

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
Wednesday 10:00am, December 1, 2021  
By Zoom**

**Zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85650357386?pwd=MHRBMFM5YjM2dE1JK3JXNDZWbzZuZz09>

**Draft Proposed Agenda**

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. 2021 Accomplishments Group (15 minutes)
  - a. 2021 Annotated Goals
  - b. Draft 2021 Accomplishments
5. Update on Closing Out the CWCB Grant and Follow-up Action Items: Tamara (10 minutes)
  - a. Needs for close-out
  - b. Status of Chloe's "Final Report" and PHD Dissertation
    1. Invasive Risk Modeling
  - c. Youth Education and Biocontrol Event
6. Biocontrol Update and Plans for 2022 (Tamara) (5 minutes)
  - a. Collection/Purchase
  - b. Releases: Little Yampa Canyon, JQ Circle Ranch
7. Discussion of YRLSP Integrated Management: Jesse, Tiffany (10 minutes)
  - a. Landowner knowledge of traditional herbicide treatments
  - b. Combining herbicide and biocontrol
  - c. Long-term relative costs of herbicide vs biocontrol
8. 2022 Landowner Outreach: Tamara, Group (10 minutes)
  - a. 2022 Biocontrol Field Trip
    1. Possible sites: Earle's Oxbows and YRSWA, The Frog Pond
  - b. Presentations: CO First Cons Dist Annual Meeting and RC Conservation Dist Annual Meeting
  - c. Other
9. Mapping Update: Pete, Ben, Chloe (10 minutes)
  - a. West Cross to Deerlodge
    1. Groundtruth satellite imagery
  - b. YRLSP Mapping vs Satellite Imagery, displays
10. YRLSP Goals for 2022: Group (15 minutes)
  - a. Draft 2022 Goals

11. Tentative Dates for 2022 Events: Group (5 minutes)
  - a. Youth and Education: Biocontrol Event
  - b. Biocontrol collection and releases in LYC and J Q Circle Ranch
  - c. Biocontrol Field Trip
  - e. West Cross to Deerlodge Mapping
  - f. 2022 Show Me Float: Dorsey to Loudy Simpson
  - g. Other
  
12. Routt County BCC Presentation: Ben, Tiffany (5 minutes)
  
13. Partner Plans and Updates: Group (10 minutes)
  - a. Friends of the Yampa and Donations Account
  - b. Routt County Weed Program
  - c. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
  - d. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - e. Yampa River State Park
  - f. BLM
  - g. CO State Land Board
  - h. NRCS: Steamboat
  - i. NRCS: Craig
  - j. Dinosaur Nat Monument
  - k. MC CSU Extension
  - l. RC CSU Extension
  
14. YRLSP 6-Year Report: Ben (5 minutes)
  
15. Future Plan Discussion 3rd Edition John, Ben (10 minutes)
  1. Is there a timeframe for the YRLSP?
  2. What organization(s) could carry-on with leafy spurge education/management?
  3. Create a different iteration of the YRLSP i.e. Board appointed by Moffat and Routt BCCs?
  
16. Other (Group) 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting: February 9, 2022

**YRLSP Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, February 9th at the Hayden Town Hall/Carpenter Ranch or By Zoom

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

**Meeting Packet:**

Proposed Agenda  
YRLSP 2021 Goals Annotated  
Draft YRLSP 2021 Accomplishments  
Draft YRLSP 2022 Goals  
Draft YRLSP 6-Year Report

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2021**  
**By Zoom**  
**Final Meeting Notes**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Working Group Members Present**

Melody Villard , Moffat County Commissioner  
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen  
Baili Foster, NRCS Steamboat Springs  
Laurel Deitch, NRCS Craig  
Tyler Jacox, CPW  
Patrick Stanko, Yampa Valley Agricultural Alliance  
Nick Charchalis, CO First Conservation District

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05. He thanked everyone for coming and advised everyone that he was recording the meeting so that he could create the Meeting Notes.

Ben shared the agenda and asked if there were any changes or suggestions to the agenda.

John Husband asked if Item 15 could be moved up to ensure that everyone could participate. Ben suggested that Item 15 be moved up to after Item 10. The Group agreed.

