

Minutes of the Aug. 24, 2012 meeting
Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee,
Colorado Natural Heritage Program Conference Room
Colorado State University, Fort Collins

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Panjabi at 9:08 a.m. Committee members present were Sheila Grother, Karen Scopel, Fran Pannebaker, Fred Midcap, Don Hajar, Ben Duke, Randy Malcom, and Steve Ryder. George Beck came at 11:15. Guests present included Thomas Holtzer, head of the Dept. of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at CSU, Randy Fischer, state representative from Larimer County to the Colorado General Assembly, David Anderson from the Dept. of Natural Resources at CSU, Andrew Norton, professor of Bioagricultural Sciences at CSU, and Scott Nissen, professor of Weed Sciences at CSU.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved, and the minutes of the May 30th meeting in LaJunta were read and approved, with some input from Fran. She stated that the Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plant Project, (ARKWIPP, website <http://arkwipp.org>.) could very easily be built into a Cooperative Weed Management Association. They need funding to hire one person to oversee the work started by ARKWIPP and develop a weed management association. She said there is strong support in the area for this effort: funding is the need. Fran also stated it was difficult to understand some of the acronyms used in the minutes.

The previous day's field trip was discussed. The field trip to Frank State Wildlife Area, near Windsor, took place on August 23rd at 10:30. Attending were Karen Scopel, Sheila Grother, Susan Panjabi, Fred Midcap, Randy Malcom, Steve Ryder, George Beck, Tina Booton of the Weld County Weed Dept., and Tim D'Amato and Bobby Goeman of the Larimer County Weed Dept. Karen and Tina explained some noxious weed issues in the area, and the challenges of working with the landowner, and with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (who manages the wildlife there), and other entities, in pinpointing responsibility for weed control. After lunch at nearby River Bluffs Open Space the group went to the Roberts Ranch north of Ft. Collins to see a leafy spurge test plot conducted by Tim and Bobby. The plot was evidence of how difficult it is to control leafy spurge, the most problematic weed in Larimer County.

The group then went to the Gabbard Rutledge Property near Owl Canyon Road. This property is owned by CSU and Tim and Bobby were conducting a test on Russian Knapweed. The plot showed impressive control using a variety of herbicide products, especially Perspective. This concluded the field trip.

All who attended the field trip agreed it was beneficial. Coordination of weed control efforts is good. Sheila said Extension Offices are key to good weed control work. Thomas said as Extension is downsized, weed experts tend to disappear. Karen said we need to communicate how weeds harm the economy of our state. I mentioned a comment made by the Weld County Weed Coordinator that she could not find a qualified worker to fill a weed position in her county. The funding was there but it was difficult to find someone to work. A discussion of this issue followed. The Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA) is one resource to look to for workers, it was mentioned.

Steve's report was next on the agenda. He talked about the future existence of our committee as it was due to "sunset" in 2013. The Colorado Dept. of Regulatory Agencies has reviewed the Committee's usefulness and recommended it be continued, and Randy Fischer said his committee in the state legislature will be considering that recommendation. He supports the Committee as important in the work on noxious weed issues.

Steve said the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) needs a point person to help the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture (CDA) with weed issues. Fred asked why Frank State Wildlife Area has no good way to enforce weed control, since the CPW manages the wildlife yet the landowner will not control weeds. Ben said the CPW is probably on the title to the property so should be forced to comply with state law. Don

said landowner is required to comply with the weed law. Steve said these arrangements are best specified in leases. Ben said it should be a recommendation of this committee that any state agency entering into an easement with a landowner be required to include language about weed control. Ben said the Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust does require weed language in any easement. Fran said "property technicians" of state land should be in charge, already, of weed control. Karen said if the state is in charge of a wildlife area, they should control weeds. Steve said he will pursue this whole topic further in the most logical progression, to try to clarify or resolve it.

