

Upper Arkansas River Cooperative Weed Management Area

April 13, 2017

Garden Park Building Conference Room

201 N. 6th Street, Canon City

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Quarterly meeting minutes

Attendance: Patty Knupp-NRCS, Jana Rapetti-Fremont Co, Kayla Malone-Chaffee/Lake Counties, Marisa Neuzil-Teller-Park CD, Debbie Mitchell-Fremont CD, Tina Travis-El Paso Co, Bryan Welding-El Paso Co. Angela Safranek-USFS, Shelly Simmons PWWMC, Roger Squire-Custer County Road and Bridge, Gary Hyde-Custer County Road and Bridge.

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance

Kayla: Call to order 9:40 a.m.

Approval of minutes: Tina makes a motion, Roger seconded. January minutes approved.

Kayla and Jana and Group: 2016 Discussed carried over 2016 NWF and SPF Grant funds. Patty York, from CDA, indicated that we may use the funds for research or demonstration projects. Informational signs were discussed. Jana and Kayla will ask CDA for guidelines about the definitions of demonstration vs. education. These funds must be used by June, 2017.

2017 Grant: UACWMA was awarded \$120,000 of the requested \$135,000. Jana and Kayla have coordinated with Steve Ryder of CDA. There is approval for native grass seeds, and biological control for Lake and Chaffee Dalmation Toadflax. We discussed ways to cut the budgets appropriately to cover the \$15,000 shortfall. Custer County needs to address how their weed cost-share will work now that Robin is no longer running that program.

Kayla: Rebrand. Update the current signed partner agreements. Angela Safranek, USFS, will need a new agreement this year. Kayla will sign for the group. She will get agreements to Marisa and she will send out to the group. The UACWMA logo was finalized and will be sent back to original designer. She will complete and send back with several options and rights to use as we need. We will have sole ownership of design. We will find a local graphic designer to print. The group voted to reimburse logo designer SammyJo Pulsifer \$500 with Tina making a motion and Shelly seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously. We then moved on to standardized state mapping. Shelly is heading this effort. She is in talks with Lara Duran of CDA in order to come up with a plan. We discussed the hardships of non-compliance in all of our districts and

brainstormed ways we could all help try to eradicate weeds on these tough properties. No resolution at this point. Weed pull days and some biological controls were tabled for a later date.

The group is looking at June 3rd or 24th for the Healthy Land Stewardship Workshop. Marisa volunteered to try and combine this workshop with the NRCS Local Work Group meeting in Teller-Park area. She will get back to the group with Yea or Nay.

Round table Discussion:

Debbie: Discussed Phase II of Rainbow Park Project

Marisa: Weed program is in flux, working on finding a new weed manager. Having difficulties finding a good contractors for spraying weeds.

Jeremy: Deb reported for Jeremy. Phase I of the Rainbow Park Tamarisk project. They had a tight schedule with the migratory bird act restrictions. They worked with 16 landowners on streambank restoration with a group of seven partners including the city of Florence. Funding has been approved for Phase II.

Tina & Bryan: Their NWF grant was fully funded. They will get out and do some field work under that grant. El Paso County will hold an applicator's clinic on June 7th at the Akers Drive facility. Brian brought up the availability of counties other than El Paso-Teller to bring in hazardous waste to their facility. Tina will send packet to Marisa and she will send out to group.

Kayla: Chaffee and Lake County. Kayla reported that they are starting off with a busy year. She has funding for one seasonal employee and is currently advertising for that person. She has successfully signed agreements with all entities within her region other than the railroad. The city of Buena Vista was the last holdout.

Jana: Fremont County Weed department has already hit the ground running. They will get their seasonal employee back soon and have spraying to keep them busy. Jana worked hard on the Phase I of the Rainbow Park Project and is looking forward to a break.

Shelly: Shelly reported that her agency also received their NWF grant funding. This money will help Bob Lucero with his lack of funding in Las Animas County. They are working hard on Tamarisk removal and also some targeted African Rue eradication. They are the only district in Colorado with this List A species. On July 11th they are sponsoring a small acreage landowner workshop on noxious weeds at the Tercio Ranch. Shelly continues to expand the mapping in her districts and will represent the UACWMA with CDA in regards to uniform mapping. Jana made a motion and Debbie seconded.

The Ayes carried. Shelly hosted the 2017 ARKWIPP conference in Trinidad on April 5th. This was well-attended and successful.

Patty: She reiterated that Mary Menz needs success stories in order to update the group's website. Mary's email address is mary.t.menz@gmail .com if you would like to send things directly to her. Patty will contact Robin and ask if she has any information regarding Crestone Graphics. Interagency project potential in the Badger Creek watershed in Park County continues and Marisa is helping to locate some infrastructure for participants. Several conservation districts will cooperate with this endeavor.

Angela: No news to report.

Marisa: Teller-Park Conservation district continues to work on re-vamping their weed program. Some sprayers have been hired and this season will move ahead. Marisa continues to study for the QS exams. Marisa, as well as Jana and Kayla, participated in a round-table discussion on weed programs at the ARKWIPP conference.

Roger: Custer county weed program took a hit with Robin Young no longer coordinating the weed cost-share. They would like to remain a viable member of this entity and continue with the grant funding. Custer County will continue to hire out its ROW spraying. Roger introduced Gary Hyde as the new hire at the Custer County Road and Bridge department.

Next Quarterly Meeting is July 20, 2017

Garden Park Building 201 N 6th, Canon City 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Adjourn – 12:30 p.m.