

Minutes of the October 26, 2012 meeting
Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee
Colorado Department of Agriculture Conference Room
Lakewood, Colorado
(DRAFT)

The meeting was called to order by Susan Panjabi at 9:44 am. In attendance were Susan, Lou Bridges, Ed Norden, Sheila Grother, Terri Schultz, Randy Malcom, Ben Duke, George Beck, Jim Walker (CDOT) *ex officio*, CDA – Eric Lane, Steve Ryder, Patty York, Terry Gander.

Guest: Elizabeth Brown, CPW

The meeting agenda was reviewed and accepted by the Committee. Discussion of minutes from August 24-25, 2012 meeting ensued. Susan asked about the point person for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife to help with weed issues. Motion and second to approve the minutes, and committee approved.

State Weed Coordinator update by Steve Ryder: Steve reported the economic impact study being done by CSU agricultural economics faculty and funded by DNR, CPW, CIA and Yuma County is moving forward. Eric and Steve been working on the hiring process for the List B position. Steve forwarded the Spruce Gulch field season report from USFS to all Committee members. Steve spoke about the biofuel issue with *Arundo donax* (giant reed) in Oregon.

Elizabeth Brown from Colorado Parks and Wildlife gave a presentation on Aquatic nuisance species. Elizabeth gave an overview of how Colorado Parks and Wildlife plans to handle problem weeds/plants. One point of discussion was how the various agencies work together to implement the ANS, noxious weed, nursery and seed acts. She and Jeff Thompson are the point people for terrestrial weed management at CPW.

Steve Ryder spoke about Weed Act prioritization of noxious weeds and grant funding priorities for 2013. He asked for the Committee's input on how funds should be used.

George Beck suggested a certain percentage of money directed to B List weeds. Does applicant have a management plan, long term plan, and restoration plan? Recommended approach was established several years ago by this Committee – would be a good start to look at that document again. George Beck suggested that weed prevention is extremely important. Economic impact on agriculture is very important. Need to focus resources in value-added way. How do we use our limited resources maximally? Eric added that he feels current state and federal funds are adequate for List A species - sufficient resources, partners, etc. Solicit pilot projects for one or more years mitigation of targeted List B species. There are some good ideas out there, including Colorado River salinity project grants. George Beck mentioned the important role of conservation districts.

Rule amendments for 2013. Steve asked for recommendations from committee about potential rule changes for 2013. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding adding Russian olive to List B management plans – CDA will propose focusing on riparian populations. Right of way and water vector language is already in the rules, although is subject to some discussions annually. One suggestion was to strengthen the vector language upstream from containment areas. As management plans are updated discussion will take place with counties and they will be updated on an ongoing basis. Hairy willow-herb has been seen a lot around the metropolitan area and may need to take a closer look at. It seems to be very aggressive. Phragmites (common reed) is another weed that may need to be looked at more closely; it grows well in drought and can be a fire hazard. Discussion took place regarding adding aquatic list of weeds to List B. Elizabeth said her recommendation would be to add water hyacinth, parrotfeather and Brazilian elodea to List A. Ben Duke left the meeting during the discussion, and the committee lacks a quorum. George Beck would move that Noxious Weed rules add CWP's aquatic weeds. There were not enough members present to make a quorum so it was suggested that this issue be re-visited first at the next meeting.

George Beck reported that Windmill grass seems to be doing really well in Weld County, at least along roadsides near Larimer County. He's seen it along CR 15 and Harmony Road east of I-25. It comes up very late in the season and is a current problem in turf. It's a bunchgrass (*Corus versitalla*) and is native to Texas and Oklahoma. Steve said he'd check in with Tim D'Amato and Tina Booton to see what they know of the species.

Patty gave an EDRR update and a Powerpoint presentation of current statewide status of List A species.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting was scheduled for January 25, 2013 in Lakewood. It was recommended that at this meeting that water hyacinth, parrotfeather and Brazilian elodea be added to the A List and Yellow floating heart be added to the Watch List.

Roundtable discussion, announcements, events

A letter from CDA will be going out to municipalities by the end of the year, as discussed at the last meeting.

CWMA will hold its annual meeting in Grand Junction on December 4-5, 2012

It was suggested that CDA consider placing the meadow hawkweed complex on the Watch List.

It was suggested that CDA initiate a county-level sample-collecting and identification of invasive phragmites (just the larger populations); Steve said there were 2-3 good guides for identification that can be placed on the website.

Ed Norden suggested that we look into ways of using retired weed managers as a resource to assist other programs, counties, etc., with weed management.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.