Steve handed out the updated noxious weed list, including the List A, B, C, and Watch List species. He mentioned that Spruce Gulch will continue to be monitored by the CDA, Forest Service, and others. He said there would be a webinar on Sept. 20th, for all interested parties, about compliance and enforcement of the noxious weed act. He had attended the Missouri River Watershed meeting in S. Dakota, is involved with planning a Western Weed Coordinating Committee meeting in November, and said a federal/state Noxious Weed Team has been staying active. An Economic Impact Study, initiated by CWMA, on noxious thistle species is being conducted by the Agricultural Resource Economics Dept. at CSU, is funded by the DNR, CDA, CPW and Yuma County, and is due out in early 2013.

Steve talked about Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) efforts. Good success has been seen on mediterranean sage and yellow starthistle. purple loosestrife is found in over 100 sites mostly around Denver and in the Platte River areas. Steve and Eric Lane have followed up on a sighting of rush skeletonweed in the Colorado Springs/Fountain Creek areas, and Patty will be developing a monitoring protocol for next field season.

Steve talked about rule making, saying a letter to municipalities will be going out this fall, asking for compliance, and offering assistance, with weed control laws. Sheila suggested the letter also be sent to counties because some cities may be asking county weed programs for help with compliance. Don questioned if conservation districts should also be contacted. Steve recommended not because they have no statutory enforcement authority with regards to weed control. They will be kept in the loop as they most often work directly with counties and with NRCS.

Next on the agenda George talked about the Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC). Progress is being made at the federal level to establish a pool of money, to come from the National Invasive Species Council, to be directed to each state, with Colorado receiving about \$5.7 million, 80% of which must be used for in-the-field weed control work. George said the U.S. Senate has not yet endorsed it, but the House and other federal entities have. Work on HHC is proceeding and is ongoing.

Next, Sheila gave an update of Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA) work. They have a website--cwma.org--which includes a weed identification tool and other good information. Their annual meeting will be December 4-5 in Grand Junction. Anyone is welcome to attend and good information about weeds is presented there. CWMA sponsors Weed 101 Workshops each spring, offering training for seasonal workers. A good book about weeds, including chemical recommendations, will be coming out this fall, written by Joe Di Tomaso, an extension specialist from the University of California-Davis. Sheila demonstrated the weed identification tool on the cwma.org website.

George suggested our committee stress to the Plant Environmental Research Center (Plant Select/Dept. of Horticulture), that they should be checking all new plant species' invasiveness potential before they are propagated. Steve presented a flow chart provided by Plant Select which they use to determine each plant's invasiveness risk. Don suggested that Plant Select go through a plant assessment procedure (PAT) like the CDA noxious weed program uses. Thomas suggested Plant Select be more thorough in their testing. George said APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) of the federal government is the controlling body for all plants coming into the U.S. They are beginning a new procedure called a Weed Risk Assessment Model on all plant species.

Next on the agenda, Steve asked for a recommendation from the Committee to put Yellowtuft alyssum (*Alyssum murale* and *Alyssum corsicum*) on the Watch List. This recommendation passed unanimously after a motion from Karen and second by Don. Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*) was also discussed. It

is present in Colorado, and is on Montana's noxious list. There is some concern here, it needs to be monitored, but it may not be invasive. The Committee decided not to put it on the Watch List yet, but to get more information about it.

Yellow Flag Iris was also discussed. George said this aquatic is a huge problem in Washington state. It is on our Watch List, but we need to do more work on it. Karen said it is not a problem where she has seen it in Weld County.

Karen presented a handout called "8 Weeds You Can Eat". Don talked about the High Park Fire as his business has been selling seed for re-vegetation work, and asked if the Committee might at a future date be interested in touring the burn area, and help encourage landowners to get good vegetation re-established.

The meeting was adjourned. The Plant Select department held a tour of their facilities on the CSU campus for the Committee members able to attend. James Klett and Pat Hayward of Plant Select spoke about their program and work, and their efforts to address invasiveness in the species they consider for propagation. The tour lasted about 45 minutes, and was enjoyed by all in attendance. Our next meeting will be October 26th in Lakewood.

Submitted by Randy Malcom, secretary
Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee
