

WELD COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 23, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Board members present included: Ron Broda, Daryl Wiest, Dennie Kutcher, Chuck Birkemeyer, and James Johnston. County Commissioner coordinator Steve Moreno was also present. Board member Cami Hillman along with Deputy Director Curtis Hall were absent. There is one unfilled position on the board.

Commissioner Moreno thanked everyone for their service on the board in regard to the small thank you gifts presented to the board members and said that the board just approved purchasing “challenge coins” for the advisory boards as an extended thank you.

Dennie moved and Daryl seconded the acceptance of the agenda.

Daryl moved and Dennie seconded the minutes not being read allowed as well as approving of the November minutes as submitted. Daryl thanked Tina for the quality and thoroughness of the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

I Grant Applications Update

Colorado Dept of Ag Grant: Weld County asked for \$25,000 and will be receiving \$15,000. Dept of Ag received over \$1.1 million dollars in requests and only had \$798,000 to disburse. These funds will be used to cost share with landowners in Northern Weld County on Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed this summer.

ReStORE grant: Tina is still waiting to hear on this one. The awards are supposed to be announced in March. This grant program is funded by CO DNR, CO CPW, CWCB, GOCO, Gates Foundation, Corteva, and Occidental. This was Tina’s 3rd and most likely last application submitted. The reviewers haven’t been as interested in addressing weeds. Their focus has been more on creating habitat for deer and elk, stream restoration. Projects that are more tangible. The application was submitted to ask for \$174,750.00. The total match was: \$139,200.00. \$63,750 for 80% cost-share up to \$850 x 75 landowners for ground treatments; \$56,000 for 80% cost-share up to \$2800 x 20 landowners for aerial treatments; \$52,000 for 100% cost-share up to \$260 x 200 acres for seeding. The seeding work will be carried out by WGCD. And \$3000 for educational signs/boot brushes at PNG trailheads. The grant would go through 2023. The partners include Weld County, USFS PNG, WGCD, CSLB, CDOT, and landowners.

II Municipality Code Enforcement Training – 2022

The event will be Wednesday, May 25. 9 am start – 2 pm end; at the Weld County Training Center at the corner of 11th Ave and 17th St (by the Food Bank). The event is coming together. Bayer and Corteva will sponsor the lunch (most likely pizza and salad) and at least have a booth/possibly give a presentation. Dept of Ag will have someone come and talk about the laws and regulations. The rest of the day will be on weed ID/control in the classroom with

the day ending by taking a walk along the Poudre Trail to ID actively growing plants. Tina will probably also bring in live samples to fill in what is missing from along the trail. The target audience is code enforcement staff along with open space/natural areas staff. Tina mentioned that the State still does not have a State Weed Coordinator. The position had been opened a second time and closed the 9th of March. So maybe by the meeting we will have the new State Weed Coordinator come up. Commissioner Moreno would like to make an appearance (between meetings) and maybe have the whole BOCC board stop by during the lunch break to show their support. Advisory board members Daryl and Ron are planning to come for the day.

NEW BUSINESS

I 2022 Weed Division Program

Events

January 25-27	Colorado Farm Show – 100 participants at the booth
January 26	Weed presentations at the Farm Show – 60 participants
April 19	Weed Warrior Training for City of Greeley and VOC
April 27	Children’s Water Festival - North
May 4	Children’s Water Festival - South
May 12	CPW – sprayer calibration workshop
July 27	Weld County Fair – Creative Weeds
August 8-19	Purple Loosestrife

Facebook Posts and Other Outreach

Facebook and Twitter: 32 posts from March 14 - Oct. 24, once a week. 8 on Public Works Operations; 24 on plants.

Spraying

Returning staff: Lee Zamora and Kathy Griffiee. Started March 7 knowing that there would be weather delays. All that was left to finish this spring was roadside bare-ground treatments and well as rye suppression along the Parkway from Hwy 392 to I 76 and at CR 54/17. Daryl indicated that he had been hit up about the rye at the second location. Tina said it was on the radar and would be done this week/early next week as weather (wind) would allow.

Staff for PNG work: Tom Horn (new) and trying to fill second applicator space. PNG staff starting April 11. There will be lots of training to bring Tom up to the technician level.

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

Commissioner Moreno requested that if there were issues accomplishing the workload due to budget constraints, because of the increased cost of supplies, to reach out to the BOCC and Don Warden with the need. The BOCC is aware that this year special considerations must be made regarding the increased cost of supplies. Tina thanked Moreno for the support and stated that this year she thought they would be ok, as she had purchased enough 2,4-D last fall to see them through this year. It will be a closely monitored situation. As at Ace Hardware a 2.5-gallon container of 2,4-D was \$95 whereas it should be around \$40 (or \$14-16/gallon). Daryl pointed out the increased price of glyphosate products as well.

Landowner Specialists

Returning staff: Kent Lynch and Scott Dallman. New staff: Dylan Kremer. Starting April 18.

Mower Staff

Working to fill mower position. Expecting at least 2 returning staff. Targeted start date is May 16.

Special Projects

Geisert trail, Grader Testing area, North of Fuel Island, East Davis Stockpile Site, LNG area, CR 38 Comm Tower, Peters Pit, Ashbaugh Pit, and Fiscus Pit: In process of monitoring for weeds, grass establishment and seeding this spring if needed.

Cost Share Funds available

Weld County: \$ 10,000.00

50% up to \$400

West Greeley CD: \$19,525.45

50% up to \$600

Dalmatian Toadflax: \$ 11,000

80% up to \$700

Diffuse Knapweed: \$ 4000.00

80% up to \$700

II Colorado SB22-131

Handouts provided include PPAN article, CRPA handout and Tina's testimony.

The final bill that was submitted had 3 sections: the pollinator study, listing neonic's as restricted use and partial revocation of state preemption. They removed the school section as well as the grant incentive to farmers. It was a long night of testimony. The hearing started at 2 pm. Tina testified at 9:55 pm. She was the last testimony for the opposition. There was one testimony after her in favor of the bill. The bill was killed at 11:15 pm. with a 6:1 vote. Before the vote, a few of the Senators provided comments about why they chose to vote the way they did. The bill sponsor failed to show enough justification as to why the bill was needed. While opposition had great cases as to why the bill was not a good idea. Between the Governor and Department heads – staff on multiple occasions has been told that they can not have a say as to the pros and cons for various bills being proposed. Therefore, staff is not providing the support that the Senators and House Reps are needing to be able to pass good bills. Resulting in interesting dynamics at the state and several legislators are very frustrated with the situation.

CRPA (Coloradans for Responsible Pesticide Application) is gearing up for next year. The Pesticide Applicators Act is under sunset review in 2023 where the entire General Assembly will hear it and vote on any bill changes that DORA suggests, once it moves out of sub-committee. DORA is writing their report this summer for a fall submission.

Tina mentioned concern over another bill: SB22-138 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions In Colorado. This affects small engines on yard equipment, possible issues with the pony motors used to run the spray system on Weld County spray trucks (8.4 – 13 hp), etc: "Section 4 defines a small off-road engine as a gasoline-powered engine of 50 horsepower or less used to fuel small

off-road equipment like lawn mowers and leaf blowers. Section 4 phases out the use of small off-road engines by prohibiting their sale in nonattainment areas of the state on or after January 1, 2030, and by providing financial incentives to promote the replacement of small off-road engines with electric-powered, small off-road equipment before 2030. Section 11 establishes a state income tax credit in an amount equal to 30% of the purchase price for new, electric-powered, small off-road equipment for purchases made in income tax years 2023 through 2029.” Commissioner Moreno said that after testimony by Commissioner James and others along with the big box stores selling more electric yard equipment that section 4 of the bill has been removed.

III Elections

Daryl nominated Denny as President and Denny nominated Daryl as Vice President after some discussion prior to the meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

President: Dennie Kutcher

Vice President: Daryl Wiest

IV Advisory Board Questions

Daryl voiced concern over the City of Greeley management over their natural area on 71st Ave at the red barn and asked about weed control requirements of a conservation easement. The City of Greeley has been removing established smooth brome and converting the area back to native species, but in the process kochia and other weeds are being more aggressive at establishing. When he has spoke with Justin in the past, Justin has been reluctant to spray as it wasn't included in the grant project that was funding the work. Tina indicated that the County does not have authority over the city in this situation. Commissioner Moreno asked Tina to reach out to Justin and get a better understanding of what was happening.

Ron asked to have the future meeting dates confirmed. May 25th – Weed educational day for municipalities; the July 20th meeting was moved to July 15th so that a tour could be held in conjunction with the meeting and that Commissioner Moreno could attend; the last meeting of the year will be November 16th before the holidays.

V Announcements - none

VI Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.