

Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Minutes  
June 17, 2008

- Introductions
- Participants in attendance: Tom McClure, Steve Anthony, Jonathan Rife, Levy Montoya (NRCS), Mark Schull (NRCS), Robert Valdez, Jimmy Dunn, Bill Wilkinson, Billy Adams (Spanish Peak Purgatoire CD), Margaret Paget, Jay Jutton, Jim Walker (CDOT), Scott Nissen, Crystal Andrews, Kelly Uhing, Nicole Simpson
- Members excused: Sarada Krishnan, John Taylor, Moe Shifter, Roc Rutledge, Heather Knight, Eve Todd-Pugh
- Minutes were reviewed:
  - Jon suggested a minor change in the myrtle spurge – Douglas County has it listed as one of the ten most wanted (just rephrase to be clear) – Steve suggested adding “a” or “one of”
  - Funding is possibly in jeopardy – not complete/indefinite
  - Jay motioned, Jimmy seconded – all in favor. Minutes are approved as amended.
- Agenda: additions/changes – Kelly suggested adding a discussion of what list B species for management plans for 2009 and add (if time) the weed management areas that Kelly is attempting to form.
- Jon: CDOW letter, Kelly – Dave Weber sent her an email that Tom Remington (Director of Division) has created a committee to improve the habitat conservation efforts, Kelly handed out packet – including Dave Weber’s comments (Dave was a champion for purple loosestrife in Colorado) – he is asking in addition to aquatic nuisance species position- would like to create a terrestrial noxious weed position. The Aquatics Invasives position was filled by Elizabeth Brown who will start on July 1, 2008. Kelly will draft a letter with comments for the committee to review and approve. Comments will then be submitted to CDOW.
- Jonathan: Ted Brown from Clear Creek County – problem with Chinese Clematis – that is on DOW property, map was passed around – need for coordinated effort with DOW. This is probably worst case scenario – location is hard – steep slopes. Ted is looking to the advisory committee for help. Steve – he is not looking for a waiver? Kelly – no, statute says that to best ability to kill infestations – risk to oneself is excusable (dangerous terrain). Jonathan: ideas for letter? Margaret: would it be good to include the mention of funding? Kelly: yes Margaret: awareness of law, and obligations, Jonathan: good idea to include noxious weed booklet Kelly “Steve: since county liaison, would you be interested in starting new letter template “ Steve: suggest wait for new letter out after elections, sometime in January, Kelly: suggest come from different idea, Jimmy: better not to include Canada thistle in case some counties don’t have, Steve: work on letter and have it ready to go, Bill: Canada thistle is all over, Kelly: up to committee on all species or just general, Jonathan: just A and B species – all three

- lists would be out of limits, Margaret: include web site to not exclude any information, Steve: general letter out to ALL county commissioners, Kelly: yes, Margaret: same letter could go out to city councils, Jonathan: don't think that will work, Steve: Margaret and I can work it out, Margaret: Mayors would work, as far as personal letters. General consensus on this topic – yes and pursue
- Kelly: funding re-instatement, house bill 1399 – will fund variety of initiatives for CDA, money from interest generated from unclaimed property – roughly 3.5 million – CDA will receive 65%, State Fair will receive 25%, and Agritourism will receive 10%. Reinstate the Noxious Weed Management Fund: money that is offered statewide for different noxious weed projects – due to budget crisis in 2003 the weed fund was cut, but restored now to \$300,000. , send out request for grant proposals this winter for 2009 projects. Similar to the State and Private Forestry program, grant funds will be issued on a reimbursement basis. This will give time to generate interest to the \$300,000. amount. In addition to funding, two full time positions were approved. One will be responsible for EDRR and all List A and alert species. The second position is in charge of List B species, statewide weed management plans, and the mapping program. Kelly - Thanks to everyone who called their state Representatives and Senators urging them to support this bill.
  - Kelly: CWCB has a Water Projects bill that passed through legislature. The bill requested \$60million with a provision for \$1 million to go towards cost-share programs for Tamarisk and Russian Olive control. Funding is coming from the severance tax. CDA is involved in the planning process to develop criteria for the grant. In addition to Uhing serving on the planning committee, Cindy Lair from CDA State Conservation Board, and John Heideman from the Tamarisk Coalition are participants. Request for proposals will be ready by fall of 2008. Kelly will keep the committee informed of the status of the program.
  - Lunch break
  - Jonathan: Railroads – time to initiate statewide contract about noxious weed control with railroads. Spraying on the track would be more effective in most places in Colorado. Spray trains in Kansas were not very effective, due to wind problems. Helicopter spraying is obviously better, if on the track need to coordinate with them (railroads). Montana Rail Links/County cooperative plan was passed out to review and generate ideas for Colorado. Kelly - this could be something to pursue for Colorado, Jonathan: has current contacts for Colorado and additional contacts on handout. Steve: Randy Heitsmoth is the contact name. Jonathan: need to review the Montana plan and he will contact sky copters in Montana, as he has worked with them in the past, Scott: worked near Cobb Lake in Ft. Collins – helicopter applications – what jurisdiction would the state have over land owned by the railroad. Jonathan: state would be more of a coordinator of the project. Tom: what is the difference between a railroad owning the Right-of-Way and a private landowner – could the state not do anything with the railroad, Steve: did they suggest to stay out of it, Kelly: I can help coordinate this, but the counties need to take individual action, Ron: how can we enforce it? Crystal: how did Montana deal with it? Steve: his counties have had railroad come in, state senator involvement, counties ride with train to spray, railroad

