

Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area
April 7, 2022
Fremont County Weed Bldg. 1901 East Main St. Canon City

Quarterly meeting minutes

Brittany Pierce – Fremont County Weed Management; **Marisa Neuzil** – Teller-Park CD; **Debbie Mitchell** – Fremont CD; **Charles Bryant** – Huerfano County; **John Coyle**-Ark Valley Weed Management, LLC, **Kayla Malone**-Chaffe/Lake County Weed Management; **Patty Knupp**- NRCS, **Angela Safranek**-USFS, **Tina Travis**-EPC

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance

Brittany: Call to order at 9:48 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: Debbie made a motion to approve the minutes and financials with name corrections, John seconded. Motion carried. Debbie gave a financial report. UACWMA currently has \$13,579.43 in savings.

Old Business:

- Brittany will look into sign and banner costs.
- The group consensus is that we continue to host the annual meeting in February instead of November. Debbie will consult with Patty York regarding the NWF grant to make sure that it is OK to turn in all of the grant material except annual meeting paperwork prior to year's end.
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New Business:

- Brittany suggested that we look into changing venue to Pathfinder Regional Park in Florence instead of the Abbey.
- We discussed preliminary topics for the annual meeting. We will plan in July. Everyone should come with ideas for a theme, topics, and speakers.

Round Table:

Brittany: Fremont County will be hosting a pesticide disposal weekend for Fremont County tax residents. Clean Harbors will be at Pathfinder Regional Park to pick up used pesticides. There will also be a group collecting used electronics. Participants will have to pick up a voucher before going to the site. Brittany will report back on the success of this event. Fremont County will be releasing biocontrol for Tamarisk and Puncture Vine as well as for Bindweed.

USFS: Angela informed the group that USFS is participating in a targeted grazing project in Chaffee County using radio collars and antennas as virtual fencing. They are still looking to fund the towers since the ranchers will be purchasing the collars. They have hired a new weed specialist who will be based out of Woodland Park. This individual has a master's in invasive plant management.

Marisa: Ark Valley Weeds has signed an MOU for 2022 and all contracts are in place in order to start spraying when needed. TPCD will host weed walks and Marisa is giving a weed talk to the local Harvest Center in May.

Debbie: FCD is busy this time of year with drill rentals. Debbie participated in the local Home and Garden Show as well as the CSU Extension Drought Symposium.

Charles: Charles will be able to get out of water management soon! He is releasing 200 Knapweed Galls on the Thorn Ranch and has been working with school age groups with biocontrol. His seasonal is returning. He went over to Montezuma County for a weed workshop by Bonnie Loving. He is also looking to secure funding for Russian Olive removal.

Patty Knupp: EQIP pre-approvals are posted. More projects may be approved as money becomes available.

John Coyle: John will have some time in his schedule due to the Air Force Academy failing to secure weed control funding for 2022. He remains busy with other government contracts as well as Teller and Park Counties. John will be teaching at the Western Society of Weed Science short course at the end of April.

Kayla: Kayla will be taking leave in June and will not be using pesticides this season. She has not been able to fill the two job postings that are currently up so she will have to strategize how to cover the priority areas this season. Ark Valley Weeds offered to help as needed. Brittany will handle the Elongated Mustard project this year.

Tina: El Paso County has a nursery site for Russian Knapweed Galls. She brought some to share with the group. They are also a nursery siter for Canada Thistle Rust Fungus, Hoary Cress and Yellow Toadflax biocontrol. She is hosting a weed walk on July 12th at Bear Creek Park. We are welcome to help on that day. Angela volunteered.

Meeting times for 2022:

January 13, 2022

April 7, 2022

July 14, 2022

October 13, 2022

Next Meeting: July 14, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM Baby Shower for Kayla to follow.