**First Discussion: Review of Draft 2021 Accomplishments**

Ben shared with the Group: 1. The YRLSP 2021 Goals annotated with notes on whether the goals were completed, not-completed, or partially completed. 2. A Draft YRLSP 2021 Accomplishments.

Ben advised the Group that the Final 2021 Accomplishments will be approved at the YRLSP next meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Group reviewed the Draft 2021 Accomplishments. Below is a Final Draft YRLSP 2021 Accomplishments with suggested changes in red:

## **FINAL DRAFT YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Final deliverables and invoice on the CWCB WSRF grant were submitted to the CWCB and Yampa-White-Green Roundtable on December 22, 2021. After these documents are reviewed and approved, a final reimbursement to Friends of the Yampa will be made, which will close out the grant project. All deliverables on the grant will be posted to the YRLSP website by January 31, 2022. (Tamara)
2. Chloe Mattilio (UW PhD candidate) developed a remote-sensing application that included correlation with the field mapping data collected by YRLSP, followed by groundtruthing of the initial model and further corrections. The final model classification identified leafy spurge on the ground correctly with an overall accuracy rate of 91.3%—a remote sensing classification performance that is significantly better than random. (Tamara, Chloe)
3. Chloe Mattilio also developed two invasion risk predictive models for the basin that will aid leafy spurge control efforts now and into the future. The best-fitting model classifies 359,680 acres in Routt and Moffat counties as having “high suitability” or risk of leafy spurge invasion, and another 2 million acres with “moderate suitability.” The model helps us understand the need to continue efforts to thwart the progress of this pernicious weed. (Tamara, Chloe)
4. Hannah Kuhns (UW Master’s student) further supported our understanding of water as a vector for spreading leafy spurge downstream, by showing convincingly that root fragments eroding out of banks and sandbars during runoff season are capable of floating downstream and re-establishing new plants that contribute to a burgeoning infestation. Her management treatment studies tell us that targeted sheep grazing is not practical in most riparian settings, and probably not something to pursue in other than very limited circumstances. Lastly, Hannah’s herbicide studies indicated that Quinclorac and Duracor may cause a reduction in seed production, but more work on timing of application, rate of application, and duration of effect is warranted. (Tamara, Hannah)
5. Completed mapping of leafy spurge infestations on the Yampa River from Hayden to Cross Mt for a total of 108 miles, with a final 5 miles mapped in the Axial Basin in June of this year. (Pete)
6. YRLSP volunteers and partners conducted monitoring on nine sites where insects were released in 2019 and 2020. Biocontrol insects were still present on all nine sites. Detectable changes in leafy spurge cover were only recorded on two of the nine sites, but visible signs of insect activity were present on all nine sites. (Tamara, Group)

7. Purchased 9,950 leafy spurge beetles (3,250 by YRLSP, 6,200 by CPW, and 500 by RC Weed Program) and released beetles to new sites including YRSWA, Loudy Simpson Island, CPW South Beach, McIntyre, K-Diamond Ranch, and 78A north of Hayden (Group)
8. Continued outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat Counties. Moffat County Weed and Pest and Routt County Weed Program continue to have conversations with landowners . **CO First Conservation Dist. surveyed landowners at their Annual Meeting** . Baili Foster (NRCS) surveyed attendees at the Routt County Conservation Dist. meeting.
9. Members of the YRLSP and NRCS met with the owner of J Quarter Circle Ranch to discuss an integrated management of leafy spurge. Chose a biocontrol release site for 2022.
10. Follow-up with 2019-2020 stakeholder and mapping partners. Obtained 7 new permissions (**Colleen Behrman, Bruce Barnes, Janice Edwards, Nathan Mock, Darryl Steele, Dave Stoffle, and Elam**). (John, Jesse)
11. Continued the updating of the YRLSP website (Pete)
12. Organized the 2021 Show Me Float with 16 participants in Little Yampa Canyon on June 11th and 12th (John, Ben)
13. Moffat County Weed and Pest monitored the treatments of leafy spurge infestations on the Peroulis property on Four Mile Creek and reported inconclusive results on chemical treatment using Milestone and Quinclorac. (Jesse)
14. Routt County Weed Program continued to monitor the management of the leafy spurge infestation on Iron Springs Ranch near Stagecoach Reservoir and 2021 backpack herbicide treatment by Don Stinton. (Tiffany, Todd)
15. Dinosaur National Monument had one Yampa River leafy spurge hand pulling removal raft trip. (Emily)
16. Reports to supporting organizations: FOTY Board (Tamara), Moffat County Board of County Commissioners (John) and Routt County Board of County Commissioners (Ben, Tiffany, Jonathon)
17. Created Six-Year YRLSP Report with update of Five-Year YRLSP Report with 2021 Accomplishments (Ben)
18. **Organized a Biocontrol Field Trip to a release site on the YRSWA to review the results of biocontrol with these participants: Tamara Nauman and Ben Beall (YRLSP), Tyler Jacox (CPW), Jesse Schroeder and staff ??? ( MC Weed and Pest) and Jonathan Murray and Kristen Gornell (RC Weed Program)**

The following were the Group's suggested changes:

Tamara Naumann suggested that a BioControl Field Trip be added as #18.

Laurel Deitch suggested that in #8 "by email" be deleted.

John asked that the 2021 Permission Forms completed be changed to Colleen Behrman, Bruce Barnes, Janice Edwards, Nathan Mock, Darryl Steele, Dave Stoffle, and Elam.

Group comments regarding various 2021 Accomplishments:

Accomplishment #s 1, 2, 3, and 4: Tamara asked Patrick Stanko if they could get together to figure out the best process for communicating a report to the YWG Basin Roundtable.

Accomplishment #6: Tamara wanted to give a shout out to NRCS Craig and Grand Junction for completing the beetle release site soils tests. If NRCS can continue to support with soils tests the YRLSP may be able to make a statement in the future regarding where leafy spurge beetles prefer to live.

Accomplishment #8: Nick Charchalis said that he would check on the CO First Survey and see if CO First Conversation District would be able to do a survey in 2022. Laurel Deitch informed the Group that she thinks the survey question on leafy spurge was deleted from the 2021 survey.

Accomplishment #13 and #14: Ben voiced support for these goals in the YRLSP attempts to reach out to landowners. He asked Melody Villard, Patrick Stanko, and Nick Charchalis as ranchers for suggestions about how to better reach out to Routt and Moffat County landowners.

**Task 1: The Group will review the Final Draft YRLSP 2021 Accomplishments with changes and send other changes to Ben before the February 9<sup>th</sup> YRLSP Meeting.**

**Task 2: Specific Group Members will review these Accomplishments and get back to Ben**

**Numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4...any word changes (Tamara)**

**Number 6...Number of recent biocontrol sites visited and monitored (Tamara)**

**Task 3: Patrick and Tamara will get together to discuss a report to the YWGRT regarding the CWCB Grant.**

**Task 4: Nick and Laurel to see if CO First Conservation Dist will do a leafy spurge survey in 2022.**

**Task 5: Ben to check with Jesse Schroeder to see if changes are needed to #13.**

### **Second Discussion: Update on Closing Out the CWCB Grant**

Tamara pointed out that the grant needed to be closed out by December 31<sup>st</sup> the end of the calendar year. The final report will be sent to CWCB and the YWG Basin Roundtable.

High points of Tamara's report:

1. CWCB is holding \$7,583 until all the deliverables are completed.
2. University of WY has been paid out.
3. At close-out \$22 will be left in the Task #3, Biocontrol.
4. There is still \$159 left in Moffat and Routt Counties' contributions. Friends of the Yampa will hold this in the YRLSP Donations Account to be used in 2022 for the Youth and Education Event.

As to the various Grant Tasks:

CWCB Task 1: Satellite imagery and LS Infestation Modeling. Tamara is waiting for Chole Mattilio's chapter from her Doctor's Dissertation which will be posted on the YRLSP website.

CWCB Task 2: Hannah Kunhs' Master's Thesis on Integrated Management has been posted.

CWCB Task 3: Biocontrol Report will be included in the grant Close Out.

Tamara reported that the YRLSP is ready to hold a Youth Education Biocontrol Event in 2022. It was not held in 2021, probably because parents were not interested in having their children participate due to Covid. Tamara said that all the leaders are willing to help and that Baili Foster is reaching out to other youth groups for participation.

