diffuse hybrid,	yellow nutsedge

Ron asked how much work it will be. Tina indicated that some of the species cover a lot of acres like Canada thistle, leafy spurge and hoary cress. We will do our best to report. Not every infestation will most likely get reported. Then Ron asked about the rest of these species and reporting. Tina said they will probably ask for another 7 to 15 species the following year, until all B list species are mapped. Currently there are 34 B list species.

### II. Plans, Impacts or Changes for 2019

1. Public Works is changing to Cartegraph software for its asset management. Still haven't determined how the Weed Division will participate. Training is next week. When asked for more details, Curtis indicated that the software will be used to track our roads, culverts, bridges, signs, etc. and provide all maintenance history for what is done with each item. The original thought was that the weeds might be able to be mapped in the program, however, it doesn't appear to be the case.

2. The Weed Division did get to buy a grass drill seeder. Ours is a Truax. With this unit we can spot drill seed small areas such as gravel pits, roadsides, etc. The planned use dates are December 1 - April 15. Weed Division staff will carry out these operations. We were able to buy it with money that will be saved from seeding some of the gravel pits. West Greeley Conservation District is going to let us shadow them to better understand operation of the unit above what we have been able to gather from YouTube videos.

3. Tina is studying for her UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) part 107 certificate. She is planning to test end of March. For starters the plan is to use the UAS for inspections of weeds, and infrastructures like bridges, roads, culverts, etc. In the future Tina would like to be able to spray with it.

4. Buildings and Grounds (B&G) will be using the Chem Building for mixing and loading their equipment instead of them addressing the area they have been using. We'll see how this goes. If there is a mistake, Tina will be letting Curtis know. It is tentatively planned that they will come over to the chemical building 30 minutes to an hour after our day starts to use it. Hoping this will limit being in each other's way. Tina wasn't given any option to say no. Tina is also working and encouraging B&G to use better herbicides and timing so that they will be spraying less.

## NEW BUSINESS

### I 2019 Weed Division Program

#### Events:

January 29-31	Colorado Farm Show
February 20-22	From Our Lands to Your Hands
March 14	Western Weed Science Society Right-of-Way Symposium
April 24	Children's Water Festival

#### Staff:

4 Sprayers: Kalan, Lee (returning seasonal) and 2 new seasonal sprayers. Start: March 18  
3 Landowner Compliance: Kent, Scott and Ron (3 returning seasonal). Start April 8  
3 Mowers: Not sure about any possible returning staff. Start May 13  
1 PNG staff: seasonal if awarded grant funds. Start depending on grant award timeframe.

38 Planned Facebook Posts for the season – Tina provided a spread sheet of the history for the Facebook posts since 2014. This included who the older posts are being shared with to get double use of the posts put together.

Cost Share Funds available:

Weld County: \$ 10,000.00  
50% up to \$400

West Greeley CD: \$9,090.19  
50% up to \$600

Dalmatian Toadflax: \$ 0.00  
80% up to \$700

Diffuse Knapweed: \$ 3200.00  
80% up to \$700

## II. 5-Year Average Comparison

Tina provided a spread sheet that compares the Weed Division work averaged in 5-year blocks of time to see the trend in acres treated, mowed, and landowner compliance including legal notices. There was also a page that broke the last 10 years out individually for specifics. The biggest take away is over the years there has been an increase in landowner contacts with less legal notices having to be mailed out and more ground is being addressed for noxious weeds and general mowing.

## III. Grant Submissions

Tina has applied for the following grants:

1. Department of AG – Noxious Weed Fund: 1-year grant if awarded. Award announcements after February 18. Asked for \$40,000. \$20,000 for Dalmatian Toadflax cost-share and \$20,000 for seasonal staff to treat on the PNG (Pawnee National Grassland). Total match: \$77,618; Weld County’s match: \$36,460.
2. Department of AG – Noxious Weed Fund – WCYCC (Weld County Youth Conservation Corp): Asked for \$30,000 to hire the WCYCC to treat Russian Olive trees along the Thompson Rivers. Total match: \$31,237. Weld County’s match: \$28,770 (most of which is coming from the WCYCC).
3. GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) – Stewardship Impact Grant: 3-year grant if awarded. Submission deadline extended to March 7. Award announcements after June 13. Asking for \$40,000. Total match is \$91,385; Weld County’s match is: \$15,185 – This grant would hire a seasonal staff member to make treatments on the PNG.

A discussion followed the grant talk about Dalmatian toadflax and the need for funds to try to help address it’s spread. Chuck participated in the discussion talking about his hands-on experience and frustration with the species and how it readily moves. Tina mentioned that she thinks we are killing the parent plants, we are just seeing a lot of seedling germination that makes it feel like we aren’t doing anything to stop the plant. If we could add a product like Esplanade 200SC that would help address the seeds when they germinate, might help. Research is indicating that as a viable option. The difficulty is the expense.

## IV Elections

After discussion and a first from Ralph followed by a second from Chuck, it was voted to re-elect Ron as President and Jean as Vice-President.

V. **Advisory Board Questions:**

Ron asked for information on the upcoming Western Society of Weed Science annual conference in March.

IV **Announcements**

Tina reminded everyone that the next meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Tina also offered to take the board members on a ride along if they would like to see how things are done. Ron and Jean both commented how much they enjoyed and learned from the time they came in May to the State Noxious Weed Advisory Board meeting.

V **Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.