

## Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

October 29, 2008

- **Members present:** Tom McClure, Margaret Paget, John Taylor, Roc Rutledge, Scott Nissen, Jay Jutton, Jimmy Dunn, Phyllis Lake, Eve Pugh, Don Hajar, Heather Knight, Susan Panjabi, Karen Scopel by phone
- Members absent: Jonathan Rife, Steve Anthony, William Wilkinson
- Welcome new members:
  - Phyllis Lake – Meeker, CO. Was on the county weed board for 11 years, now works with FSA, experience writing grants for weed control, helps education for weed control, going to enjoy working with the committee.
  - Susan Spackman Panjabi – botanist, Colorado Natural Heritage program – works with weed monitoring, inventory, etc. Main focus on plants rare to Colorado.
  - Don Hajar – Pawnee Buttes Seed in Greeley, Manager and owner. Major in Animal Science, worked for Soil Conservationist, enjoy education and helping people replace weed species with natives.
- **Current Member Introductions:**
  - Kelly Uhing, State Weed Coordinator for Colorado Department of Agriculture, oversee implementation of the state weed law, assists partnerships on local, state and federal agencies, takes recommendations from committee to the Commissioner.
  - Nikki Simpson, employee of Colorado Department of Agriculture Conservation Services Division. Assists Kelly with local advisory meetings.
  - Mike Marsh, Boulder homeowner – concern about weed trees (*Ailanthus altissima*). Research about the tree shows most states have it listed on their invasive list, he will deliver a presentation later on in the meeting.
  - Professor emeritus Weber: worked at University of Colorado for 62 years and has watched weeds come in and see the situations evolve. Wrote several books about weeds in Colorado. Teaching experience has been in the field, not the laboratory. Reached the tender age of 90 next month by avoiding committees. Expertise on florists and other aspects and has worked worldwide on a variety of projects.
  - Jay Jutton: Montrose and Ouray County – rancher, farmer, producer. 2<sup>nd</sup> year on committee.
  - Jimmy Dunn – rancher, farmer, producer, southern Colorado
  - Eve Pugh – County representative
  - Heather Knight – Nature’s Conservancy
  - Scott Nissen – weed scientist, 15 years at CSU, worked on Leafy Spurge for PhD.
  - Roc Rutledge – Yuma, farmer, rancher, run a compost company, been on local district weed board, county is very pro active.

- John Taylor – member at large, from Silverthorne, CO County Weed Board, Coordinator for Wilderness Weed Program
- Margaret Paget – City of Wheat Ridge, Parks & Open Space
- Tom McClure – USFS Weed Manager

- **Margaret Paget Chaired Meeting**

- **Kelly handouts:** membership list, geographic representation of members
- **Review/approve June meeting minutes:** John made a motion to approve, Roc seconded. Approved by all in attendance.
- **Review/amend agenda: any requests?** Kelly will give the EDRR update at noon during lunch. Approved and passed.
- **Review progress on past action items from committee:**
  - County weed supervisor letter sent out on need for communication. Importance of weed law to be sent out every few years to County Commissioners. Kelly: Ouray county program may be on the chopping block due to budget. John Taylor gave Kelly article, "Summit County may axe 4-H, weed program, and some others". El Paso county weed program is in big trouble. Kelly sent letters to El Paso County, along with CWMA president and county weed supervisor. Kelly can draft letters if other counties need. Tom said with the tighter budgets, more often, counties may try to cut weed programs. Tom: If commissioners hear the importance of the program, that really does help and is important.
  - Kelly: Meet with CACD, the board would like to join forces to help get additional funding for state weed program – 1<sup>st</sup> step is going to approach CCI, county commissioners inc.
  - Margaret: Any discussion on draft railroad plan. Jonathan modeled if off of Montana rail links plan, cooperative effort between county weed supervisors and railroads. Mike Greybal – vegetation manager for Union Pacific railroad. Met with Kelly in Nebraska, gave her maps that were passed around. Maintenance Track Manager contact information given to Kelly, so she can now pass on to county weed supervisors to make sure that noxious weed control be done on their section of the track, the Union Pacific is contracted for the next 5 years. Counties can go in and treat right of ways themselves and then send a bill to UP, as long as they are 4 ft from the ballast. Kelly's next stop is going to be Burlington Northern. Kelly needs a contact, if anyone has one let Kelly know. Heather questioned whether this a start for cooperative between railroad and counties, Kelly: yes this is a great start to formally adopt an agreement between the railroad, county weed programs and private landowners. Kelly: Syrian beancaper, same family as African rue and puncturevine. Professor Bill Weber : one record in southern Colorado. Herbariums must have these plants. Kelly: One population along rail road by Fruita, rail

road only sprayed 10 ft off track, and CDOT treated road sides, but in-between the two plants flourished. The important point is that now county weed supervisors have a way to get the “in-between areas” (which were still in the rail roads right of way). Tom: Should Crystal’s EDRR come across these plants, should they go to both CU and CSU Herbariums? Professor: Yes, safety in numbers. Heather: The idea of the plan is really good. After combing through the rough draft, edits need to be completed. Kelly: Send suggestions/edits to Jonathan Rife. Roc: records of contact could be in minutes, for Burlington Northern. Kelly: with abandoned lines, counties can go in and spray lines or work with the MTS to work with the contractors to make sure they cover. John: Lake is not included on the chart, they have abandoned lines. Margaret: As people got on and off, weeds were attaching to them and thus travelling. Educational materials on weeds could be very helpful. Tom: Concern with railroad with counties – send us a bill, counties don’t have the time/people/money/funds/etc. Kelly: Brought this up with Mike, counties should set up relationship first with UP MTS and get the enforcement there. Roc: Could be a way to supplement expenses. Professor Weber: Need to educate the public on where to send the plants – herbarium. Heather: Prioritization in the plan becomes important; at least that’s a start. Encourage rail road to prioritize a species listing as a start.

- Realtor disclosure form: Don’t have from Steve Anthony yet.

- **Funding update**

- Kelly: Colorado Water Conservation board, Republican pipeline project: \$1 million to put towards a grant for Tamarisk and Russian Olive control. Money will be available early January 2009. Will send out request for proposals for cost share programs. Looking for cooperative. Cap for each project is \$200,000 and some money set aside for research and administrative fees. CWCB is part of DNR, nothing to do with us at Agriculture. Kelly is part of committee to make sure that the management follows weed law and plans. The Tamarisk coalition will not be applying for these funds, which leaves more funding available for different weed cooperatives to apply. Grant criteria is awaiting approval, deadline will probably be end January 2009, projects implemented will get reimbursed by late 2009.
- **State Weed Fund:** Was passed last session, funds derived from unclaimed property. The money is for several Department of Agriculture programs, the weed fund was one of them. Hopefully have up to \$300,000, but interest rates are not as high as anticipated, and State Fair has to be paid off first. Weed fund should be available for 2009 and hopefully will be around \$100,000 to \$150,000. Projects awarded in spring, reimburse late 2009. Emphasis on partnerships, cooperatives, eradicable species, etc. 2 positions have been approved. List A, EDRR all one person and then hire a List B Specialist to oversee List B plans and mapping. Hoping to fill the

position next year, but with hiring freeze will have to wait until we hear more information about when this will open up.

- Heather: good news on Tamarisk, remove from San Miguel River – after 8 years of work, it is removed. Now there is an on-going monitoring project.
- Kelly: Dolores Tamarisk Group, able to get 80 continual parcels treated. Dolores did a lot of beetle releases in Utah, and they are migrating along the Colorado. Scott: near Florence, great beetle success – going for the re-growth.
- Bureau of Reclamation Act: Demonstration and control projects for Salt Cedar and Russian Olive. Appropriate 20 million first year, 15 million the next year, so far 590,000 in FY 08 money towards it. House under Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) . The 15 million would be pulled from existing budgets not new money. Kelly has met with them numerous times to see if it will ever happen. Congress approved President's budget request – Water for America should be funded at \$39M. Kelly meeting with Nebraska and Wyoming to discuss this funding source. It would be cost share for control projects. BOR is pulling funding from invasive weeds to aquatic invasive, good and bad to both.

- **Lunch**

- **Kelly:** African Rue update, maps were displayed. And EDRR posters.

- **Municipality outreach project**

- Karen, City of Greeley, Natural Resource Planner, municipal representative. (via phone). Margaret: Survey sent out to 300 municipalities, only 30 received back. Talk to people directly to educate about weed law, etc. Karen – Think select key communities and target areas as to what communication for target needs, such as A or B list species – maybe contact those target area municipalities. Need to address the reasons the communities need to develop their own noxious weed management plans for both public and private in the community including the consequences if they don't comply with the state law. Look at offering training, educational materials to the community. ID booklets, wanted posters, id info – and good contact info. Kelly – Example for City of Boulder – have a program for public properties, but not private (code enforcement). **This runs perfectly with prioritizing records, enforcing state weed law.** Karen – So many small towns strapped for resources, so they will have to be monitored individually. Margaret and Karen will brainstorm and start getting ideas going. Kelly will meet with Karen to get some ideas and a direction planned.

- **USFS update for Spruce Gulch/Gold Hill: Tom McClure**

- Boulder Ranger District (certain areas) have localized citizen opposition to herbicide use and are not concerned about weed control. At the same time there is an isolated 20 acre infestation of spotted knapweed in Spruce

Gulch N.F. and the adjacent landowner is opposed to forest service use of herbicides on F.S. land. Kelly and Tom have been trying to get District to get it now, instead of using more money and resources later one when it gets out of control. Spotted knapweed is List B, but eradication is required by the state for all populations except those in Boulder, Clear Creek, and LaPlata Counties. Tom and Kelly visited with Glen Casamassa, Forest supervisor. Tom understands there were some small treatments there, but not much. Tom believes more rapid action may take place next year, but no guarantee. State weed coordinator does not have enforcement over the feds. Bio controls are not an approved method for eradication, but the private landowner wants it. Tom suggested draft a letter to Glen, from the committee to send to Glen, Boulder county, and private landowner. Margaret made a motion to send a letter regarding weed control issues and cooperation for Spruce Gulch and copy the county, private landowner, and district ranger. John seconded. Kelly will list methods approved by the Commissioner. Jay thinks a good starting point. John, then we will definitely have to follow through. Tom: committee doesn't have enforcement authority, but they can voice things, and the more times heard, potentially more action. Heather: Mention in the letter the committee and USFS, and CDA will be checking up on the matter. Kelly and Tom will compose the letter. **Motion passes. Tom suggests cutoff of July 1<sup>st</sup> of next year if nothing is done then go to Congress.**

- **Healthy Habitats Coalition:**
  - George: HHC will be under umbrella of Wildlife Forever (variety of associations), Tim Richardson will be the primary lobbyist in D.C. HHC will have something to report within a year from now, to put funding back in from the federal government. There will be some public service announcements and fish and game videos for educational purposes. The goal is to raise \$100,000 to operate the HHC to employ 800 hrs. per year of Tim Richardson's time. (lobbying)
- **Ailanthus – aka Tree of Heaven**
  - Dr. Weber requested the Tree of Heaven to be added to the weed list. He tried contacting the City of Boulder to eradicate this weed but they stated that since it was not on the noxious weed list they could not do anything. That is not exactly true as municipalities CAN act.
  - George Beck ran the PAF to evaluate the plant. The assessment was based upon what it was doing in Colorado. George went through the form and explained each part. Plant score – too many unknowns to make an appropriate assessment at this time. George's recommendation, find where it is – set up some plots and make an informed decision.
  - Dr. Weber wants to mount a townspeople program to bring them up to the literary level in the U.S. Just want the committee to get it on the list.

- Kelly – Just because it's on the list does not guarantee City of Boulder will do anything about it. Myrtle spurge is a prime example, is on List A and they won't do anything about it.
- Mike – May be true about the City of Boulder, the very first response from the City of Boulder was "it's not on the state list". The other thing is that it creates a dialog with which to discuss with the neighbor to get rid of the tree.
- George –The committee doesn't have the evidence to make the decision today, but we need to monitor this. As soon as we have the data to back the decision, then it can be justified to be put on the list.
- Mike – Point of clarification, noxious weed list only to Ag areas.
- Kelly – Primarily Ag and natural areas, but does not exclude municipalities. They get involved when weeds are proven to invade adjacent Ag and natural areas. This ties into the code enforcement of the cities. The City of Boulder does not have to rely on the State Weed List. They can put it on the City Forestry List and enforce in City. Mike –The reality is it won't happen. George – The state can be sued if there is not information to back the listing of new species. Not at this moment is it a strong case, more information is needed.
- Mike – What must we do to help?
- George – We need plots. Mike will get name of neighbor that works for parks. Tom – We ought to take a trip, one of the meetings. George – need the economic impact. That is impact information that can be used. John – Great discussion, the PAF takes emotions out of the listing.
- Heather – Don't feel like you are the only person who fights battles like this. We do have empathy, but we want to make sure there is an affective process so when things get listed we have that documentation.
- Mike – Presentation of Gardeners' Notes: did a lot of research. Went to USDA and other websites of State's that have it listed as an invasive. Mike went through the gardener notes and pointed out notes about the plant. One specific note from Golden, CO. Handouts were given with all this information to committee members. Similar to Myrtle spurge, but also threatens houses and structures, and has a health risk from the sap.
- George – Offered to work with Mike on this to document and make a case for it. The issues of human health, and economic are important – Take pictures and document it. George – Defined WHY we use the PAF form and that some states do not have this. Kelly – Colorado did it, to make what was a transparent process, a documented process. George – The plant moved this far, displaced this many plants in this amount of time, THAT is what we need done!
- Tom – Suggest we continue to monitor it, then take a trip to go see it. Scott – need to find documentation outside urban environment. Then we have a stronger case. Kelly – Background of strategic plan. Do you know if Siberian elm is on the city forestry list, Mike – it's on their undesirable list, for new construction on the building permit. Don – Personally think that the City of Boulder HAS to do something. Mike Should communicate

with Boulder, then with documentation come back to us. Phyllis – educate people around you first (neighbor, city, etc.). Scott – Does any property owned by the City have this tree? Mike – Yes, the city does eradicate it on their property. Kelly – Have you attended any city council meetings about this? Mike – No, have not. Don – Getting a hold of Boulder City Open Space. Heather – If you contact them, get information to set up data and then that would provide the information and documentation needed to change the PAF and potentially pass listing.

- Kelly – Can put a tree on the list to survey, but it would be behind an entire list that the department is trying to get to. Need to collect more data on this plant, and move from there.

- **Assessment of progress made to implement the provisions of 35-5.5-108 (2)(a)**
  - State Weed List – table for January meeting.
- **Assessment of progress made to implement the provisions:**
  - Table for January meeting.
- **Sub committees and member assignments**
  - Science: Scott, Susan
  - Communication and Education: Phyllis, Karen, Steve, Tom, John
  - Funding: Roc, Eve, Steve
  - Weed List: Jay, Don, Tom, John
  - Site-Led approach: Heather, Phyllis, Jimmy
- **Member assignments:**
  - Chair: Nominated: Heather and Eve. Voted – Heather unanimous.
  - Vice Chair: Nominated: Eve, Eve is appointed by proxy.
  - Secretary: Nominated: John and Phyllis. Voted – John (5), Phyllis (5). Phyllis has withdrawn her candidacy, John has been appointed by default.
- **Agenda and arrangements for next meeting**
  - January – Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Email will be sent to those not here, to confirm date.
  - Summer meetings will be scheduled at the Jan. meeting.
- **Adjourn 4:00 PM**