**Task 6: Tamara to complete the CWCB Grant Close Out by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Task 7: Baili to approach youth groups such as Rocky Mt Youth Corps and Yampatika to see if they can participate in the Youth and Education Event. Tamara will be in touch to see if Jacob Dewhirst, YRSP would like to have his Hayden Youth Group participate.**

### **Third Discussion: Biocontrol Update and Plans for 2022**

Tamara presented this 2022 biocontrol work list:

1. The YRLSP goal remains to get out as many bugs as possible.
2. There will be a trip to the Front Range to collect bugs, probably around June 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Emily Spencer, Dinosaur Nat. Monument, is planning to release bugs on the Monument.

4. Tamara is planning on re-monitoring 10 more release sites.
5. With the help of the YRLSP partners, a half-day Leafy Spurge Biocontrol Field Trip with interested landowners will be held.

Tamara related to the Group that John Kaltenbach, Director of the CDA Biocontrol, has told her that if the YRLSP keeps releasing leafy spurge beetles, we will see significant results. Tamara is positive that she is already seeing results.

Ben asked Tamara if the YRLSP should plan on purchasing beetles from Montana in order to accomplish our biocontrol goals. Tamara explained that it is more expensive but she would look at the budget and in January report back to the Group. She said that Emily is planning to get on the Montana list so she is sure to have enough bugs. Ben thought that we could ask our partners for funds if needed.

Ben asked Tamara about the YRLSP priorities for releases in 2022. Tamara listed Little Yampa Canyon, J Quarter Circle, and other interested landowners that Jesse and Tiffany can identify. Baili said that Bruce Johnson, owner of JQC Ranch, has offered to pay for the bugs for his release.

Tamara reported to the Group regarding her difficulties in getting information regarding Trevor Balzar's (CPW) releases on State Land Board Property that JQC leases. Trevor has not been able to come up with any information regarding location etc. Tamara is going to ask Tyler Jacox, CPW if he could talk to Trevor and also see if John Kaltenbach has the necessary paperwork. If the paperwork is unavailable, maybe Tyler can get Trevor to physically show us the location.

**Task 8: Tamara to organize a beetle collection trip to the Front Range in June.**

**Task 9: Tamara and volunteers will monitor 10 release sites in the summer.**

**Task 10: With the help of YRLSP Partners a Biocontrol Field Trip will be organized for this summer.**

**Task 11: With the assistance of Tyler and John Kaltenbach, Tamara will try one more time to obtain the beetle release information on the JQC Ranch SLB lease.**

#### **Fourth Discussion: Discussion of YRLSP Integrated Management Plans and Landowner Outreach**

Ben acknowledged that Jesse and Tiffany are the important partners in the integrated management efforts and that they are not present. He asked Nick and Melody for their thoughts about how the YRLSP could continue the efforts to interest landowners in efforts to combine biocontrol and traditional chemical herbicide treatments in addressing leafy spurge infestations.

Nick said that he would try and bring this up at the next CO First Conservation Dist meeting. He is not sure if a lot of people know much about the problem. We need to get the District more active. He informed the Group that landowners want to see results but want others to pay.

Melody agreed with Nick. It is hard to get people involved but it is important that we work with CO First Conversation Dist and CSU Extension to get the word out.

Baili said that she would help facilitate with informing the landowners on the expanded RC Conservation Dist regarding leafy spurge.

Tamara informed Baili, Laurel, and Patrick that the YRLSP could come up with a presentation to any group that would like to learn more about leafy spurge and the YRLSP.

**Task 12: Nick to ask CO First Conservation Dist to take a more active roll in informing landowners regarding leafy spurge.**

**Task 13: Baili to work with the RC Conservation Dist to informing landowners regarding leafy spurge.**

### **Fifth Discussion: Mapping Update**

Pete asked the Group what their expectations are for continuing the on-the-ground leafy spurge mapping in the future. The original plan had been to map from Hayden to the Dinosaur National Monument boundary. He thought that the West Cross to Deerlodge could be accomplished in just a part of a day but it would be dependent on water levels.

Ben said that a question had been raised at the last meeting about whether the data on the maps created by the YRLSP and the satellite imagery created by Chloe couldn't be displayed on the same page. Pete thought that an interactive map could be made to be added to the website. The public could zoom in/out and turn on/off the layers, like a Google map. Pete asked what the Group would like to see included in a user-interactive map. There would be a lot of potential if all our map information could be put on this type of single map.

Tamara said that creating this type of mapping was beyond the scope of the CWCB grant and that at this time we don't have Chloe's shapefiles of her satellite mapping. She thought that it would be important to sit down with Lindsey Marlow of Friends of the Yampa to see what support they could give for an interactive map project.

Pete explained that he needed to look into what tech options were available for creating this interactive map: what would be the cost, would FOTY be able to obtain the software, and if this type of software would be compatible with our Wix website. He

asked the Group to consider the trade-offs between the potential cost and labor to create such a map, and the benefits it might produce.

John Husband thought that it would be beneficial if the public could zoom in/out and interface with Chloe's research and her predictive modeling.

Ben added that we need to keep thinking about how to get the YRLSP information out to the public. He recommended that before we go any further we need to come up with a ball park cost.

Pete then reiterated that the YRLSP mapping project is important, and that we should continue mapping additional leafy spurge infestations along the river with MapItFast. He pointed out that there are still some infestations within the YRSWA that have not been mapped.

John asked if we planned on putting Chloe's predictive modeling maps on our website. Tamara responded by explaining that Chloe created two models for future infestations in Routt and Moffat Counties, one just using the YRLSP mapping data, and the other including the Fremont County, WY, data as well. Tamara said that both of Chloe's models were better than random in their predictions, but that Chloe now believes the model that includes the Fremont data has the higher accuracy. Tamara said it is likely that the YRLSP's focus on mapping just along the Yampa River gave our data alone a spatial bias, which is balanced by including the upland data from Fremont County. This modeling is part of Chloe's 21-page dissertation chapter, which will soon be posted to the YRLSP website.

Tamara told the Group that one of the important take-aways of Chloe's research is that we haven't seen the worst of the leafy spurge infestations yet in the Yampa Valley.

Patrick suggested that Chloe's shapefiles and the rest of the YRLSP mapping data should be sent to the YGWRT Integrated Water Management Program for inclusion in their interactive map. Pete responded that we can make Chloe's data available when we have it, but that he thinks that he has already sent the YRLSP maps to the IWMP as well as to the County Weed Programs. He'll follow up on checking his notes to see what has already been distributed.

Ben thanked Patrick for his great question. Ben pointed out the need to get the YRLSP information out to more platforms.

**Task 14: Pete and Ben will see if the time and water levels are there to map from Cross Mt to Deerlodge by raft this summer.**

**Task 15: Tamara to approach Lindsey Marlow, FOTY, to see if and what support is available for an interactive map including the YRLSP mapping and Chloe's satellite leafy spurge imagery.**

**Task 16: Pete will look into the tech necessary to create an interactive map; a ball park cost; and how much time it might take. Pete will give a report and recommendation at the YRLSP's next meeting.**

**Task 17: Pete to check to see the organizations where he has sent the YRLSP data and resend if necessary.**

**Task 18: Pete to post Chloe's Dissertation Chapter to our website when it is received and to send Chloe's data to Patrick so he can add them to the IWMP interactive map.**

### **Sixth Discussion: YRLSP Goals for 2022**

Ben shared with the Group a Draft YRLSP Goals for 2022. He proposed that the Final 2022 Goals should be approved at the YRLSP February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Group reviewed the Draft 2022 Goals. Below is a Final Draft YRLSP 2022 Goals with suggested changes in red:

## **DRAFT YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2022 GOALS**

1. Work collaboratively with CSU Extension, BLM, CPW and NRCS to organize a Youth Education field event that focuses on leafy spurge and biocontrol and includes an expansion of youth groups. (Tamara, Chris, Jessica, Tyler, Baili, Laurel)
2. Obtain permission from Cross Mt Ranch and other landowners in order to map from West Cross Mt to DNM Deerlodge Park for leafy spurge infestations. (Pete, Ben, John)
3. Ground truth the leafy spurge infestations identified through satellite imagery with the infestations mapped from West Cross to Deerlodge. (Pete, Ben, Chloe)
34. Continue the outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat Counties to emphasize the knowledge and information regarding the management of leafy spurge gained through the research and efforts of the YRLSP. (Tiffany, Jesse, Baili, Group)
45. Obtain at least 10,000 biocontrol insects in collaboration with CDA Palisade Insectary staff or purchase from other sources and prioritize releases in Little Yampa Canyon and the commitments to J Quarter Circle Ranch and other

private landowners who request releases. (Tamara, Biocontrol volunteers, John Kaltenbach)

56. Biocontrol outreach event. Collaborate with NRCS and county weed staffs to organize a field tour of biocontrol sites for private landowners in July. (Tamara, Bali, Tiffany, Jesse, Laurel, Group)

67. Monitor 10 recent biocontrol release sites with YRLSP protocols. and create a report for the public showing the conditions of the leafy spurge beetles and the leafy spurge infestations of each site. (Tamara, Group)

78. Dinosaur National Monument to conduct leafy spurge mechanical (hand pulling) and biocontrol releases in DNM. (Emily)

9. Hold an orientation with an expanded group of the YRLSP to create a team who can monitor leafy spurge release sites using the established YRLSP protocols. (Tamara, Pete, Ben, Emily, Jesse, Tiffan810. Monitor leafy spurge release sites in order to find a site suitable for a nursery where the beetles have exponentially increased in numbers. Research the environmental/topographical conditions necessary for the establishment of a leafy spurge nursery and designate possible locations. Continue monitoring of recent biocontrol release sites. These efforts are necessary to determine effects of biological control over time and will help us determine whether insect populations are growing large enough in particular areas to allow for hosting local catch-and-take biocontrol insect events. We appreciate the support of NRCS in processing soil samples from release sites. (Tamara, Ben, John Kaltenbach, Tyler)

911. Continue the updating and revisions of the YRLSP website (Pete)

1012. Routt County Weed Program to continue to monitor the management of the leafy spurge infestation on Iron Springs Ranch and adjacent lands near Stagecoach Reservoir. (Tiffany, Todd)

1113. Continue to work with supporting partners in their implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies. (Jesse, Chris, Tiffany, Baili)

1214. Organize the 2022 Show Me Float in June from Dorsey Beach to Loudy Simpson. (John, Ben)

1315. Report to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable on the CO Water Conservation Board Grant with significant findings. (Tamara, Patrick)

1415. Reports to supporting organizations: FOTY Board (Tamara), FOTY Yampa River Fest (Ben), MC and RC BCC (John, Ben), CDA (Ben), CO First Conservation Dist (Ben, John, Laurel), RC Conservation Dist. (Baili), IWMP (Lindsey) and the YRSLP (John)

1546. Create a Seven-Year YRLSP Report with update of the YRLSP Six-Year Report \_\_\_\_\_ (Ben, Group)

1647. The YRLSP to hold discussions internally and with Partners regarding a **Succession Plan** to set a course for the future management of leafy spurge in the Yampa Valley. (Group)

Group comments regarding various Goals (Note: Comments for new numbers):

Goal #2: John doesn't think that Rex Tuttle, Manager Cross Mt Ranch or the owners will be responsive to our request. Pete thought that we could just map from the river.

Goal #8: Tamara explained that a leafy spurge nursery is not a facility. It is a site where the beetles reproduce well. A nursery is only identified through monitoring.

Goal #12: John thought that a one-day ShowMeFloat was doable and that we might get a different set of participants.

Goal #13: Patrick suggested that Tamara talk to Steve Hinkemeyer and Alden Vanden Brink when scheduling the YWGRT presentation.

Goal #14: Tamara advised the Group that she would like to work with Tiffany and Jesse to see if the YRLSP could make a presentation to the Colorado Weed Managers Annual Meeting. This presentation would include Chloe's findings. The YRLSP is unique in CO and our findings would be of interest to the CO Weed Supervisors.

**Task 19: John to see if he can get access permissions from Cross Mt and the other landowners from West Cross to Deerlodge.**

**Task 20: Ben to check with Tiffany to see if Goal #12 is correct.**

**Task 21: Tamara and Patrick to follow up in January on a presentation to the YWGBRT with coordination with Steve Henkemeyer and Alden Vanden Brink.**

**Task 22: Tamara to work with Tiffany and Jesse on a YRLSP presentation to the Colorado Weed Manager's Annual Meeting to see if this is possible.**

### **Seventh Discussion: Future Plan Discussion 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**

Ben asked the Group if he could give a report on his and Tiffany's presentation to the RC BCC. He thought it important for the Future's Discussion.