didn't want information spread too much – this has really evolved. Steve: the other weak link with railroad is the list A and list B – the education factor – have to go and show them spots of infestation, it's not just the top ten they know – it is more. Kelly: is this something the committee is interested in adopting in Colorado? Jonathan: I think so. Kelly: the Montana plan is pretty detailed, with mile marks, detailed plant inventory, etc. Crystal: education part, important. Steve: who's doing the inventory part, the railroad shows up and does – with little/no warning – so how do we know how they do it/where exactly/etc. Kelly – cooperative effort, strategies are different for each districts/counties/etc. Tom: we can gently recommend for them to spray weeds, then they say which weeds, show me, what do I do, etc. If they are really involved and responding then they will hire someone who does know - if you have to form a group of neighbors to do it then you are fighting an uphill battle. Employ somebody who understands the whole picture is the better choice. Scott: what is the possibility of providing this as a service for x amount of dollars. Steve: there is a safety issue of getting to locations. Good way to approach railroads, since the past did not have any outcomes. Jon: this would at least have on paper, what every party is suppose to do, at the very least maybe provide transportation for county inventory to get to hard locations. Kelly: get county weed supervisors to participate. Draft something for October meeting. Get a good graphic representation of the state. Jonathan: will proceed to get going on that.

- Realtor disclosure forms. Steve: received input from Bruce, a member of the LaPlata County weed advisory board in regards to the sellers disclosure form, in particular the noxious weed section. The wording is a little strange, La Plata county has redone their weed management plan and more enforcement. Bruce wanted the numbering system involved – Steve: which may be too specific to just the county, not the state. Kelly – the form has the incorrect year for the CO Weed Act(it should be 1990 not '92), this definitely needs to be redone. Tom: Colorado Real Estate Commission located, who is in charge? May be good to check to see if they have an updated form. Scott- probably something you can get online. Ron – yes, a PDF. Jon: has Adobe Professional, so we can make draft easily from current form. Steve: can we draft language for it. Kelly: does anyone know who we can approach specifically – so it is not a cold call. To ease relationship. Tom: will check into it. Jimmy: could invite to meeting to converse about it. Kelly: can try and get contact information for realtor that she met at the Colorado Weed Network meeting. Steve: this is the honor system, but potential buyers do notice it and he does get a couple of calls about it.
- Colorado Invasive Species Council: (Kelly):
  - Covers all invasive taxa – not just weeds. The purpose is to form that coordinated effort between various invasive managers from all government agencies in Colorado. Members possibly appointed by the Governor – which would really put invasives on the Governor's desk. Take weed team, and morph it into all species. Not get rid of weed team, but extend it. If something was in place – validated by the Governor. A lot of counties are weed and pest. The weed team can be a sub group – but

to bring all the groups together. This idea is something to ponder. Would like support of advisory committee.

- Steve: things that “morphing” would be a good idea
  - Kelly: stay up to speed with others – the invasive aquatics is on fire, we can tap in on them, the possibilities are endless with this.
  - Steve: what do we need to do, Kelly: needs the blessing from the committee to proceed.
  - Tom: how would this group be involved. Kelly: maybe an ex-officio member, but have some agreement made, or the chair/etc. All agencies can be brought in, DNR, DOW, BLM, etc. Scott: used example of sewer plant of molesk and watermilfoil.
  - Bill: Tamarisk deal, around here HPP, get something like Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation those things take off. When you get hunting and fishing involved, then finances become available. Kelly: this new council can be very helpful using what the weed team initiated. Tom: can’t really hurt, how many other states have an invasive species council and how do they function?
  - Kelly: Utah, Idaho, California: think that California has the all group (KELLY LISTS STATES FROM YOUR NOTES HERE PLEASE). Tom: just trying to think how this would work, seems like through a year certain specifics need to work, so is the suggestion about having an annual/biannual meeting. Kelly: this would be a huge networking coalition. Tom: more inclusive, could pull more money and finances and a larger voice. Is it an informal group or government, MOU’s. Kelly yes, members appointed by Gov.
  - Steve motions to support Kelly’s efforts to explore the formation of a statewide invasives species council that would address aquatics and terrestrial invasive specie concerns.
  - Scott second, all infavor. Motion passes.
- The Rocky Mtn Weed Summit – going to be held on an annual basis. Was a great meeting and coalition, it will probably be held in Ft. Collins again next year. Kelly: good use of time and information there.
  - Conservation Districts: Scott
    - Background overview of what they do, etc. Form of local govt from state soil conservation act – of local landowners that are representatives. Main function is to develop and implement plans to help local landowners to take care of their land. Private land conservation. 77 conservation districts, each CD has a long range plan, annual plans of work. Most do list noxious weeds in these plans and are concerned about them. A few are running the county weed program, ex: Baca County. Bent CD has a grant with CWCB for Tamarisk. CD’s also apply for cost share grants – through Matching Grant program, High Plains Invasives grant, etc. Costilla county used a grant to purchase goats for noxious weed control – 1<sup>st</sup> year in progress. County was supportive of goat grant. Goats on public land property, rent goats to private landowners. CD’s have a lot of

possibilities – they really look at a variety of goats. Kelly: trying to build relationships between county weed supervisors and CD's to strengthen each other's programs. High plains grant is good example of cooperation. Scott: CD's involved in million Tamarisk, Kelly: Cindy is sitting on committee with Kelly for the criteria on that grant. Tom: CD's can be pretty handy to work with, as far as money management in some cases for county projects (White River project).

- Mark: ID, map, and located noxious weeds in counties. Knapweed problems are very large as well as thistle. Thanks to many other programs CDA < CD's < NRCS – have high plains grant and will help. Billy Adams: baby steps towards this goal, feels like up against a wall, hard to get going with financing, labor, etc. The goal is to purchase sprayers and make available to a qualified person. Jon: don't feel like your alone, it's frustrating but you can't give up, progress is small at first, takes time to get going to actually see results. Bill: trying to be proactive, are making progress in collecting finances. One problem is people want to enforce on each other, but just circles around – I don't want to if he doesn't type response.
- Robert: Las Animas \$15,000 and State CDOT \$15,000 \$5,000 from CD and \$5,000 from State Land Board – this goes to assist along the highway the weed infestation. A new formed weed advisory committee, starting along, slowly, but moving. Somewhat political on funding, with election year, things may change. Enforcement is an issue, education about what infestation do to the area are very important. Funding is a huge issue. Las Animas County does not have ONE person in charge of weeds, so hard to deal with. Ben: NRCS pays 50% salary, CDA 25% and local level 25% to fund Mark's position under the Conservation Technician program. 80% of Mark's time has to for farm bill activities. 20% is ALL other activities that are not farm bill. Ben: Branson-Trinchera CD has been working with forest service, for Tamarisk control. The farm bill has been approved, the State Conservationist is pulling EQIP dollars to do invasive species again. This could help landowner's cost down to 10%. Hard part is some money is targeted to specific species. Kelly: shame Las Animas large size, that there isn't a full fledge weed program in the county, compared to Ouray County (small, but has program). Robert: 2 seats on county commission this election year. Kelly: came down for Aguilar meeting.
- CDOT: Jim – official CDOT book (manual) given to Kelly, Jim will try to make it available on the web, for the time being CDOT mapping is available on the CWMA website. There are about 8 coordinators that cover the whole state, Jim is meeting and touring with them. At the same time he is meeting with county meetings as well. If there is a bad spot of weeds that is connected with CDOT – Jim will personally make a trip down there and look at it and make an effort to get it taken care of. Hopefully the relationship will grow and improve from now on. Tom: is the new plan different from the old one, Jim: put more emphasis on implementation and Kelly is a major role involved. Tom: are there changes in the amount of dollar allocations, Jim: all the current information is in there, the weed budget in CDOT has gone down, snow and ice is the priority – then paving. If any left then weeds, but usually nothing left. Snow and ice will always be the priority.

