

**Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the January 31, 2013 Meeting  
Colorado Department of Agriculture Conference Room  
Lakewood, CO**

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Terri Schulz, chair, and Steve Ryder, state weed coordinator. Members present: Fran Pannebaker, Larry Vickerman, Sheila Grother, Pat Hayward, Terri Schulz, Karn Stiegelmeier, Shawn Wissel, Ed Norden, and Randy Malcom. Colorado Dept. of Agriculture personnel present, in addition to Steve Ryder, were Patty York and Cecily Mui. Members absent: George Beck, Louis Bridges, Jack Flowers, Fred Midcap, Ben Duke, and Ken Harper.

After introductions of all present the agenda was reviewed and changed to add a discussion of the "15 foot rule" in agenda item #11. The minutes were approved after noting 2 minor clerical errors, and with this change: the last sentence of the first paragraph of page 2 should read, "It was also mentioned that Natural Heritage Programs and Natureserve have tools to help prioritize weed control efforts.". Next, officers for 2013 were chosen. They are: Terri-chairman, Fred-vice chairman, and Randy-secretary.

Steve gave an overview of the work and purpose of the Advisory Committee for the new members, stating the membership is weighted toward agriculture, but a diverse group representing many interests and geographical areas of the state are sought to serve on the Committee. He talked about the three state noxious weed lists--A, B, and C--and their definitions. Terri suggested the Committee receive an outline of the status of weeds on List A for our next meeting. Patty will provide that.

Steve talked about funding of noxious weed programs, that it is uncertain if the U.S. Forest Service will continue to fund weed work, and spoke of the role Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as well as the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) play in weed control efforts.

Terri brought up the subcommittees the members are usually assigned to--"weed science and management", "partnerships and funding", and "policy and enforcement"--and asked if these 3 subcommittees need to continue. It was decided to no longer keep standing subcommittees as part of the Committee's organizational structure. Instead, the Committee may decide to establish an ad hoc subcommittee for in-depth work on a particular topic should the need arise.

Sheila spoke about the Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA) and how their work impacts that of the Committee. CWMA funds legislative efforts on noxious weeds, meets twice yearly, is a source of technical information for weed control, and promotes weed work state-wide. Ed asked who is responsible for reclamation work at oil and natural gas development sites. Shawn said it's strictly regulated on federal lands, and that there are state and county regulations as well. The oil and gas industries pay for the reclamation work. Terri said private landowners can negotiate for weed control at these sites.

Karn said there are some difficulties with federal oversight of reclamation projects--the work sometimes does not get done. Karn asked if the Committee does any lobbying at the state legislature. Steve said that is not within the authority of the Committee, but that members could lobby as individuals. Sheila said CWMA does have official lobbying authority.

Steve gave his report next. He mentioned some good books on weed control that are available. Larimer County produces one and Ed asked how such resources are funded by

counties. It was mentioned that Larimer County has a weed district which generates some income. A discussion of weed districts and how their boundaries are set ensued. Steve said we would delve into that topic at a future meeting of the Committee.

Steve said the state Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) recommends the Committee continue its existence indefinitely. When originally created it was due to expire in 2013 unless the legislature took action to keep it functioning. He said the CDA recommends keeping it, and State Senator Greg Brophy will introduce a bill to accomplish that. The CWMA has some ideas about use of the Committee, such as including representation from other state agencies--CPW, Land Use Board, Colorado Dept. of Transportation (CDOT), or others. A couple more legislative bills were mentioned. One from last year was authored by CWMA and gives pest districts the authority to control rodents as well as weeds. Another, H.B. 1137, lifts the 2.2 acre cap on counties' ability to clean up properties, e.g., trash and weeds. This is not a noxious weed issue per se.

Steve said the rule making process, to implement state statutes, is ongoing. Also, Request for Proposals (RFP's) announced by the CDA are due in early February. These RFP's are for financial assistance with local weed control projects. Terri, Fran, and Sheila volunteered to help review them. About \$200,000 is available from the state weed fund, as well as \$50,000 from the Forest Service. There may also be some additional funds from State and Private Forestry Grant monies. This year, about 10% of money awarded will be for List B weed projects. Also this year about \$1,000,000 from the state legislature will go to water conservation efforts via Tamarisk and Russian olive control projects. There will be a pilot project--an inter-agency noxious weed committee involving CDOT, CPW, and the Land Use Board—to control Leafy Spurge in Larimer County.

