

Notes of January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee  
Lakewood, Colorado

Due to a snow storm many members of the Committee were unable to attend. However, arrangements were made for a conference call for those able to phone in. Those attending the meeting in person were: Steve Ryder, Patty York, Cecily Mui, Matt Scott, and Larry Vickerman. Those participating via conference call were: Fred Midcap, Ben Duke, Ed Norden, Matt Moorhead, Elizabeth Brown, Karn Stiegelmeier, Eric Lane, and myself. Those unable to participate were: Fran Pannebaker, George Beck, Louis Bridges, Jack Flowers, Pat Hayward, Shawn Wissel, Ken Harper, and Jim Walker.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Fred Midcap. Because there was not a quorum of members present, no action was taken on minutes of the previous meeting. An update from the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture (CDA) was the first item of business. Steve said funding from the General Assembly for weed work in 2014 will be about \$500,000 to \$600,000, which is about what it was 2 years ago. Ed asked about funding from federal sources. Steve said he is not sure, but that State and Private Forestry funds are slim. Ed thought Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funding would be lower for 2014 also.

Cecily said she needs 7 counties to respond to her request for county weed management plans, those counties being Routt, Pitkin, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Adams, Arapahoe, and Cheyenne. Karn said she will help with that in her county. Karn said the weed management position for Pitkin County has been eliminated, as well as 25% of the budget for weed work. Fred asked Patty about an update on weed mapping. Patty said there's some progress being made, and thought Shapefiles would soon be in place. Patty will have 3-4 workshops around the state to explain the mapping system. I asked Steve about the noxious weed problem at Buckley Air Base. Steve said there are 2 entomologists at the base and they are responsible for weed work there. He will try to contact them.

Next, Cecily talked about lesser known List B weeds, including: (1) yellow nutsedge, which will likely remain a List B, but efforts to educate the public about it will be increased. A variety of nutsedge, called Chufa, can still be purchased. (2) quackgrass, which is recommended to be downlisted to the C List. Colorado State University (CSU) says more information is needed about this weed. If it's on the weed list, its seeds or other plant parts cannot be sold. (3) Venice mallow, which is listed as a noxious weed in no other state but Colorado. There was some discussion as to whether or not it should be removed from the List. Steve and Cecily will visit with CSU before making a recommendation about this weed. (4) spurred anoda, which also is listed as a noxious weed only in Colorado. It is recommended by some to remove it from our List. Steve said CDA will come up with some recommendations regarding these 4 weeds, for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of a draft List B Strategy Paper. Steve said Cecily has been working on this, which will help clarify what CDA is doing about List B's, and that a strategy and prioritizing needs to be established, to get a better handle on the whole List B complex of weeds. Cecily presented 4 of CDA's goals: stop their spread, reduce populations, build partnerships for statewide control strategies, and communicate/educate/assist with management. She also explained some strategies for meeting these goals. Ed asked if when Cecily talks about strengthening the rules, we should rather be focusing on trying to enforce the rules already in place. Steve said there is need for better mapping, which will come in time, and that CDA will help local entities with mapping. Ed said the association of county commissioners (CCI) might be able to help get counties more active in working with (CDA).

Ben asked if there is data as to which counties are active with weed programs. Steve said CDA is getting more information from counties, through Cecily making calls and other efforts. Ben said if our committee knew which counties do something about weeds we might be able to help educate and motivate those who do nothing. Cecily said she would put together a list of cooperating, and non-cooperating, counties. Matt Moorhead said the issue of underperforming counties is one he has been working on, in southeast Colorado, and it seems mostly a lack of resources, and not making weed control a priority. The question was asked, "How do we change that?" Steve said the List B Strategy Paper will continue to be developed, over time, and our input is welcome. Also, he will send out information and dates about future meetings of our committee for the year.

Next, Patty gave an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Framework update. She has been working on this the past 4 months, and it uses a flow chart to outline the protocol for addressing potential new non-native plant species. This is a work in progress, will be modified some possibly, and our committee can provide some input if desired. I talked about the possibility of using the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) to gather weed data from farmers and ranchers. Also the possibility of using Farm Bureau, Farmers' Union, and other ag groups for the purpose of gathering data on weed populations and locations was mentioned. Steve said he would contact NASS. Ed said he, George, Fred Raisch, and Karn helped present the weed economic impact study recently produced at CSU, to the CCI annual convention.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07

Respectfully submitted by Randy Malcom, secretary