The partnerships make a world of difference and expand efficiency. Call anytime with complaints and questions directly to Jim. Call with highway AND mile marker.

- Tom & Kelly talk about spruce gulch and spotted knapweed. Tom: spotted knapweed on the boulder ranger district, anti-herbicide community. The forest service has picked up on that, and has released bugs on that. Tom and Kelly has tried to work with them that this is not a good idea – eradicate a small patch of knapweed. Tom and Kelly are meeting with them on the 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss a weed management plan, that indicates time and quantity of pulling weeds or whatever else needs to be done. Also, part of infestation is on private land that does not want spraying on their land. So hopefully, a plan can put in place, even though the plant is seeding before the meeting – so hoping this can be taken care of. Meeting with forest service, representative of private land owner, and county people. An education and public fear problems – we shall see where it goes. The location is prime habitat for the knapweed – so it has potential to be a big problem if left untreated. Tom: The support of connections and partnerships is essential in making progress on enforcement issues. Steve: land use, Tom: not agriculture, no grazing allotment on the national forest part of it. It is not fenced and not sure of the exact lines. If we go around the property, we would have to go through with horses, but the district is not capable of doing that. Regardless of access issues, the forest has the right to deal with the weed problem.
- Crystal: EDRR
  - New stuff: web page up, look at list a, factsheets, herbicide recs, spotter form- that will go to feds/county weed coord/etc., collection form, I.D. is huge, let Crystal know about suggestions
  - EDRR task force, formalizing a strategic plan of what EDRR is?
  - PAF – plant assessment form, sub committee of this or EDRR task force that can process these species pretty quickly.
  - Seasonal work on front range on List A locations, help counties with the work.
  - Crystal's big plan is Mediterranean sage: rangeland invader – Boulder county is main, Larimer county has some as well as Steve's area (Garfield). Maps passed out of infested areas. The ¼ quad maps are available online.
  - Starting to work at Yellow starthistle for the season. Looking at site tomorrow. Large area to survey and treat, takes pretty much all summer. Steve: size of Mesa County, Crystal: Coon Creek and Utah border – very sparse, hours spent mostly scouting. They shovel pretty easily and use Telar. Tom: encouraged the county to use Tordon, residual that would last 12 months. Spot spraying. The other thing is that when they find plants they are not GPS the locations, so each year they have to go all over. They have been battling it more than 10 years and have been working really hard at it. Crystal: are getting grant money for GPS. Steve: volunteer to be operator with large hose. Tom: thinks it would be more backpack, ATV, or horse since so spread out. Scott: suggested using Milestone, since no

groundwater restrictions and it is having great results on a variety with more residual than originally thought.

- Dyer's woad in Boulder, small population. Utah has huge area of it.
- African rue: here in Las Animas county, specimen submitted – confirmed CSU herbarium. Kelly phoned landowner, trying to get permission to check site out. Kelly: sensitive topic, maneuver site close proximity. Bill: do you have a name yet? Kelly: no. National Heritage program is trying to get native plant data and came across this. Bill: new area landowner down there is
- Japanese knotweed: huge problem east coast, NW and Europe. It's all a clone, spreads vegetatively. Sightings on Clear Creek, along front range and possibly Platte river. Scott is putting through PAF process. Crystal is going to put an alert out on it. At what point do we consider putting them on the weed list. Will grow up through concrete, in people's houses, just about anywhere. Steve: it would probably have to be an A if listed. Crystal: yes.
- Management plans for 2009 List B's
  - The committee agreed to include hoary cress, Eurasian watermilfoil, sulfur cinquefoil, and Russian knapweed for development of 2009 statewide weed management plans to be adopted into the Rules
- The next Committee meeting will take place on October 29, 2008 at the CDA office in Lakewood.
- Meeting adjourned: 5:30pm