

Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area
October 8, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Quarterly meeting minutes

Brittany Pierce – Fremont County Weed Management; **Shelly Simmons** – PWWMC; **Marisa Neuzil** – Teller-Park CD; **Debbie Mitchell** – Fremont CD; **Charles Bryant** – Huerfano County; **Patty Knupp** – NRCS; **Mia Cory**-Fremont CD; **Kara Harders** -CSU-Small Acreage; **Tina Travis**- El Paso County

Welcome & Introductions: See attendance

Brittany: Call to order at 9:33 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: Shelly made a motion to approve the minutes, Marisa seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The financial report was presented with a balance of \$11,429.38. Debbie said that the group has been reimbursed cancellation of Blossom Festival and that we are now enrolled in Play, Clean, Go through NAISMA. Marisa made a motion to approve, Kara seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Quarterly reports need to be submitted to Debbie by October 21st so she can submit to CDA.
- We need to look at scope of work for CDA NWF final report date.
- Waiting for FY 2021/FY2022 RFP to be released by the CDA.

New Business:

- Members who are interested in applying for NWF should have their numbers ready as the deadline may be in December.
- Debbie will reach out to Patty York to ask if our annual meeting budget funding can be transferred to education instead. UACWMA would like to place an order for CWMA Calendars as well as Weed ID books from Larimer County. We have \$500 budgeted for education; Marisa made a motion to purchase 50 books from the Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District at \$10/each. Motion carried. Brittany made a motion to order the other educational materials if we can transfer the meeting funds to education; Marisa seconded. Motion carried.
- Shelly suggested that we might get in on some of the annual conference agendas of CACD, CWMA, and Watershed meetings in order to give presentations on how counties can get their weed programs going, from organizing the weed committees to writing the long range plans. We have missed the window this year for CWMA and CACD but will look into next year.

Round Table:

Brittany: Fremont County is having a resurgence of weeds after a little moisture and then warm weather. They are busy finishing up on CDOT. Brittany may have found some Elongated Mustard on Hwy. 69. They will be moving into their new facility soon which will house all their weed equipment, chemical and office space.

Shelly: They are wrapping up the Tamarisk and re-sprout spraying. They will be moving on to a big Russian Knapweed project using a commercial applicator. They continue to see a lot of African Rue. They may have a chance to partner with the Maneuver Site for funding. Shelly brought up the idea that the Coalition for Healthy Soils may be biased against herbicides. We may want to give a presentation at one of the meetings addressing soil microbe depletion. Tina is going to send Shelly the contact info for Dr. Wong of Bayer. Shelly also sat in on a meeting for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and thought that they might be promoting some listed Noxious Weeds as good bird forage. We will check in on them to see if that is the case.

Marisa: John will finish the spray season for TPCD this week. We don't have final totals in on private spraying, but the year seems to be about the same as the previous two. Park County had him spray all of the quarries as well as a large open space near Bailey. The City of Fairplay had him spray Scentless Chamomile near the "Beach" and will expand yearly.

Debbie: Debbie and Mia did a check on the Florence River Park, which looked pretty good but most of the native plants that were planted last year are not there anymore.

Charles: Huerfano is also having weeds crop up again like Scotch Thistle and Musk Thistle. He still has seasonal employees spraying. He had a meeting with Sonya(sp?) from the Colorado Insectary, and they found a ton of Russian Knapweed fungus where they were going to release Gall Wasps. This fungus has also been found in the San Luis Valley and Shelly has seen it in Las Animas County as well as Crowley County. Charles says that the fungus was first documented by Dr. Bean in 2007. Shelly says that there has been an explosion of Midge Gall and maybe that played into the fungus being so effective. The insectary is going to do some research. Charles is still helping Custer County with some spraying and will have new Board of Commissioners in the new year.

Kara: She put out a small acreage survey and the most asked for topic was more information on noxious weeds. She can put together the Weed ID pocket guides for any of our counties that want one. She will also be putting on a CEC presentation for CWMA in November.

Patty: She has been out putting Canada Thistle Rust Fungus out in Badger Basin as well as Custer County. She has some fungus available if anyone needs more. She mentioned that Coaldale Quarry had weed mitigation. Mary emailed her and agreed to stay on as our webmaster and to let us know that she is now an AmeriCorps volunteer for the Montrose Ute Indian Museum. She let the group know that two new area biologists have started in both the Fremont and Woodland Park offices. She also worked with the insectary releasing the Russian Knapweed Galls.

Meeting times for 2021:

January 14- Planning on in-person at Brittany's new office- Will switch to Zoom if needed

April 15

July 8

October 14

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