Steve mentioned the Colorado Weed Network, which is a group of people mostly from the Denver area, who get together to talk about weeds. He also said the state's Strategic Plan for noxious weed control is 12 years old and in need of revision. He would like our Committee to look at it and make suggestions for change. The 15 foot rule is a point of concern: some weed managers do not like it because its unworkable. There has been, however, reluctance to abandon it.

Patty talked about State and Private Forestry Grant funds to work on List A weeds. She will be putting together her seasonal weed crew soon, will finalize the online mapping system by mid-February, and said there will be more species added to the Watch List information sheet. Patty is working on the Strategic Plan for the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) network, is preparing posts for the blog network, and talked about her work mapping weed infestations state-wide.

Cecily talked about her new work on List B Management Plans. She was recently hired for the position of List B Noxious Weed Specialist. There are 4 List B's that have no Management Plan written yet. Cecily is seeking input from counties before writing the plans. This input is due March 1st.

Steve talked about how weeds are categorized, by using a PAF (plant assessment form). The PAF has been the main tool for evaluating a plant. He offered another tool for our consideration--the Colorado Noxious Weed Listing Decision Matrix. Both could be used in evaluations. Terri mentioned there is also an Aquatic Assessment Form. Steve said APHIS at Colorado State University has done plant assessments in the past, but not much anymore.

Steve reported on an economic impact study being written to quantify the monetary harm of noxious weeds. The project was initiated by CWMA, focuses on 8 species, and is ongoing. Steve, as well as Craig Bond, Marshall Frasier, George Beck, Fred Raish, and Elizabeth Brown, are working on it. Part of it may be done this spring. Someone of the authors may come to our next Committee meeting.

Eric Lane of the CDA spoke next, thanking all who serve on the Committee. He said input of the Committee is valued by CDA. Karn commented about the importance of education on weed issues. Sheila said CWMA does some good work in that respect--Weeds 101 Workshops, books, and calendars. Patty mentioned the good information on the CDA website to help educate cities and counties, this after a letter was sent out encouraging compliance with state weed law. Sheila said there will be a way for Colorado taxpayers to donate to the work of CWMA by checking the "healthy landscapes" box on the state income tax form.

Sheila asked about progress on Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC). Steve explained the proposal: there is currently an effort underway to lobby congressmen from western states to support HHC. Karn offered to help promote the project.

Ed asked if grant funds are awarded to counties with good weed programs already in place, and if so could more effort and money go to counties not doing much now. Steve said it's desirable to do what we can to get counties to do more.

Steve talked about 2013 Weed Rule amendments. It is to be submitted by April 1st. As for species designations, Water hyacinth is under review. It is currently on the Watch List and more information is needed to change it. Ed asked if it's being sold. Pat will check into how much is being sold. No changes are recommended for List B and List C. Three species will be added to the Watch List--yellowtuft, parrotfeather, and Brazilian egeria--and CSU will be doing plant assessments of to learn more about them.

List B Management Plans were discussed again. Russian olive, Canada thistle, quackgrass, and yellow nutsedge are the 4 List B's to be completed. For Russian olive its riparian aspect will be given priority. However, statewide control will be encouraged. Fran wondered if Tree City could help with input on the Russian olive plan. Pat also mentioned the Colorado Tree Coalition in this regard.

The "15 foot rule" was discussed. Eric said as it pertains to rivers it's confusing, but is OK for road right-of-ways. CDA will present any revisions to the rule to the Committee, and accept comments from us, prior to and during the formal rulemaking process.

Fran said the National Park Service is creating an EDRR system for weed control in roadways. She will present to us some data regarding this system at a future meeting.

Upcoming meetings for the Committee were tentatively scheduled. There will be a field trip to Limon in May, and a trip to Garfield County around September 12-13.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Malcom, secretary  
Colorado State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee