

# WELD COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 17, 2021

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. Board members present included: Ron Broda, Daryl Weist and Dennie Kutcher. Board members Chuck Birkemeyer, James Johnston and Cami Hillman were absent. There is one unfilled member for the board. County Commissioner coordinator Mike Freeman was also absent along with Deputy Director Curtis Hall.

Dennie moved and Daryl seconded the approval of the July minutes after a brief discussion about the addition of the washing machine in the chemical building and how helpful that it is for staff. Daryl shared how much of a blessing it was to have one when he worked at a dirty facility early on in his career.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **I 2021 Program Update**

Tina mentioned that she is now the chair of the Pesticide Advisory Committee for the state. They meet 4 times per year.

#### **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 – 10 signed up; 3 participated
August 9-20	Purple Loosestrife - 3-10 volunteers
August 13	WGCD BBQ booth – 50 contacts
November 3-4	WGCD Annual Symposium – 20 contacts
November 15	ICAP at Eaton High School – 10 contacts
January 25-27, 2022	Colorado Farm Show
January 27, 2022	Weed presentations at the 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. 42.62 acres this fall for 2022 year

Handgun Acres: 46.4

Roadside Acres: 1240.76 Lane Miles: 8203

Chemical Mow Parkway Acres: 44.46 Lane Miles: 20

Forest Service Accomplishments: Sprayed: 7017.84 gallons; treated 159.34 acres (112.58 acres of cheatgrass and 46.76 acres of noxious weeds) while inspecting 2858.58 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: 3315 (checking on properties, looking at complaints, meeting with landowners, etc.)

Office Contacts: 3936 (identifying properties, letters, phone calls, follow-up, records, etc.)

Legal Notices mailed: 20 Compliance: 100% Enforcements: mow: 2; Lien 1

Compliance: Disk: 1; Mow: 10; Spray: 7

Tina discussed how the lien process is being troublesome this year as one of the landowners sold the property and did not pay the bill. The County Attorney believes the bill goes with the land, so Tina is reaching out to the new landowner and requesting that they pay the bill, or the lien will be placed on their property, under their name.

Mower Staff

Paved Lane Miles: 2394.5 or approx. 1197.25 miles out of 748 miles of paved roads (Two passes on most paved roads). Target goal is 2500 lane miles/year. Gravel Lane Miles: 94. This aids in reducing tumble weeds and limiting some snow drifting.

Special Projects

New Website: The County website transitioned to a new layout this spring. Weldweeds.org still gets 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. Will seed some areas again next 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: \$ 3687.52

50% up to \$400

People signed up: 23

Funds spent: \$ 6312.48

People cost-shared with: 22

West Greeley CD: \$5988.02

Funds left: \$19,937.94

50% up to \$600

People signed up: 14

Funds spent: \$ 6,050.08

People cost-shared with: 14

The new funds from WGCD will last 3 to 4 years.

Dalmatian Toadflax: \$ 20,430.66

Funds left: \$3,619.13

80% up to \$700

People signed up: 35

Funds spent: \$ 16,811.53

People cost-shared with: 33

Diffuse Knapweed: \$ 4569.34  
80% up to \$700

Funds left: \$0.00

People signed up: 8  
People cost-shared with: 8

Funds spent: \$ 4569.34

Tina clarified that landowners only qualify for 1 cost-share program. Ron pointed out that with the various programs we were able to help 77 people address their noxious weeds with herbicide treatments.

## II **Municipality Code Enforcement Training – 2022**

The details for the meeting are:

Date: Wednesday, May 25

Time: 9 to 2 (rooms booked from 7-3)

Location: Greeley Training Center. This allows close access to the Poudre Trail

Morning: Presentations on laws, weed ID, control options, working with landowners.

Tina hopes to bring in the new state weed coordinator (Steve Ryder retired at the end of Oct.)

Lunch (hope to find a sponsor)

Afternoon: walking tour of the Poudre Trail for additional plant ID in the field

Dennie suggested reaching out to Eaton Country Club as they may be interested in sponsoring the lunch.

Tina would like as many of the board members to attend as possible.

## III **Future Legislative Concerns Federal and State**

Pesticide Applicators Act: Minor changes are being introduced to clean up language and clarify some of the new EPA training requirements before the Sunset Review of the act takes place in 2023. The biggest 2 pieces of clarification is that either a part 109 or 206 license category can treat landscaped areas that are roadside rights-of-way or medians. If a 206 license is used, they will also have to follow the posting re-entry flag requirements. 109 does not. The other area had to do with posting height requirements at golf courses. The public hearing is set for November 30. December 8 the Ag Commission reviews/decides; then the changes will go into effect on January 30.

Noenicitinoid: usage is still being challenged. Daryl commented how this is nothing new and poor (less successful) beekeepers are always pointing the finger at the current most used pesticide as their problem for beehive collapse over their management practices.

Pre-emption: will be coming back around. Tina pointed out several ways this will affect local governments if it passes as well as EPA will pull their money out of the state. EPA will only work with one entity when it comes to managing pesticides.

Pollinator License Plate: People and Pollinators Action Network will receive the proceeds from these license plates. The state legislature selected this activist group over other applicants like the Butterfly Pavilion and Colorado Weed Management Association.

## NEW BUSINESS

### I **Grant Opportunities for 2022**

The two grants Tina is applying for are:

ReStORE grant: asking for \$174,750 (\$119,750 for herbicide treatments; 52,000 for seeding and 3000 for 3 educational signs on PNG); Match: \$139,200 (Weld County: 68,450; USFS-PNG: 30,000; Landowners: 30,000; WGCD: 3000; SLB: 3750; and CDOT: 4000). To control noxious weeds and some seeding north of Hwy 14 and east of Hwy 85. It will be a 3-year project (2022-2024). Land cost-share is at: 80% up to 850; aerial cost-share is at: 80% up to 2800. Seeding covered at 100% with WGCD doing

the work. Deadline for submission is December 2, 2021.

Colorado Department of Ag – Noxious Weed Fund: asking for \$25,000; to be used for cost-share treatments with landowners for Dalmatian Toadflax, Absinth Wormwood, Hoary Cress, Russian Knapweed, and Diffuse Knapweed. Cost-share for chemical treatments is at 80% up to \$700. 1 year project. Match: 80,304 (Weld County 30,552, USFS-PNG 39,752, Landowners 10,000). Deadline for submission is December 17, 2021

## II **2022 Weed Program Plans**

Business will be as usual. There will be three seasonal staff in each area of focus: Landowner compliance, Spraying and Mowing. USFS- PNG might have found upwards of \$25,000 to place in the interagency agreement so that the weed division can hire 1 seasonal staff to continue working on the PNG. In 2022 there will be at least 1 new staff member in each section. Spring will be filled with lots of training.

Tina is currently working with NAISMA (North American Invasive Species Management Association) this winter to help create some educational content for Invasives U. Tina agreed to do some videos on thistle and knapweed ID.

Tina is also looking at options for asking for a fulltime position on the landowner compliance side starting with 2023 budget. She may have to give up 2 seasonal positions to accomplish this. Tina and Greg are discussing how this could look moving forward.

Ron asked about the 2022 budget. Tina indicated that everything seems ok. It is sounding like we will receive what we asked for. We haven't been asked to cut the budget as of right now.

## III **Advisory Board Questions - None**

## IV **Announcements -**

2022 Advisory Board Meeting Dates

March 23

(May 25)

July 20

November 16

## V **Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm**