

WELD COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

July 21, 2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:53 pm. Board members present included: Ron Broda, Ralph Anders, Jean Mark, and Cami Hillman. Board members Chuck Birkemeyer, Dennie Kutcher and Daryl Weist were absent. County Commissioner coordinator Mike Freeman was also absent along with Deputy Director Curtis Hall. Guest James Johnson was present.

Ralph moved and Jean seconded the approval of the March minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

I 2021 Program Update

Tina discussed how the EddMaps mapping and bulk upload is going well. Everything has been sent through 2020 collected points. The bulk upload is done each October. Tina also mentioned how they have a washing machine in the chem building to launder spray staff work clothes and reduce the contamination in employees personal washing machines. The clothes can either be hung to dry or dried in their private dryers. Staff provide their own laundry soap.

Events:

March 31-April 1	EddMaps Summit
June 10	Weed Warrior Training for City of Greeley and VOC – 6 participants
July 14	Barefoot Lakes HOA Q&A – 7 participants
July 27	Weld County Fair – Creative Weeds
August 9-20	Purple Loosestrife
August 13	WGCD BBQ booth
January 2022	Colorado Farm Show

Facebook Posts and Other Outreach:

Facebook and Twitter: 30 posts from March 29 - Oct. 25, once a week. 11 on Public Works Operations; the rest on plants. Been doing Facebook posts since 2014.

Spraying

Bare-ground Acres: 18.2 acres this spring.

Handgun Acres: 37.47

Roadside Acres: 510.77 Lane Miles: 4,065

Chemical Mow Parkway Acres: 44.46 Lane Miles: 20

Forest Service Accomplishments: Sprayed: 1849 gallons; treated 35.43 acres while inspecting 1056 acres.

Special Spray Projects.

CDOT – Hwy 85 north of Nunn, Hwy 392 and a small portion of Business Hwy 34

Towns – Milliken, Fort Lupton, Dacono, Severance and Erie

Landowner Specialists

Field Contacts: 1554 (checking on properties, looking at complaints, meeting with landowners, etc.)
Office Contacts: 2243 (identifying properties, letters, phone calls, follow-up, records, etc.)
Legal Notices mailed: 13 Compliance: 77% Enforcements: 0
2 Notices expired 7/8 and we can not make contact with the owners – hesitant this year; 1 Notice expired 7/4 and owner sent receipt from when it was sprayed in 2019 thinking its done.

Mower Staff

Lane Miles: 892 or approx. 446 miles out of 748 miles of paved roads. Target goal is 2500 lane miles/year. Each mower operator averages 10 lane miles/day

Special Projects

New Website: The County website transitioned to a new layout this spring. Weldweeds.org still get's you to my portion of the site.

Geisert trail, Grader Testing area, North of Fuel Island, East Davis Stockpile Site, LNG area, and CR 38 Comm Tower: In process of monitoring for weeds and seeding this spring.

Northern Gravel Pits: We seeded at some of the northern gravel pits this spring. Trying a special seed mix to see if we can get quicker establishment in the bare areas that we are seeding so that the pits can be released from DMR.

Cost Share Funds available:

Weld County: \$ 10,000.00	Funds left: \$7,255.00
50% up to \$400	
People signed up: 10	Funds spent: \$ 2,745.00
People cost-shared with: 9	
West Greeley CD: \$5,988.02	Funds left: \$4,088.29
50% up to \$600	
People signed up: 8	Funds spent: \$ 1,899.73
People cost-shared with: 7	
Dalmatian Toadflax: \$ 25,000.00	Funds left: \$17,935.23
80% up to \$700	
People signed up: 27	Funds spent: \$ 7,064.77
People cost-shared with: 16	
Diffuse Knapweed: \$ 3000.00	Funds left: \$1,510.66
80% up to \$700	
People signed up:3	Funds spent: \$ 1,489.34
People cost-shared with: 3	

Tina also discussed an email that a resident sent back after receiving his legal notice stating: “I refuse to waive my rights afforded to me in article II, Section 7 of the Colorado constitution, as well as my 4th amendment rights to the US constitution.” Both of these pieces of legislation protect a landowner from

unreasonable searches and seizures while requiring warrants to enter onto a property. According to the County Attorneys, I can seek an “administrative or non-criminal warrant”. This can be done at the same time as I am seeking right-of-entry from the County Commissioners. This will be issued through the County Courts.

II UAS update

Status quo. Having the monthly meetings with the other public works staff that are in the process of studying for their FAA certificates. There is 10 of us in total participating in this operation. We are currently researching other UAS units to be able to include in the 2023 budget request that will be submitted in April 2022. When asked about flying a spraying Tina indicated that she is still waiting on the state to have an Aerial Applicators category for the spray license. Once she has that, she will need the spraying drone and then demonstrate flying capabilities/handling/control in front of FAA staff for a part 137 certificate.

III Municipality Code Enforcement Training - 2022

Tina is thinking of offering this training in late May/early June. At the next meeting (Nov. 17th) Tina will have more details: possible dates, location, topics. She would like the Advisory Board to be able to have representation at the training if possible.

NEW BUSINESS

I Future Legislative Concerns Federal and State

Tina provided two handouts: one from RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) that provided a general update on national happenings and the other a jointly signed letter to the US House of Representatives/US Senate in support of FIFRA while opposing HR 7940 and S 4406 bills: Protect America’s Children from Toxic Pesticides Act of 2020. Local lobbyists are seeing more and more pre-emptive bills being put forward during each legislation session. They are expecting to have another push for pre-emptive laws for pesticide over-sight before the legislation in CO in 2022 or 2023. The Pesticide Applicators Act is up for Sunset Review in 2023.

II Weld County Fair Volunteer(s)

Judging volunteers are needed for the Creative Weeds Contest. Ralph and James volunteered to be judges with Ron as a back-up.

III Advisory Board Questions - None

IV Announcements - None

V Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Future meeting months in 2022: March, July and November.