

Upper Arkansas River Cooperative Weed Management Area

April 7, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Quarterly meeting minutes

Kayla Malone-Chaffee/Lake Counties, **Marisa Neuzil**- Teller-Park CD, **Debbie Mitchell**-Fremont, **Tina Travis**-El Paso County, **Brittany Pierce**- Fremont County Weed Management, Angela **Safranek**- USFS, **Patty Knupp**- NRCS, **Charles Bryant**- Huerfano County, **Mitch Emmer**- USFS, **Shelly Simmons**- PWWMC,

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance

Kayla: Call to order 9:38 AM

Approval of Minutes: Shelly made a motion to approve the January minutes, Debbie seconded. Motion Carried.

Approval of Financials: Marisa made a motion to approve, Kayla seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: Play, Clean, Go. Kayla went over pricing for memberships, Partner Level, Advocate Level. Kayla made a motion to join at the Advocate Level, Charles seconded, motion carried.
Summer Workshops are pending due to virus concerns.

Grant Update: The 2020 grant was submitted January 15th and accepted on February 24, 2020. The award was \$49,000 which was significantly less than the ask. Plans were made for the grant recipients to stay on the call to cut the budget in half. The group needs to think about finding funding opportunities that are not through Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Healthy Lands Workshop 2020: Cancelled for 2020.

New Business: Brittany made spoke to some of the members and revised the SOP. The group will change the verbiage to “in perpetuity “if that is acceptable to all the agencies. Kayla made a motion to approve changes, Debbie seconded. Motion carried. The email and address will be updated.

Round Table:

Brittany: Fremont County has been working on equipment and spraying. Hitting White Top and Tamarisk. The County has purchased a new work building so they will be moving everything to new operations. Fremont has instituted a new “no-spray” policy in which individuals can put up a sign indicating that they do not want to be sprayed. Property must be maintained, and signs renewed annually. Their biological control program is up in the air because of grant cuts.

Shelly: Her grant funding was cut significantly as well. Shelly has transitioned from Rivers Edge West to the conservation district. Her position is grant dependent.

TPCD: The district has cancelled all the in-person programming for the summer season and perhaps the rest of the year. The weed program will continue with John Coyle.

Kayla: Kayla has been working from home and is planning a May 1 start to the spray season. All non-spray programs have been cancelled. Everyone is hoping for the best but planning for the worst.

NRCS: Working under continuing operations with doors locked but a presence in the office. EQIP deadline will be the second week of April. Patty mentioned that noxious weed management is a part of the EQIP process. The insectary is still working. They have done 20 releases of Russian Knapweed flies. The NRCS are classified by resource teams. Looking into how Local Work Group Meetings will work this year.

Tina: Insectary is collecting galls for El Paso County. There is a weed workshop planned for the end of May subject to Covid-19 guidelines. CWMA Spring Training has been cancelled and moved to the Fall up in Fort Collins. The Fall Colorado Springs training is moved to the Spring of 2021.

USFS: Mitch has been going over records and is waiting to hit the ground running. There are plans to close developed sites, parking lots and trailheads. Noxious weed spraying is still funded while other vendor contracts will be halted.

Charles: Huerfano County. He has been spraying already. He has started in January with the injection machine with the Tamarisks. Waiting for the other weeds to green up. There may be changes to the Custer County IGA for next year.

Debbie: March and April activities have been cancelled and she is working at home. Debbie needs to check on the Rainbow Park Project. In the meantime; she will archive old records.

John: Out spraying

Next Quarterly Meeting: **JULY 9, 2020**

ZOOM

Adjourn – 10:54 AM

