

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Thursday November 9, 2017
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Revised Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Discussion with Jay Gallagher, CWCB Board member and Craig Godbout, CWCB staff regarding the YRLSP decision to proceed with Application to Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWGRT) (1/9/2018) for CWCB Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants. (Marsha and Ben) (30 minutes)
 - a. CWCB application completed for YWGRT (January 9th)
 - b. Application due to CWCB by 2/1/2018 for review and approval by CWCB at March meeting.
 - c. Meeting with Friends of the Yampa regarding assuming the fiscal agent responsibilities.
 - d. Who will be writing this application?
4. Discussion on the Process to Complete the 2017 CDA Grant Interim Report (15 minutes)
 - a. Due December 31st (Dec22nd)
 - b. Member leafy spurge treatment and organizational expenses from 9/1/2017 (Date of SOW): Due December 15th
 - c. Expenses and In-kind matches from 9/1/2017 (Date of SOW): Due December 15th
5. Discussion of Submitting an Application for a 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant (15 minutes)
 - a. Application due date: December 15th (Dec 8th)
6. Discussion of YRLSP Members Funding and Support for the YRLSP (Ray Beck et al) (30 minutes)
 - a. Routt and Moffat Counties Budget Process and Prioritization
 - b. Other Agencies: BLM, Dinosaur National Monument, and CPW
 - c. Support for upcoming Grant Applications i.e Ltrs of Support
7. Report on Possible HPP Grant Application(Kris) 5 minutes

8. Report on Targeted Conservation Projects (Kendall) 5 minutes
9. Tamara Naumann/Pete Williams request that the YRLSP be the recipient of donations in lieu of retirement gifts (5minutes)
10. Activities for Follow-up: 10 minutes
 - a. Contact John Kaltenback for beetle releases for 2018
 - b. Contact of CU Grad student who wanted to research biocontrol for leafy spurge
 - c. The Jodi Elam Project

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday January 10th

Adjourn (3:00)

Meeting Packet:

1. Agenda
2. Comments on the CWCB Water Reserve Account Fund Application Process
3. CWCB Grant Application Documents
4. 2015 Letters of Support for YRLSP

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

November 9th, 2017 1:00pm

Carpenter Ranch

Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Executive Committee Present

Ray Beck	MC Commissioner
Greg Brown	RC Weed Program Manager
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner
Tamara Naumann	Dinosaur National Monument
Ben Beall	Yampa River System Legacy Partnership
Kris Middledorf	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
John Husband	Northwest CO Citizen

Advisory Committee

Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance
Geoff Blakeslee	The Nature Conservancy
Todd Hagenbuch	CSU Routt County Extension

Guests

Jay Gallagher	Colorado Water Conservation Board Member
Craig Godbout	Colorado Water Conservation Board staff

Ben Beall opened the meeting at around 1:10pm. Ben welcomed Jay Gallagher and Craig Godbout and thanked them for taking the time to visit with the YRLSP. Ben explained to the group that he, Jay, Craig, and Tamara Naumann had met for an hour before the meeting to discuss the first agenda item. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves so that Jay and Craig could understand who was at the meeting.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. No additions or changes.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion: Discussion with Jay and Craig regarding the YRLSP application to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWGRT) for CWCB Water Supply Reserve Funds (WSRF).

Jay presented to the group his notes and questions regarding the YRLSP's application for WSRF. He stated that he was familiar with the leafy spurge infestation on the Yampa having been a participant on the 2016 Show Me Float and as the CWCB representative to the YWGRT was present when the YRLSP made their first application presentation to the YWGRT. He is supportive of the Project.

He thought that the YWGRT poorly handled the YRLSP's first presentation. However he made it clear that the YRLSP faces many challenges regarding their grant request. He said that the YRLSP needs to clearly state "what is the problem". He was relieved to hear that the application was for the riparian area of the Yampa and not the infestations in the uplands.

He explained his personal view that the project as currently described is a stretch for WSRF grant funding. The YRLSP needs to tie the application to the riparian area of the Yampa.

He stated that if the YRLSP follows up with a second round with the YWGRT that there needs to be a consensus approval vote from the YWGRT.

