

Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area
October 10, 2023
Pathfinder Regional Park, 6655 State Highway 115, Florence, CO 81226

Quarterly meeting minutes

Brittany Pierce – Fremont County Weed Management; **Marisa Neuzil** – Teller-Park CD; **Debbie Mitchell** – Fremont CD; **Angela Safranek**-USFS, **Kayla Malone**- Chaffee/Lake County Weed Management, **John Coyle**- Ark Valley Weed Management and Consulting, **Charles Bryant**- Huerfano County Weed Management, **Shanan Davey**-CSU Extension, **Nick Race**-USFS

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance.

Brittany: Call to order at 9:36 A.M.

Approval of Minutes and Financials: Marisa made a motion to approve the minutes, (with correction) Debbie seconded. Motion carried.

We currently have \$ 14,829.39 in checking. Kayla made a motion to approve financials, Charles seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Kayla will look at current MOUs and get back to us about the status of those.
- Brittany will get the free registration to CWMA Winter Training with our Bronze Sponsorship.
- Quarterly reports are due to Debbie by October 20th, 2023.

New Business:

- Our group would like to do a second order of t-shirts. Kayla made a motion and Debbie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marisa made a motion to also purchase stickers and brochures. John seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The annual meeting will be held on February 8th at the Abbey in Canon City. Kayla made a motion to accept that date and location, Debbie seconded. Motion carried.
- Tentative theme for meeting was Surviving the Season- focusing on how to effectively communicate with the public regarding chemicals.
- The group came up with a list of presenters:
 - Cara Meyers-Brittany-Laws and Regs
 - Sandra McDonald-John-AS/PS
 - Scott Nissen-John-Aquatic
 - Torri Gladem- Nick-Bio Control -EP?
 - Derek Sebastian-John- Rangeland
 - Teresa Nees-Marisa- UP/Laws and Regs
 - Registration will open in January 2024.
 - Kayla made a motion to cover speaker expenses, Debbie seconded. Motion carried.

Round Table:

Brittany: Fremont County will finish their spray season the third week of October. She will be looking to hire at least two seasonals next year. They are making some big equipment purchases.

USFS: Angela brought us up to date on the large virtual fencing project they have set up in Chaffee and Custer County. Nick filled us in on the weed management on the Pike National Forest. John Coyle was contracted to work mostly on the wilderness areas. Emily McGrath, from CDA, came down with her crew for some Orange Hawkweed eradication. He has requested a seasonal employee for next season. He has applied for a GOCO grant to fund a Mile High Youth Corps Team for next year. He will find out in December about that funding.

TPCD: Teller-Park had a productive weed season but dealt with rising hostility from the public. The district will work on outreach as well as an opt-out program for the 2024 season. The district is also working on the Star Plus Grant.

Fremont Conservation District. FCD will host a soil health workshop on Oct. 12th.

Fremont County Extension-Shanan Davey is the new County Extension Specialist-Ag, Natural Resources, and Youth Development.

Chaffee County: Kayla is looking to hire someone for GIS and governmental protocols. They are finished spraying for the year.

Huerfano County: They are still working. There has been some fall regrowth of Hoary Cress. They conducted a weed workshop with CSU Extension and NRCS. They are getting some new equipment.

John Coyle: Ark Valley Weed had another very busy season with multiple agencies. There were issues with the public at the start of the season.

Meeting times for 2024:

January 09, 2023

April 09, 2023

July 09, 2023

October 08, 2023

Next Meeting: January 09, 2024- Pathfinder Park- 9:30 AM

Meeting adjourned at 12:28 PM

Action Items: Kayla will order brochures, get SOPs updated. We will all reach out to prospective speakers and get bios and synopsis in before December 8th. Brittany will order t-shirts and stickers. Debbie will reserve the Abbey for February 8th.