

**Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**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; **Kayla Malone**- Chaffee/Lake County Weed Management, **John Coyle**- Ark Valley Weed Management and Consulting, **Charles Bryant**- Huerfano County Weed Management, **Nick Race**-USFS

**Welcome & Introductions:** See attendance

**Brittany:** Call to order at 9:40 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes and Financials by acclamation:** Debbie made a motion to approve the minutes, Charles seconded. Motion carried.

We currently have \$ 12,374.18 in checking.

**Old Business:**

- Brittany submitted the 2023 grant application before the deadline.
- We have moved the annual meeting back to the Abbey from Pathfinder Park due to some logistical issues.
- All 2022 grant applicants need to get the final report information to her and Debbie by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The UACWMA banner and tablecloth are in, and they look great!
- T-shirts will be delivered before February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Debbie will get the on-line registration on the district website by the afternoon.
- The annual meeting goody bags will have Weed ID books and stickers.
- Debbie will make final corrections to the agenda and get those printed up.
- Kayla made a motion to pay for hotel rooms as needed for presenters, Charles seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- John will ask Sandra to send an invoice ASAP and Marisa will ask Teresa Nees for a copy of her hotel reservation.
- Marisa will ask Helena Agri Chemicals to sponsor, someone needs to reach out to Van Diest. Buffalo Brand has already signed up. John says that Ark Valley Weeds will also sponsor. Brittany has been speaking with Ag Terra.
- The annual meeting will have a Mexican themed buffet with plenty of churros

**New Business:**

- The group held elections. Kayla made a motion that all members maintain their current positions, Debbie seconded. Motion carried. Brittany (President) Marisa (Secretary), Debbie (Treasurer). Marisa made a motion to elect Kayla vice-president, Charles seconded. Kayla was elected unanimously.
- Kayla will do a search and make sure that our Cooperative Agreements are up to date. She will have a governance review report ready for the April meeting.

- Outreach- The group discussed how to accomplish group outreach in addition to our individual entity activities. We will plan a fall weed walk at Pathfinder Park. We will plan this at a future quarterly meeting.
- Brittany suggested that we explore making posters with pertinent weed info and our logo.
- Debbie said that anyone is welcome to the Fremont County Home and Garden Show on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- We should all send our logos to Kayla, preferably with a transparent background.
- Kayla suggested that the UACWMA set up a booth at the CWMA Winter Training in Pueblo in December. We would like to print up a brochure highlighting the top six weeds in the Upper Ark before then.
- The Chaffee County Weed Department will receive up to \$80,000 toward GIS mapping protocols. Kayla will work toward streamlining our mapping efforts. This money comes from the America the Beautiful Grant. Teller-Park Conservation District has a \$200,000 range/wetland restoration grant from the same source.
- Kayla will schedule a meeting with Patty York of the CDA and talk about how to best streamline our mapping obligations.

#### **Round Table:**

**Fremont County Weed Management:** Brittany's office is fully back and functional after the security breach. Her department was able to receive federal funding in the ballpark of \$70,000 which allowed her to order new ATVs and trailers among other items. She recommended that we invite Julie Knudson to our meetings. She is anticipating that they will use the helicopter for the Elongate mustard project but will investigate Drone usage in case they need other options.

**USFS:** Nick had applied to be a permanent USFS employee and is still waiting on that paperwork to come through. He hopes to have his internship extended in the meantime. The Pike will not have a seasonal employee this summer due to deadlines having already passed for the ability to advertise for that position. He shared that he won Newcomer of the Year at the CWMA 2022 Winter Conference. He continues to work with some volunteer groups such as the Lost Creek Wilderness group and is currently putting together an HPP grant proposal to help them with weed management.

**TPCD:** Marisa has been busy with end of year grant reports as well as her regular district obligations. The district is working with both counties to bring their three-year weed plans up to date with corresponding resolutions. Teller County has doubled their weed budget for 2023. Marisa continues to work with John Coyle as a commercial applicator partner and she has spent some time with a local college student helping him with a class project. Marisa continues to work with CWMA and was elected as president-elect for 2023.

**Fremont Conservation District.** Debbie hopes to retire from her position in the next few months and will have the job posting advertised soon. This is a 32/hour a week position. There will be a new CSU small acreage management coordinator in the office February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will invite him to join us at the annual meeting as well as the next quarterly meeting.

**Chaffee County:** Kayla once again spoke about receiving America the Beautiful money. The county will also share in some of that revenue. Chaffee is approved to hire a full-time staff person that will allow Kayla to assume more managerial duties. There is someone local. They will also advertise for a seasonal employee as

well. She has continued to work with Sarah Hamilton in order to get the Lake County Conservation District up and running. We will invite Sarah to the next meeting.

**Huerfano County:** Charles informed the group that there is a new county commissioner and that they are on board with weed management. Custer County no longer has a weed management IGA with Huerfano County. Huerfano County purchased a large tract of land for the water rights and will have to address the weeds. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year with his seasonal employee. We will invite the new Custer County CSU extension agent to the next quarterly meeting.

**John Coyle:** Ark Valley Weed will sponsor a table at the upcoming annual meeting. John will be attending the WSSA conference at the end of February. He will continue to work with TPCD as their seasonal contractor.

Meeting times for 2023:

January 10, 2023

April 11, 2023

July 11, 2023

October 10, 2023

Next Meeting: April 11, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM

Action Items: We will all prepare for annual meeting. Marisa will ask Dr. Tekeila and Teresa Nees if they need lodging. Debbie will get registration on the website. We all need to promote this. Brittany will compile 2022 NWF data for final report. We will get her all of the information by Feb. 1, 2023.