Craig agreed with Jay's comments.

Ben reiterated for the YRLSP members that the group had decided at the September meeting to move forward with the application. Ben asked that all the members of the YRLSP when making comments to express their opinion of whether the YRLSP should move forward with the YWGRT/CWCB grant application.

Tamara stated that the YRLSP needed to show progress. Glyphosate though not a perfect treatment option might work for the short term goal to reduce seed production in the riparian area. She supports moving forward because it would support the YRLSP long term goals of: education; bringing the YWGRT on board; the CWCB grant funds would give the Project time on site to deal with the Yampa's leafy spurge infestation; and it may lead to funds to support necessary research.

Tamara also thought that we could get the support of the YWGRT.

Todd asked that if this was a planning grant, would the process be the same? Todd said that the most important questions would be in the detail. Who is going to do the grant? Who will be the fiscal agent?

Ben explained that as of now the members of the YRLSP will be writing the grant and that he has talked with the Friends of the Yampa and that they are willing to be the fiscal agent.

Craig explained that CWCB has numerous grant processes. He explained that the WSRF are the only funds that the YWGRT have access to. These funds are not meant to be a long term funding source. They are for project implementation.

Craig thought that the YRLSP “sort of fits” with CWCB criteria. He suggested that the YRLSP go to the YWGRT but they need to tie it into the Colorado Water Plan and make sure that there is a good letter of support from the YWGRT. The YRLSP needs to tie in their request to recreation and agriculture.

Craig also stated that CWCB is developing a funding source for Stream Management Plans. This will be a multi-purpose (environment and agriculture) with possible multiple funding sources. This could possibly be a fit for the YRLSP.

Greg Brown said that he was an optimist and recommended that we move forward. He stated that CPW and RC Weed Program have spent a lot of time over the years working on leafy spurge in the Yampa River State Wildlife Area. We have not always had the success that we wanted. In some treated places there is little biological diversity left. He agreed that the goal should be reducing seed production. This can be accomplished by the treatment of leafy spurge in the pure dense infestations along the Yampa. We need to map these stands in the Focus Area using volunteers and continue treatment over time. He agrees that there needs to be more research.

Barry Castagnasso agreed that we should move forward.

Kris Middendorf said that he was neutral. He expressed the opinion that our ideas were not fully formed and that he didn’t want the YRLSP to fail. With some prodding from the group he said that he was a “no” to moving forward.

Marsha Daughenbaugh wanted to move forward with the application.

Geoff Blakeslee agreed with Tamara. He also said that the YRLSP needs to go after other funding sources.

Ray Beck cautioned everyone that we need to make a more informed decision. We need to get everyone on the same page. He has tried to get his fellow MC Commissioners to support the YRLSP. He has been successful in getting \$7,500 general fund dollars put into the 2018 budget for match for the YRLSP and Jessica Counts, Moffat County Weed and Pest Manager has said that she will be able to find \$10,000 for additional match from her budget.

Ray has talked to Tim Corrigan, RC Commissioner, to understand why RC is not putting any general fund dollars in their budget for the YRLSP. Tim explained that they would be using \$10,000 from their Taylor Grazing Funds for leafy spurge treatments in the Focus Area that could be used for match.

Ray cautioned that the YWGRT will be asking tough questions during the second presentation. They will be looking for: a long term plan, partners, and funding partners.

Ray stated that “weeds don’t wait for anything”. He recommended that we ask for \$150,000 with a request for research funding. He suggested that we should put 2/3s of the \$150,000 for research.

John Husband stated that he is opposed to moving forward because he doesn’t think that the YRLSP can get the YWGRT support. He also doesn’t see the support from Routt County necessary to move forward. He “doesn’t feel the RC love”.

Ben stated that he is for moving forward with the application. He summed up the discussion/approval by stating that there were 2 “no” votes out of the ten YRLSP members voting.

Ben recommended that an Application Committee be formed to complete the CWCB/YWGRT application for the January 9th YWGRT meeting and submittal to CWCB on February 1st.

Ben, Ray, Tamara, and Marsha volunteered (got volunteered) for the Application Committee.

Craig thought that there would have to be co-applicants: the YRLSP and the fiscal agent (Friends of the Yampa).

Task 1: Ben will call a meeting of the Application Committee the week after Thanksgiving.

Task 2: Marsha will contact the YWGRT Application Committee and confirm that the application that will be submitted to the YWGRT will be the CWCB WSRF application form(s).

Task 3: Marsh will set up a tentative meeting with the YWGRT Application Committee so that we can make a presentation in order to get their approval before the YWGRT meeting.

Task 4: Ben will request budget information from all YRLSP members to be used for match in the grant application.

Task 5: All YRLSP members and friends will work to get letters of support from their organizations for the application submittal. (See Letters of Support Packet attached with the November 9th meeting agenda for past LOS.)

Second Discussion: Discussion on the Process to Complete the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant Interim Reports

Ben advised the group that he had talked to Lara Duran of CDA and she had told him that she had sent an email to Greg and Lynn Haskins explaining to them what was needed. Lara had told Ben: all CDA needed for the quarter report ending September 30th was an email explaining that the YRLSP had only received the Final Statement of Work on September 9th; and the second Interim Report will be due within 30 days of the end of the quarter (December 31st).

Greg volunteered to work on the two Interim Reports. He stated that RC Weed Program has expended some time and funds that can be entered for match in these reports.

Task 6: Greg will coordinate with Lynn Haskins of Colorado First Conservation District the grants fiscal agent to send the email closing out the September 30th Interim Report.

Task 7: Greg will put together the Interim Report for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant for the quarter ending December 31st.

Task 8: YRLSP members who have expended funds for their leafy spurge programs should contact Greg with their expenses so that they can be used for match.

Third Discussion: Discussion for Completing an Application for a 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant

Ben advised the group that in his phone conversation with Lara Duran that he learned that the 2018 application due date had been moved up to December 15th so that weed treatments could start during the spring season.

The group agreed with Greg that the request for funding should follow the YRLSP 10-year Plan. Requests should be made for completing the proposed 3-year treatment plan for TeePee Draw in Moffat County and continued treatments in the Focus Area in Routt County.

In a discussion of mapping, Greg stated that he said that he thought that the mapping of the pure dense leafy spurge infestations on the Yampa should be done with volunteers. Ben proposed putting a mapping component in the grant application and he would check to see if there were any private contractors who might be able to assist with mapping the infestations on the Yampa.

Ben asked Barry if there were other landowners in the Focus Area other than the ones who we have already worked with for the 2016 CDA Grant. Barry said that he thought that he could come up with at least another 100 acres of private landowners willing to work with the YRLSP. These acres could be treated under the 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant or be the targeted treatment areas for the CWCB/YWGRT grant application.

Ben volunteered to work on the 2018 CDA Weed Fund grant application. However, he will need help and input from all YRLSP members especially Jessica Counts Moffat County Weed and Pest Manager. Ben will coordinate with Lynn Haskins and Greg who are the leads with CDA on the YRLSP's CDA Weed Fund grants.

Task 9: Ben will work on completion of a CDA Weed Fund Grant by December 15th. He will use the 2016 and 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant applications as templates.

Task 10: Barry will contact landowners in the Focus Area to coordinate future leafy spurge treatment options and get at least 100 acres of private lands that can be treated.

Task 11: YRLSP members will contact Ben with their leafy spurge proposed budget expenditures for inclusion in the 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant.

Task 12: (See Task 5 above) YRLSP members should get their Letter of Support to Ben by December 10th for inclusion in the 2018 CDA Grant. Note: These LOS could be a general LOS for the YRLSP that can be used for multiple grant applications.

Fourth Discussion: Announcement that Tamara Naumann and Pete Williams have designated the YRLSP as the Recipient of Donations instead of Retirement Gifts.

Ben announced that Tamara and her husband Pete Williams had designated the YRLSP as their preferred organization for donations in lieu of retirement gifts. Tamara and Pete are retiring from the NPS in February.

Ben thanked Tamara and said that the Friends of the Yampa who are the YRLSP's fiscal sponsor for collecting donations for the YRLSP had already received at least two donations from friends of Tamara and Pete.

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 10, 2018

Meeting Adjourned: 3:20