

Upper Arkansas River Cooperative Weed Management Area

February 8, 2018

Garden Park Building Conference Room

201 N. 6th Street, Canon City

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Quarterly meeting minutes

Attendance: Nick Bankston-Fremont Co, Kayla Malone-Chaffee/Lake Counties, Marisa Neuzil-Teller-Park CD, Debbie Mitchell-Fremont, Carol Kuisle-Franta-Custer County CD/NRCS, Charles Bryant-Huerfano County, Kate Spinelli-San Isabel Land Trust, Tina Travis-El Paso County, Bryan Welding-El Paso, John Coyle- Ark Valley Weeds/CWMA, Patty Knupp-NRCS, Courtney Hurst-State Land Board.

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance

Kayla: Call to order 9:30 AM

The group needed to vote in a Vice President due to Kayla moving in to the role of president upon Jana's departure. Nick Bankston put forth a self-nomination, Marisa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: Tina made a motion, Bryan seconded. Motion passed.

The 2018 quarterly meeting dates will be as follows:

February 8, 2018

April 12, 2018

July 12, 2018

October 11, 2018

Treasurer Report: Carol reported a balance of \$5,367.

Annual Meeting Update: The group will plan the topics in the July quarterly meeting. Carol mentioned that we had one comment from the past meeting that they would prefer a Spring annual meeting as they felt it might be more beneficial for the spray season. The group will consider for subsequent years. We will continue to hold the meeting at the Abbey if prices do not change drastically. Patty will continue to plan with Carol and Tina will work on the continuing education credits.

2017/2018 Grant: UACWMA: Kayla reported that the 2017 grant was completed and turned in and that \$10,000 of Custer County cost-share money was returned to the state due to a lack of program manager in Custer County. They are working on getting the program back on track, but it has been difficult with the recalls and new hires. Kayla and Nick are willing to attend meetings as needed. There was discussion regarding quarterly

reporting on the 2108 grant. Debbie Mitchell- Fremont CD, volunteered to help us with this endeavor. The group is waiting on a response from the CDA as to the status of the 2018 grant. Courtney Hurst of the State Land board shared that there are still funds available for noxious weed management to lessees on SLB lands. Look to their website for maps and cost-share forms. Kayla pointed out that the CWMA calendars have many mistakes and that we should double check the dates.

New Business: Reiterated that all entities should be sending information to Mary Menz to post to the UACWMA website. Fremont County has a seasonal weed sprayer vacancy. This year's Healthy Land Stewardship seminar was discussed. This event will take place in Canon City on May 19th, 9:00-noon. Topics and speakers are still being worked out but will resemble the previous seminar with stations.

Round table Discussion

Debbie: The Rainbow Park Project Phase I is finally ending. Phase II will start soon. She addressed the Snotel Report and Drought Monitor. Our watershed is lacking in seasonal moisture. The Fremont County CD office was getting ready for the annual Home and Garden Show.

Marisa: Discussed re-iterated that the TPCD weed program has been hit with setbacks but that they were very grateful for the professional relationship they had with John Coyle and Ark Valley Weeds during the 2017 season. They are looking for a road-side seasonal employee assuming that the weed truck was repaired in time for the 2018 season.

Kayla: Kayla is improving the record keeping out of her office and in addition to employing a full-time seasonal sprayer she is also going to be able to add on an intern. She is looking to increase the pool of qualified weed sprayer.

Charles: Huerfano County has successfully re-instated their county weed advisory board. The county weed plan was due to be adopted by February 9th. Charles wanted our input regarding HOA interaction and Municipal agreements. The group shared their experiences with these entities.

El Paso County: Bryan: He re-iterated that they were pleased with the Healthy Parks, Happy People initiative and look forward to more collaboration amongst many partners in El Paso County. **Tina:** Tina is finalizing the CWMA newsletter and will solicit articles for subsequent editions. This edition will have an article from Bryan that we look forward to posting on the UACWMA website as well.

Nick Bankston: Nick is gearing up for the 2018 season. A decision was made to not fill the vacancy of Tony Telck but he is advertising for a full-time seasonal employee. He has scheduled the helicopter for the Elongated Mustard spray and will talk to John Coyle regarding some aquatic applications as well.

Kate Spinelli: Kate discussed the Custer County weed situation and will work with Kayla on getting some meetings set up with pertinent parties.

Patty Knupp: Patty let us know that the EQIP deadline was December 15th and all approved applications will be obligated by April 2018.

Courtney Hurst: Courtney thanked the group for having her.

John Coyle: John told the group that from a private weed sprayer perspective that he appreciates our efforts at sponsoring the cost-share programs throughout the UACWMA. Spraying is expensive and money on the ground helps everyone. Also, agencies such as the Upper Ark are important as they help make sure that counties and landowners are following the law.

Next Quarterly **April 12, 2018**

Garden Park Building 201 N 6th, Canon City 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Adjourn – 12:04 PM