

Garfield County Weed Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 4, 2018 - Garfield County Rifle Administration Building, 1st Floor Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thad Nieslanik at 11:02 am

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

Attendees: Don Chaplin, Mark King, Cassie Cerise, Sonny Fernandez, Kathie Barrie, Kevin Schorzman, Jared Stueber, Doug Piffer, Don Currie, Thad Nieslanik and Debbie Martin.

Members excused: Tom Whitmore, Kristy Wallner

Staff: Sarah LaRose, Steve Anthony

Voting Alternates appointed by Chair Thad Nieslanik as regular voting members for this meeting: Deb. Martin, City of Glenwood Springs; Mark King, Town of Parachute, and Kevin Schorzman, Town of Carbondale

Approval of Minutes for March 15, 2018 meeting, with corrections. Motion to approve by Don Chaplin; seconded by Cassie Cerise; passed.

Introductions/Review Packet: Guests introduced: Steve Ryder, State Weed Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Sharie Prow, Conservation Districts; Sami Dinar: White River National Forest–Sopris/Aspen Ranger District; Joe Fazzi: White River National Forest–Rifle Ranger District; and Stephen Elzinga: White River National Forest-Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District.

Public Comments: None

Guest speaker:

Steve Ryder, State Weed Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture:

Steve Ryder focused on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act as it pertains to municipalities and the Noxious Weed Fund.

- Noxious Weed Fund: there will be \$750,000 available in 2019. The Request for Proposals will come out in late October. Generally, there is a deadline about six weeks after the RFP. In response to a question from Deb. Martin, Mr. Ryder indicated that the primary goal of the funds is to support projects that “kill weeds”. Equipment and personnel are an acceptable use of funds. All state grants are “reimbursable”. The applicant initially spends their own funds then they seek a reimbursement from the state if they have received grant funds. Don Chaplin asked if Ditch Companies could apply, Mr. Ryder said that they could, but that they would be encouraged to participate in a larger grant application of multiple parties. Steve Anthony mentioned that good weed mapping is a key component of a successful grant application. Sharie Prow offered the assistance of their technician, Jon Rose, for any municipalities interested in weed mapping in preparation for a grant. Steve Ryder discussed the EDDSMAPS process that the state uses. He mentioned that the List A species, followed by List B weeds, are the priority for state funding with a goal of elimination vs. eradication.
- Municipalities: Mr. Ryder mentioned that the original intent of the Weed Act was for counties to take the lead in working with municipalities on noxious weeds. In some instances, that hasn't

happened and CDA has been trying to engage municipalities in weed management. He said there are over 300 municipalities in the state and that their approaches are varied. Historically municipalities have focused on weed management through ordinances that deal with height concerns. Currently CDA is working with the Colorado Association of Code Enforcement Officials on weed education.

Old Business:

- **Insectary and Escalante State Wildlife Area Field Trip**

Attended by Weed Board members: Kevin Schorzman, Kathie Barrie, Don Currie, and Sonny Fernandez. All gave positive reports and indicated that they'd like to see the success of the knapweed insects at Escalante replicated in Garfield County.

Roundtable: Updates from Members & Guests:

- **Kevin Schorzman/Town of Carbondale:** Carbondale continues to work on their weed management plan, herbicides will be allowed on town property as a last resort basis. He mentioned that Town Staff had identified a Watch List species, Yellow Flag Iris and are managing it.
- **Debbie Martin/City of Glenwood Springs:** Read a report from Al Laurette, City Parks on Glenwood's weed management efforts. There has been improvement on the noxious weeds in South Canyon. Debbie reported that the Weed Plan for Glenwood Springs is tentatively scheduled at a November City Council planning session agenda item.
- **Sonny Fernandez/Town of Silt:** Sonny has visited with the new Town Manager on noxious weeds. Kathie Barrie and Doug Piffer pointed out areas in Silt that had Russian knapweed issues, including the Iron Horse subdivision and First Street and Main.
- **Jared Stueber/Town of New Castle:** Jared mentioned that the Town is having some aquatic weed issues in one of their ditches. He expressed an interest in having the Town mapped for noxious weeds by the Conservation Districts.
- **Mark King/Town of Parachute:** The town has worked with a private contractor to treat town-owned properties for noxious weeds. Weeds on private land in the Town is a concern. The Town has been successful in removing Russian-olive from many public areas.
- **Sharie Prow/Bookcliff, Mt. Sopris, and South Side Conservation Districts** brought up the idea of having an open house forum targeting new- or small-land owners where different vendors and agencies have booths set up that landowners can visit and ask questions. Some booth ideas included gardening, weed ID and management, water issues, restoration and revegetation. Reviewed cost-share funds allotted since 2016.

