

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

March 8, 2018

1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Update on Proposed Request for Funds from the YWGRT/CWCB Water Supply Funds as per Agreement from February 1st Meeting (50 minutes)
 - a. Research Request/Prof. Dan Tekiela, Univ WY (Tamara)
 - b. Treatment Request (Group)
 - c. Mapping Report (Pete)
 - d. Progress on YWGRT/CWCB grant application (Due to YWGRT Application Committee June 12th)
 1. Matching Funds and In-Kind Matches (Group)
4. Report on the 2018 CDA Grant (10 minutes)
 - a. Update on funding of \$16,000 (Greg)
 - b. Completion of Statement of Work (Ben and Greg)
5. Discussion regarding schedule for completion of 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant Measurable Objectives (Greg and Jessica) (5 minutes)
6. Organizing for 2018 Show Me Float (15 minutes)
 - a. Choice of Date (John)
 - b. Suggestions for Participants (Group)
 - c. Organizing Committee
7. Updates 10 minutes):
 - a. Payment to Anne Sullivan from the FOY/YRLSP Donation Account (Ben and Cody)
 - b. Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with Friends of the Yampa (Ben and Cody)
 - a. Approval and appointment of the Designated Signer
7. Other Items: (20 minutes)
 - a. Update of the Jodi Elam Project: Todd
 - b. Update on HPP Grant Application: Kris
 - c. Report on Targeted Conservation Projects: Kendall
 - d. Contact John Kaltenback for beetle releases for 2018

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, May 10th at 1:00pm
Adjourn (3:00)

Meeting Packet:

1. Agenda
2. Notes and Tasks February 1st Meeting
3. 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant Statement of Work
4. YRLSP River Schedule
5. Final YRLSP/FOY Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

March 8, 2018 1:00pm

Carpenter Ranch

Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Executive Committee Present

Ray Beck	MC Commissioner
Jessica Counts	MC Weed and Pest
Tim Corrigan	RC Commissioner
Chris Rhyne	BLM Little Snake
Tamara Naumann	MC Citizen
Ben Beall	RC Citizen
Tyler Jacox	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
John Husband	Northwest CO Citizen
Greg Brown	RC Weed Program

Advisory Committee

Pete Williams	MC Citizen (Mapping)
Geoff Blakeslee	The Nature Conservancy
Cody Perry	Friends of the Yampa
Anne Doughty	RC Citizen (Website Administrator)

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 1:00pm. Pete Williams introduced himself to the group and Anne Doughty introduced herself to Pete.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. Ben suggested adding an update regarding the YRLSP request for funds from the Routt County Weed Program.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion: Update on the Integrated Research Proposal with Prof. Dan Tekiela, Univ of WY.

Tamara Naumann: Reviewed with the group her work identifying specific research needs for addressing the leafy spurge infestations along the Yampa River and her communications with Prof Tekiela who has been working on a plan for two graduate students to work with the YRLSP in developing an integrated leafy spurge management plan beginning in the Spring of 2019. The cost of this research will be the request to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable Application Committee due June 12th and to the full RT at their July 11th meeting.

Tamara pointed out in her presentation the necessity of the YRLSP to give direction to Dr. Tekiela for the YRLSP research needs.

In her presentation Tamara specifically pointed out the need for the research in Moffat County and in Little Yampa Canyon due to the possibility that MC agricultural lands will most likely be affected the leafy spurge infestations spread.

Ben asked for clarification if the huge infestations in Routt County west of Hayden should be included in the research. Jessica Counts confirmed that RC should be included.

The group with Tamara's assistance established the following priorities for research and subjects for discussion with Dr. Tekiela:

1. Mapping, need for a comprehensive distribution map of the leafy spurge infestations in the Yampa River corridor.
2. An Invasibility Map, where the leafy spurge infestations have the greatest potential for spreading i.e. soils, hydrology, vegetation, climate etc.
3. Case Studies possibility of using Fremont and Johnson Counties in WY as case studies.
4. Field Studies, to discover the best integrated management practices for the unique Yampa River environment.

Tamara presented a draft budget that she had worked out with Dr. Tekiela. The annual cost for one grad student was estimated at \$32,771. This would be doubled if two students were involved. Dr. Tekiela thought that the different skill sets needed for i.e Mapping/Risk Analysis and Field Studies dictated the need for two students. The total estimated cost for two grad students for two years was estimated to be \$127,309.

Tamara cautioned the group that from her experiences that two years of study will not be enough. It may take 5 or 6 years to analyze the results to be able to choose the most appropriate treatment plan.

Tamara thought that it necessary for Dr. Tekiela to visit the Yampa River for 3 to 5 days in order to understand the requirements for research. He had asked Tamara if the YRLSP could help with the costs of a visit. Geoff Blakeslee thought that Dr. Tekiela could stay at the Carpenter Ranch. Greg Brown thought that RC could come up with some travel funds.

Specific Questions and Answers:

Marsha Daughenbaugh asked if the research project would be covered with liability insurance. Yes, through the Univ of WY

Geoff questioned whether the YRLSP had liability insurance for the private landowners. Jessica thought that the YRLSP should work to get waivers from the landowners and use the MC waiver forms. Ben suggested that we use Barry Castagnasso to get permission from the landowners.

Task 1: Tamara will create a document outlining the research needs and circulate to the group for their comments.

Task 2: Geoff will check and get back to Tamara to see if Dr. Tekeila could stay at the Carpenter Ranch

Task 3: Greg will check to see if RC can help with the cost of travel.

Task 4: Jessica and Greg to talk to Barry to see if he can approach the necessary landowners.

Task 5: Ben to send to Jessica Barry's lists of landowners that he had contacted in 2016.

Second Discussion: Visit of Dr. Tekiela to a Moffat County Weed Workshop

Jessica announced to the group that she had invited Dr. Tekiela to be a speaker at a MC Weed Workshop on April 10th and that Dr. Tekeila had accepted.

Tamara thought that this would be a perfect time to discuss the details that the YRLSP desired for the leafy spurge research. Jessica will approach Dr. Tekiela to see if he can spend an extra day to meet with the YRLSP members either the 9th or 11th. This meeting will heighten the necessity for putting the "details" on paper for discussion with Dr. Tekeila.

Some of the "details" discussed by the group were:

Willing Landowners

Address sparsely vegetated river bars

Pure/dense leafy spurge infestations adjacent to the river

Different types of environments

Different forms of the infestations

Greg said that there may be a distinct reason why leafy spurge has not spread from the Yampa River riparian areas like it has in Wyoming i.e. soils, climate, altitude etc.

Tamara thought that that maybe we have not been that lucky. It could be just timing.

Jessica suggested that we need to address the infestations on tributaries i.e. Fortification Creek. Chris Rhyne agreed and wanted a tributary of Fortification addressed.

Greg stated that we have three distinct areas that need to be addressed:

1. Adjacent to open water i.e. the Yampa River with its Cottonwood Forest
2. General riparian meadows
3. Upland threat:
 - a. This is where the YRLSP should be worried if the infestation is not controlled.
 - b. Uplands would not be where the Field Studies would be undertaken due to the fact that BMPs for leafy spurge already exist i.e. chemicals
 - c. This should be the area for the Risk Analysis/Invasibility Mapping
 - d. Irrigated ad lands/Irrigation ditches

Jessica related to the group that she had had a conversation with Jeff Comstock, MC Planner and member of the YWGRT, regarding the new Application to the RT for CWCW Water Supply Research Funds. Jessica said that Jeff had been hesitant about supporting the request to the RT but now that it was for research he might be able to support.

Jessica thought that to gain more support we should address irrigated acres.

