

## Upper Arkansas River Cooperative Weed Management Area

October 12, 2017

Garden Park Building Conference Room

201 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Canon City

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 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, Kara Harders-Peaks&Plains Region, Kate Spinelli-San Isabel Land Trust, Tina Travis-El Paso County, Bryan Welding-El Paso County, Aaron Richter-BLM, Nick Padilla-USDA Forest Service, Angela Safranek-USFS.

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance

**Kayla:** Call to order 9:30 AM

Approval of minutes: \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion, \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ seconded.

**Annual Meeting Planning and Update:** Speakers are all lined up. CECs are approved. We are still waiting on CWMA calendars as well as weed ID books. Seven sponsors have committed as of October 12, 2017. The group discussed giving hats out to people who turned in completed evaluations.

**2017 Grant: UACWMA** will turn in one report by Thanksgiving. All parties who need to report out for 2017 and apply for the 2018 NWF will meet in Salida on November 16 at 10:00 AM. Kayla reported that four permanent boot brush stations have been ordered. Two are finished. Marisa needs to find a spot to install on in Teller County. There will also be four mobile stations in which to share amongst the UACWMA partners. November 8<sup>th</sup> is the target date for receiving these stations.

**New Business:** Reiterated that all entities should be sending information to Mary Menz to post to the UACWMA website. CDOT has a weed manager vacancy. Kayla brought up some recent pesticide labeling issues. We need to be vigilant about reading out labels because changes can happen one season to the next. Next year's Healthy Land Stewardship seminar was discussed. We are still pinning down a location for 2018. The make-up and formation of county weed advisory boards was discussed. There are some inherent flaws that need to be addressed at a state level. Many of the partners expressed frustration at the lack of standing weed boards while others shared stories of their successful boards.

## **Round table Discussion:**

**Aaron Richter:** As of this meeting there is no BLM 2018 budget released. He discussed that Lake/ Chaffee County are contracted for the BLM weed spraying. They are addressing the Elongated Mustard issue.

**Debbie:** The Rainbow Park Project has identified some properties across the river that are interested in releasing some Tamarisk Beetles. Phase II will extend into Canon City proper near Ash Street. Fremont Conservation District will be adding on to their cost-share program. They will look into tapping into the Noxious Weed Fund grant.

**Marisa:** Discussed the pros and cons of TPCD weed season. They are getting ready for the district's annual meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> emphasizing small acreage concerns.

**Kayla:** Kayla had a very busy year. She was very pleased with her seasonal hire and has encouraged him to test for his QS. She would like to take on an intern next year as well.

**Angela:** Angela once again touched on the plan for ranking watershed areas in USFS weed control. As of October the 2018 budget has two targets; Timber Volume Sold and Acres of Wildfire Risk reduced.

**Charles:** Huerfano County is trying to get a weed advisory board back up and running. As for weed control, ROW's are the priority. He is working on Organizational Structure in identifying the biggest problems first. Charles discussed bio-controls on Mosca Pass as well as developing outreach programs for landowners in his county.

**Carol:** November 2, 2017 is the scheduled date for the Custer County Annual Meeting. The Custer County Extension called a meeting about their weed programs. Many entities were represented; NRCS, Conservation District, CDOT, Weed Board. Tina discussed that wording in email subject lines can affect whether the military can receive the emails.

**El Paso County: Bryan:** They are wrapping up the Healthy Parks, Happy People initiative. They mapped invasive weeds in the county parks. Patty York and her crew came down and helped. **Tina:** Tina confirmed that it was a very busy summer.

**Nick Bankston:** Nick is settling in to the duties as Fremont County weed manager. They finished hydro-axing the Rainbow Park project. Tony's position will be posted.

**Kate Spinelli:** Kate had many questions for the group as to weed issues. She wants to facilitate landowner education especially in regards to Tamarisk and Russian Olive. She was given Shelly Simmon's contact info.

**Kara Harders:** Kara will help administer cost-share out of the Fremont County CD with Brittany so she has joined the UACWMA in order to facilitate that endeavor.

**Nick Padilla:** Nick discussed the weed situation in burn areas. Lake/ Chaffee County have the contracts for those areas. One area of concern is actual forest clean-up. Marisa filled him in on their local non-profit, Focus on the Forest and suggested that Nick contact them for help and direction.

As a group we discussed making high school students aware that there can be a career in weed control. This group should aim at attending their local high school career fairs. Maybe this is a grant opportunity?

Next Quarterly **TBD**, 2018

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

Adjourn – 11:44 AM