In October the RC BCC heard our presentation. The Commissioners, Tim Corrigan, who has attended many of our meetings, and Beth Melton are knowledgeable regarding the YRLSP. Tim Redmond, the Commissioner representing Hayden, where there are many

leafy spurge infestations, showed interest especially with his comments regarding a leafy spurge nursery.

The presentation included among other items:

1. Chloe's research.
2. A discussion of the collaborative management of leafy spurge among the YRLSP, the RC Weed Program, and the RC Weed Board. The Commissioners were understanding that for the future the YRLSP, as an ad hoc group, will need assistance in the management of leafy spurge. They even suggested that the YRLSP request funds from the RC Weed Board if necessary.

John thought it important to ask the question, Is there a time frame for the YRLSP? As Chloe's research has shown we are not even at the peak of the leafy spurge infestations in the Yampa Valley. The YRLSP as a group of volunteers and even today we don't have the County Weed Managers on this call. Is it time to see if there is another organization or the Counties in a joint effort to take over? At some point the major players in the YRLSP will move on.

Ben acknowledged that it would be tough to add duties to the County Weed Programs. We need to ensure that the YRLSP's work doesn't get dropped.

Melody added that we need to talk about it and maybe add it to a joint county agenda but first we need to talk to our Weed Programs. Moffat and Routt Counties need to start talking now.

Tamara thought that it was good to start talking now about Succession Planning. The YRLSP probably has a couple more years. She said that we are lucky to have good Weed Managers and that Baili and Laurel with NRCS have been good participants.

John agreed that we should change the name of this effort to Succession Planning. Maybe there is another organization that would be interested to take on the efforts of the YRLSP. He suggested an organization like the Yampa River System Legacy Partnership. An organization with bylaws and where its representatives are appointed by the member organizations is stronger than an ad hoc group.

Baili suggested that maybe there are organizations out there that might take on parts of the mission of the YRLSP i.e., Youth and Education.

Ben thanked everyone and said that he and John would keep this on future agendas as Succession Planning.

**Task 23: Melody will discuss with the Moffat and Routt County BCCs to put the idea of taking on the efforts of the YRLSP as a discussion item on one of their joint meetings.**

**Task 24: Ben and John to keep this on future agendas as Succession Planning.**

**Eight Discussion: Tentative Dates for 2022 Events:**

1. Youth and Education: Biocontrol Event  
**Tamara will have a date at our next meeting after talking to the other leaders/participants.**
2. Biocontrol collection and releases in LYC, JQ Circle Ranch et al  
June 20 to June 24<sup>th</sup>
3. Biocontrol Field Trip: July
4. West Cross to Deerlodge: Early June
- 5, 2022 Show Me Float: **June, Ben and John to have dates by next meeting.**

**Task 25: See notes above.**

**Ninth Discussion: Partner Plans and Updates**

1. Friends of the Yampa:  
Ben reported that he had talked to Lindsey Marlow and that we have \$2,310.65 in the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account as of November 28<sup>th</sup>. This includes Tamara's invoice for the purchase of beetles from CDA.  
**Tamara said that this will be reimbursed when she closes out the CWCB Grant.** There is one more invoice outstanding from John for \$35 for our PO Box.
2. CO Parks and Wildlife:  
Tyler said that he still is closing out 2021 and is not sure for 2022
3. NRCS, Steamboat:  
Bailli said that NRCS was able to hire a part time staff for the RC Conservation Dist.
4. NRCS, Craig:  
Laurel said that NRCS lost their technician and are in the process of advertising for a replacement. The CO First Conversation Dist annual meeting is on February 15<sup>th</sup>. **Laurel and Ben discussed partnering in a presentation regarding the YRLSP.**

**Task 26: See notes above.**

**Tenth Discussion: YRLSP 6-Year Report**

Ben asked the Group to get back to him with any changes to the report he had sent out with the meeting agenda. He thought that this would be a great handout. He will continue to update and create a 7-Year Report for 2022.

**Task 27: Group to review and get back to Ben with any changes to the YRLSP 6-Year Report.**

**Task 28: Ben to create a 7-Year at the end of 2022.**

**Eleventh Discussion: Next Regular Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**

The Group decided to hold the next meeting by Zoom. Ben will send out a link with the next agenda.

Meeting adjourned: 11:55