- **Joe Fazzi, U.S. Forest Service (Rifle Ranger District)** explained how the 2018 fire season was overall beneficial to forest health, and that the Lake Christine, Cache Creek and other fires in Garfield County this summer were of mixed severities resulting in a “mosaic” effect on the landscape. This allows for the forests to have stands of different age classes, encouraging regrowth and regeneration.
- **Sami Dinar, U.S. Forest Service (Aspen/Sopris Ranger District)** said that she is expecting 2019 to be a bad weed season in the forests where the fires burned, as she has already been noticing large thistle rosettes beginning to form in burn scars from the Lake Christine fire.
- **Stephen Elzinga, U.S. Forest Service (Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District)** discussed 2018 treatment efforts in the Sweetwater area continuing the partnership with the county on spotted knapweed and yellow toadflax. Steve also mentioned working with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps on toadflax projects in the Vail area.
- **Don Chaplin/Landowner:** Has been successful in treating milkweed on his property.
- **Doug Piffer/Landowner:** Would like to see the cost-share program provide more funds to larger acreage landowners.
- **Kathie Barrie/Landowner:** The Pump Canal has had follow-up treatment on the Russian-olives and this needs to continue every year.
- **Cassie Cerise/Landowner:** Many neighbors have left the area causing the weed issues to become neglected during the transition between ownership. Cassie is concerned with noxious thistles on a neighboring property that has a permit application with the county. The educational efforts, including the electronic road signs, are helpful, and she would like to see more education done in the Missouri Heights area as new landowners continue to move there.
- **Thad Nieslanik/Landowner:** Reported on the noxious weed situation in the Spring Valley area. Reported that Colorado Mountain College has done some noxious weed work.
- **Don Currie/Landowner:** is hoping to get more neighbors on board with knapweed management in Dry Hollow.
- **Janet Olson/Landowner:** Still dealing with yellow toadflax along Main Elk. Reported some common burdock along CR243.

New Business: Tamarisk/Russian-olive program changes

- **Sarah LaRose** discussed changes that Garfield County Vegetation Management has suggested in regards to the Tamarisk/Russian olive Removal Program. Currently the program requires TRO

infestations to be ½ acre or larger for landowners to participate, and asks landowners to pay only for the cost of herbicide used throughout the project. Changes would include removing the ½ acre or larger requirement so that smaller, urban cases would qualify for participation, as well as requiring landowners to pay for 25% of total project costs while Garfield County would pay the remaining 75%. These changes would hopefully encourage more landowner participation, allow for more projects to be completed in a year, and promote more follow-up from landowners once the project was complete. The board was in agreement that these changes would be beneficial to the program, especially in regards to promoting follow-up from landowners since they would have more of an initial investment at stake. The new plan will soon be brought to the County Attorney and then to the BOCC for approval.

- **Sami Dinar** invited everyone to attend the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (CSSRM) fall workshop, November 6-8 at the Wine Country Inn in Palisade. Early registration ends October 21. The workshop will include a tour of the Palisade Insectary and a great assortment of guest lectures on all sorts of different topics – the whole agenda can be found on cssrm.org under the Events tab at the top; people can register here as well. The cost is \$60/person.

Next meeting: January 17, 2019 at the Rifle County Administration Building. Lunch at 11:30 to be followed by the meeting at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m. with a motion by Don Chaplin, seconded by Cassie Cerise.

Submitted by Sarah LaRose and Steve Anthony

**Approved by Debbie Martin
Secretary, Garfield County Weed Advisory Board**