Ben pointed out that the original application that was presented to the RT at First Reading contained a request for funds for treatment. He thought that it was necessary not only to keep the request for funds for treatment for the continuity between requests but also to continue the YRLSP attempt to control the leafy spurge infestations. He thought that it made no sense to not increase lands treated for the two years of the proposed research proposal.

Jessica and Tamara disagreed with Ben. Jessica due to a possible lack of support at the RT for treatment and Tamara thought that we should complete the research before expanding treatments.

Ben argued that chemicals exist that could be used adjacent to the Yampa River to reduce seed flow and that the RT had voted favorably for the treatment at the First Reading. Ben received no support for this position from the group.

Geoff, Jessica, and Tamara counseled that we need to be working with/meeting with members of the RT to ensure their support for the YRLSP proposed funds for research.

Geoff stated that the environment of the Yampa River is in the BIP of the RT and that the RT should support our request.

Task 6: Jessica to contact Dr. Tekieka to see if he can spend an extra day to meet with the YRLSP members.

Task 7: See Task 1, Document to be used in discussion with Dr. Tekiela.

Task 8: Group to make every effort to contact members of the RT and discuss our request and try and ensure their support before the July 11th meeting.

Task 9: Ben to get the names of the RT Application Committee and email to the group so that they can be contacted by the June 12th deadline.

Third Discussion: Mapping

Pete Williams explained that since the February 1st meeting he has been working on a map of the Yampa River and adjacent lands within one mile. He has been working with Map It Fast, the mapping system used both by MC Weed and Pest and RC Weed Program. He has purchased a tablet and has installed the river base mapping using Google Map and parcel ownership from the shape files form MC and RC.

He also has created a river mile file and looked at river access points. Pete thinks that we would be able to create river paper maps for review after he has worked further with Map It Fast.

Jessica pointed out from her experience that layered functions do not work well on Map It Fast.

Pete thought that layers should work with the system and thought that it may be a hardware issue.

Task 10: Pete and Jessica to meet in the MC Extension on Monday, March 12th to review Map It Fast.

Task 11: A mapping shakedown will take place on April 25th and 26th on a LittleYampa Canyon River Trip.

Fourth Discussion: Report on the 2018 CDA Grant

Ben opened the discussion with the news that the YRLSP had been awarded \$16,000 from their request of \$26,000. It looks like that probably the \$10,000 request for treatment of 100 +/- acres in RC was not funded. If that is correct then the YRLSP has funds for: Tepee Draw, the Private Property Coordinator, Educational materials and copying, Website and video maintenance, Educational materials, a Call to Action II video, and the Show Me Float.

Ben asked Greg if he had been able to Contact CDA, Lara Duran, to confirm what had been funded. Greg had not had the opportunity to contact Lara.

Task 12: Greg to contact Lara Duran to see what items were funded.

Task 13: Greg to work with Lara on the timeline for completion of the Statement of Work for the 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant.

Fifth Discussion: Schedule for Completion of the Measurable Objectives for the 2017 Weed Fund Grant.

Jessica said that she had already scheduled Troy Osborne for Spring Tepee Draw second treatment. She also said that she planned to use the 2018 funds, weather permitting, for a Fall third treatment of Tepee draw.

Greg said he had contacted Don Stinton to start planning for the second treatment of the 100 +/- acres in western RC.

The Measurable Objectives also requires pre and post monitoring of Tepee Draw and the 100 +/- acres in western RC.

Other Measurable Objectives are:

1. 4 education and outreach activities
2. One public field trip
3. Host information booth at the RC and MC Fairs
4. One presentation to Land Stewardship
5. One presentation to Winter Weed Class
6. Target one new audience , 30 individuals, with education/outreach efforts

Task 14: Jessica can you document the upcoming Weed Workshop as either a Winter Weed Class or a new audience Measurable Objective

Task 15: Greg to contact Barry to have him monitor and organize the treatment of the 100+/- acres in western RC

Task 16: The members of the YRLSP will plan for and report at the YRLSP meeting in May the events to fulfill the other Measurable Objectives

Sixth Discussion: 2018 Show Me Float

Ben opened the discussion by directing the group to the YRLSP River Trip Schedule in the meeting packet. He pointed out there was a conflict in the dates between the proposed Dinosaur National Monument Leafy Spurge Pulling Trip and the Show Me Float.

John Husband stated that after March meeting where everyone had approved the June 22nd date for the 2018 Show Me Float for one day from Dorsey Beach to Loudy Simpson that he had started planning for the trip.

Tamara said that she would like to participate in the Show Me Float and would try and either shorten or move the dates.

The group discussed who should be invited. The following list is not all inclusive: County Commissioners (Doug Monger), RT members (Jackie Brown, Steve Henkemeyer, President of the Maybell Irrigation Ditch, Dr. Tekiela, FOTY Board members, MC and RC Weed Board members etc.

John said that his schedule is hectic until April but that he would organize the Float and contact the Parrotheads to see if they could help.

Ben pointed out that we may have \$500 to spend on the 2018 Show Me Float from the 2018 CDA Grant.

Task 17: YRLSP members will talk to various members of the community to invite them on the Show Me Flat and get names and addresses to John by April 1st.

Seventh Discussion: Payment to Anne Doughty for Website Administration

Ben passed out to the group a Donations sheet which includes all the donations collected by FOTY through 2/3/2018 for a total of \$475.

Ben reported that he had been working with FOTY on the request for payment of \$200 approved for Anne at the March meeting. A Request for Payment form the YRLSP and an Invoice from Anne has been submitted as per agreement with the FOTY Board at last night meeting. Ben thanked Cody Perry as a FOTY Board member for helping with this process.

Cody though that Anne should receive her check by Monday.

Anne thanked the group and said that she would continue administering the website. Ben asked other members to review the site and get back to Anne with changes/suggestions etc.

Tamara thought that the group had also approved payment to Cody for his annual expenses and periodic costs for the website.

Task 18: Cody to write an Invoice for his expenses and submit to the YRLSP.

Eighth Discussion: Approval of the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with FOTY.

Ben and Cody reported that the FOTY Board approved the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement between the FOTY and the YRLSP. There were some minor changes approved by the FOTY from the Final Draft included in the meeting packet:

1. FOY was changed to FOTY
2. Address for Kent Vertrees was changed
3. Three changes on page 2:
 - a. 5-3: understand to agree to
 - b. 7-2: understand to agree to
 - c. 11: after one year to annual

Ben asked the group to designate a designee to be the signator of the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement for the YRSLP'

The group after much discussion and many votes approved Ben Beall to be the Designee.

Ninth Discussion: Report on the Request to the RC Weed Board for \$10,000 to fund 100+/- acres west of Hayden adjacent to the Yampa River

Ben advised the group that he had been asked by Greg to submit a request from the YRLSP to the RC Weed Board for Taylor Grazing Act Funds. He asked the group if they had any concerns of his submittal for the YRLSP.

Greg reported that the period is about to close and he was pretty sure that the Weed Board would approve the funds.

Tenth Discussion: Updates:

1. The Jodi Elam Project
 - a. Ben read an email from Todd Hagenbuch who could not make the meeting describing what Jodi had done so far: 1. mailed out 162 surveys of landowners on the Yampa and received replies from 46; 2. She is analyzing the data received; 3. Writing up a bio-control review; and 4. Writing up an experimental design protocol/monitoring plan.
 - b. Jodi should be finished her thesis by our May meeting and would like to make a presentation to the group at that meeting.
2. Contact John Kaltenback for Beetle Releases for 2018
 - a. Jessica thought that the YRLSP should prioritize monitoring existing releases instead of having new releases.
 - b. Greg stated that we should make as many releases as possible in order to ensure that the biocontrol is working.

Task 19: Greg to contact John Kaltenback to schedule beetle releases this Summer.

Next Meeting: May 10th at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch

Adjourned: 3:00pm