

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Thursday May 11, 2017
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Follow up on the March 30th Strategic Plan Work Session with Lara Duran (Group) (10 minutes)
 - a. Next steps
4. Review List of Project Deliverables for 2016 Weed Fund Grant (Group) (45 minutes)
 - a. Person(s) responsible to advise on completion date(s)
 - b. Private property landowner contacts (Barry)
 - c. Planning for May 15th MC/NRCS/YRLSP workshop (Jessica, Kendall, Barry)
 - d. 10-year Plan Leafy Spurge Treatment Plan (Greg)
5. Discussion of 2016 CDA Grant Final Report (Ben) (15 minutes)
 - a. Grant expenditures/invoicing
NOTE: I will be contacting everyone who has expenses/matches in Interim Report for an update by June 1st.
 - b. Partner matches
 - c. CO First involvement/Designate Point of Contact
6. Progress on Statement of Work for 2017 CDA Grant (Ben) (5 minutes)
 - a. Phone Conversation with Lara Duran
 - b. Set date for Conference call with Lara Duran (June 6th, June 8th or 9th)
 1. Need: Lynn Haskins and all parties who have committed to Deliverables.
7. Update of July 7th Show Me Float (John) (15 minutes)
8. Approve FOY Sponsorship Agreement in regards to linking the YRLSP website and designate a person to sign Agreement. (Ben) (10 minutes)
9. Update on YRLSP video and the presentation of video by Routt County Commissioner Tim Corrigan to the Friends of the Yampa State of the Yampa event on June 1st (Ben) (5 minutes)
9. Other Items (5 minutes)

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday July 13th

Question: Do we need an interim meeting for 2016 Final Report

Adjourn (3:00)

Packet:

1. Proposed Agenda
2. Follow-up Information from Strategic Planning Work Session with Lara Duran
 - a. Goals of Participants
 - b. Lara Duran's Spread Sheet of Unknowns of Strategic Plan
 - c. Work Session List of Unknowns/Constraints
3. 2016 Grant List of Project Deliverables
4. CO First Letter designating Point of Contact with CDA
5. Sponsorship Agreement with Friends of the Yampa, linking website

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

**May 11, 2017 1:00pm
Carpenter Ranch
Draft Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Executive Committee Present

Tim Corrigan	Routt County Commissioner
Ray Beck	Moffat County Commissioner
Greg Brown	RC Weed Program Supervisor
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner
Chris Rhyne	Little Snake BLM
Kris Middledorf	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Ben Beall	Yampa River System Legacy Partnership
John Husband	Northwest Colorado Citizen Representative

Advisory Committee

Todd Hagenbuch	CSU Routt County Extension
Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance

Ben Beall opened the meeting at around 1:10pm. Ben acknowledged that there was a full agenda and that he would try and adjourn by 3:00

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda.

Todd Hagenbuch suggested that the group discuss a grad student from Western State University who may be willing to help the YRLSP do leafy spurge research.

Ben said that he would like to give a short update on the Friends of the Yampa float through Little Yampa Canyon where the YRLSP could do more investigation of the leafy spurge infestations.

Group agreed to add these two items to the agenda.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion: Follow up on the March 30th Strategic Plan Work Session with Lara Duran, CDA List B Weed Specialist

In the meeting packet were Lara's spread sheet of Comments about Unknowns and Values at Risk, Lara's Meeting Notes and compilation of Participant Goals which had been discriminated after the Strategic Plan Meeting. Ben asked the group if since there are more pressing short term issues on the agenda that it might be better to put off this discussion until a later meeting.

The Strategic plan meeting was well attended and the information garnered could be used by Greg Brown to help with the 10-year Management Plan but this information could be part of a larger discussion about where the YRLSP was heading.

Decision: The group decided to put off this discussion until the July 13th meeting

Second Discussion: Review List of Project Deliverables for the 2016 Weed Fund Grant

Ben read an email from Jessica Count's stating her inability to be at the meeting and outlining MC Weed and Pest work in organizing the Teepee Draw treatment site.

The group reviewed and updated the List of Project Deliverables.

Greg Brown pointed out the difficulty of reconciling the YRLSP goal of completing the "Red Blob" map of the leafy spurge infestation with other project deliverables for which there was no funding and the YRLSP lacked the expertise to evaluate satellite imagery. Also, CDA seems to be working with a new format for accepting data for mapping.

Decision: Need to update map submitted with Interim Report adding Stetson, new locations treated for 2016 Grant, and make sure we have accurate locations of areas treated in Teepee Draw.

Barry Castagnasso has completed his list of landowners adjacent to the Yampa River and he will be mailing out an informational letter to all landowners.

Barry and Chris Rhyne updated the group on the Moffat County/NRCS weed workshop that is scheduled for May 15th at the MC Fairgrounds Pavilion. Barry will have a booth to contact landowners, distribute brochures regarding leafy spurge, and possibly show the YRLSP video. Greg will give a presentation on leafy spurge. The group suggested that Barry contact Jessica and Kendall Smith(NRCS) to make sure of the YRLSP participation in the workshop in order to satisfy some of the project deliverables.

Outcome: See attached updated List of Project Deliverables with changes and notes

Note: it is important for everyone to review the updated List of Project Deliverables to understand their responsibilities and dates for completion of tasks.

Third Discussion: 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant Final Report

John Husband presented a copy of a signed letter from Lynn Haskins Executive Director of CO First designating Greg as Point of Contact between CO First and CDA regarding the 2016 Grant and the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant. This designation should help streamline all reporting for the grants.

The group discussed what additions need to be made to the 2016 Interim Report for the Final Report. Additions needed: 1. Completion of expenditures of the \$20,000 for treatments by MC at Teepee Draw and RC adjacent to the Yampa River on the south side; expenses for Data Coordinator; mailings; and brochures. 2. Partner Matches since submittal of Interim Report.

Ray Beck asked if the YRLSP had had enough match or problems with the required grant match. Greg and Chris explained that we had \$100,000 in match for a \$30,000 grant. These proposed matches were not changed from the original request for \$105,000.

Task: Ben will contact all members and agencies who have had expenditures and matches in the Interim Report for their updates. These updates should be back to Ben by June 1st.

Fourth Discussion: Statement of Work for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant

Ben related a phone conversation he had had with Lara Duran concerning the SOW. Lara wanted to set up a conference call to get feedback on the SOW that she would create. It will be necessary for all members and agencies to be involved in this conference call so that the Measurable Objectives in the SOW can be accomplished and are related to funding received.

The group discussed the problems with the SOW for the 2016 Grant. The Measurable Objectives were not realistic. Greg pointed out that the Measurable Objectives were not revised after the YRSLP funding request had been reduced. Completion of the Measurable Objectives are time consuming and unrealistic considering the expertise of the YRLSP members and funding received.

Outcome: The group set a date of June 6th at 1:30pm for the conference call with Lara Duran and Lynn Haskins.

Task 1: Lynn and Ben will contact Lara Duran to confirm date and time for conference call.

Task 2: Ben will send an email to Lara Duran with email addresses of those who should be on the conference call and copy the potential participants. The participants will be contacted by Lara with the conference call information.

Task 3: Ben will send out the Measurable Objectives from the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant application for all participants to review before conference call.

Fifth Discussion: Update of the July 7th Yampa River “Show Me Float”

John reported that he is sending out 39 invitations to various local residents and statewide interested parties. Again it is the goal of the Float to show the leafy spurge infestation on the Yampa and gain attention regarding the issues confronting the YRLSP goal to manage this infestation. The float will again start at Dorsey Beach State Wildlife Area and end at Loudy Simpson Park. The Parrot Heads of Craig have volunteered to help with the barbecue and supply some of the rafts.

Task: If anyone has any desire or suggestions for folks to participate in this “Show Me Float” please contact John Husband.

Sixth Discussion: YRSLP relationship with a Western State University Grad Student for Leafy Spurge Research

Todd Hagenbuch briefed the group on his talks with Western State professors and students regarding working for the YRLSP. Todd had talked to a grad student that would like to do her grad thesis next year on the YRLSP. This grad student is completing her Masters of Environmental Science.

Todd thought that the group could mentor this student to accomplish some of the goals of the YRLSP i.e. treatment research, recommendations for treatment, mapping etc. The group discussed how this person could be directed. It was the consensus that this opportunity should be pursued.

Todd explained that the YRLSP would need to supply housing and mileage for this person. Todd asked Ray if MC could contribute for funding mileage. Ray thought that MC might be able to find some funds through their Extension. Todd was willing to work to find the funds.

Outcome: The group asked Todd to follow up on this opportunity and Todd thought that this student might be able to fit in with the RC Extension.

Seventh Discussion the Friends of the Yampa Little Yampa Canyon Survey Trip for May 19th and 20th

Ben stated that he had volunteered with FOY and State Parks to participate in this river trip. He thought it would be a good opportunity to follow up on John's Little Yampa Canyon trip last summer where he documented many leafy spurge infestations.

There was a discussion of whether the leafy spurge false bloom would be visible at this time. John thought that it would be and since the water will be higher the leafy spurge should be more visible while floating down river.

Ben asked the group if anyone else would like to go. There were no volunteers.

Task: Ben will continue to look for volunteers to assist in verifying the leafy spurge infestations in the Little Yampa Canyon. If anyone would like to help Please, contact Ben.

Eight Discussion: Approve the Friends of the Yampa Sponsorship Agreement with the YRLSP in regards to the FOY/YRLSP linking of website and collecting donations for the YRLSP. Designate a person to sign the Agreement for the YRLSP

Ben asked the group if there were any questions regarding the Sponsorship Agreement which was included in the meeting packet.

The group consensus was that the Agreement looked good. Ben explained that this was the second attempt for the wording of an Agreement. This 3 page document is simple. Chris appreciated the idea in the Agreement that at some future date FOY would be willing to be a Fiscal Agent.

Ben announced that since our website is linked with FOY website there has already been a \$100 donation from Christina Harmon. There was also a discussion concerning the 5% fee that FOY would collect from any donation. It was explained that this was a standard percentage for administration. This is what CO First is collecting from our CDA Weed Fund Grants.

Decision: The group approved the Agreement with Friends of the Yampa and designated Ben to sign the agreement and deliver to the President of FOY.

Ninth Discussion: Update on the YRLSP presentation of the YRLSP video at the Friends of the Yampa State of the Yampa Event on June 1st at the Chief Theater

Ben let the group know that he committed to presenting the YRLSP at this event which is one of the events of the FOY Yampa River Fest. There should be 150 plus or minus attendees. He will not be available now due to a river trip. Tim Corrigan has volunteered to make the presentation.

Outcome: Ben will communicate with Tim in regards to ideas for this presentation.

Tenth Discussion: HPP Grant Possibility

Kris Middledorf updated the group on his idea which he had presented last year to apply for a large grant for HPP funding through a CPW Grant. Kris stated that he understood the necessity of the YRLSP to come up with other funding sources. CDA has a limited pot of funds. The HPP grant is due in November and Kris volunteered to be the lead on the grant. He thought that with the last two year track record that the YRLSP might have a good chance of receiving this grant. If not this year, may be next year.

Outcome: Kris will update the YRLSP at a later meeting on this grant possibility.

Adjourned: 3:15pm

Next Meeting: Thursday July 13th at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch