

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
MEETING**

**September 13, 2018  
1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Rivers Edge West: (Kristen Jespersen) 5 minutes
4. Update on Moffat County Weed and Pest Management (Ray, Jessica) 5 minutes
5. Report on Request to YWGRT for CWCB Water Supply Reserve Funds: (Tim) 5 minutes
6. Update on Application to CWCB for Basin Water Supply Reserve Funds: (Tamara) 15 minutes
  - a. Application will be heard by CWCB in Steamboat at the CWCB meeting Wednesday September 19th at the Grand in Steamboat Springs. Session starts at 11:45am.
7. Update from CDA Weed Program: (Lara Duran) 20 minutes
  - a. CDA Weed Fund Application Review
  - b. Review of the YRLSP 2018 Weed Fund Grant Statement of Work and Discussion/Update with YRLSP members.
  - c. 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant Second Quarter Report due September 30<sup>th</sup>
    1. 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant ends December 31st.?
    2. 2018 Fall Treatments with existing drought as per SOW
  - d. CDA EDDMaps Work Session
8. Update on 2017 CDA Grant Final Report and 2018 CDA Grant First Quarter Report: (Lynn, Greg, Ben) 10 minutes
9. Report on Leafy Spurge Treatments: 15 minutes
  - a. Teepee Draw (Osborn) (Jessica)
  - b. 100+/- Acres West of Hayden (Stinton) plus new 2018 acres (Greg, Barry)
  - c. CPW treatment efforts (Tyler)
  - d. Non Focus Area future treatment areas i.e. Fortification Creek, Miller Property etc. (Group)
  - e. Seasonal Leafy Spurge treatments (Greg, Jessica)

10. Mapping and landowner access for Little Yampa Canyon and Hayden to Loudy Simpson (10 minutes)
  - a. Landowner Access Permissions (Barry)
  - b. Update on Mapping Efforts (Pete, Ben)
  - a. Landowner Letter (John)
11. 2018 Beetle Releases: (Greg, Barry) 10 minutes
12. Updates: 10 minutes
  - a. Leafy spurge pulling work trips Dinosaur National Monument (Tamara)
  - b. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Show Me Float (John)
  - c. Search for 100 +/- new acres for 2019 Treatment (Barry)
13. Other: 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, November 8th at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (3:00pm)

#### Meeting Packet

1. Agenda
2. Final Report 2017 CDA Grant
3. 2018 CDA Grant Statement of Work
4. 2018 CDA Grant 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report

# YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

September 13, 2018 1:00pm

Carpenter Ranch

## Draft Meeting Notes

### Attendees:

#### Executive Committee Present

Greg Brown	Routt County Weed Program
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Landowner
Tamara Naumann	MC Citizen
Ben Beall	RC Citizen
John Husband	Northwest CO Citizen
Tyler Jacox	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Lisa Baldwin	Dinosaur National Monument
Cody Perry	Friends of the Yampa
Tim Corrigan	Routt County Commissioner

#### Advisory Committee

Pete Williams	MC Citizen (Mapping)
Lynn Haskins	Colorado First Conservation District

#### Guest

Lara Duran	CDA, Noxious Weed Specialist
John Kaltenbach	CDA, Bio-Control
Kristen Jespersen	Rivers Edge West

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 1:00pm. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. Ben explained that he had changed the agenda order to accommodate members who would have to leave early.

Ben introduced Kristen Jespersen from RiversEdge West formerly The Tamarisk Coalition and thanked her for coming. Kristen and the Tamarisk Coalition have been on the YRLSP email list.

Kristen explained that RiversEdge West works across the Southwest mainly on river restoration of riparian habitats and usually on invasive woody plant species. Their mission is to restore rivers in the west.

RiversEdge West works to build capacity, helps with fundraising, gives technical assistance and creating best management practices with various groups like the YRLSP.

Kristen would like to be able to work on the Yampa in the future. One initiative that might be able to be used on the Yampa is mapping with drones which RiversEdge West is beginning to understand their potential.

## **Meeting Discussions:**

### **First Discussion: Update on Moffat County Weed and Pest Management**

Ben acknowledged that Moffat and Routt County Weed Programs are the most important members of the YRLSP due to their expertise and historical knowledge of weeds.

Ben said that it was a shame that Jessica Counts had taken on the responsibility of Moffat County Extension Agent. The present lack of representation from MC Weed and Pest hurts the YRLSP even though Jessica has said that she would stay involved. Moffat County had not yet replaced her position.

John Husband said that MC was advertising for this position but had not been successful. Greg Brown confirmed that MC had contacted other Weed Programs in Colorado to see if there might be interested and qualified individuals.

**Task 1: Ben will touch base with Ray Beck to understand a possible replacement schedule.**

### **Second Discussion: Report on YWGRT Approval of Request for Funds**

Tim Corrigan reported that he presented the YRLSP application to the YWGRT. He thanked Tamara Naumann for briefing him regarding the application and putting together the PowerPoint slide show. Tim acknowledged that the present application was far superior than the one presented on First Reading.

Tim thought that the YRLSP members had led the way with all their contacts with RT. In the end there were few questions and the RT approved the request for \$89,000 with only two dissenting votes.

### **Third Discussion: Application Request to CWCB for Water Supply Reserve Funds**

Tamara thought that with the little opposition on the RT that strategically the YRLSP was in a good position. With this approval, by the most important organization

representing water interests in Northwest Colorado, to use the RT's own Basin Funds the CWCB would be inclined to approve the request.

Tamara briefly explained the new research application's main objectives:

1. Measure the leafy spurge infestations with good mapping to include a risk assessment map
2. Create an integrated management plan for the reduction of seed flow through the research and treatments on four different sites including one Yampa River tributary site.
3. Develop a map of known and potential leafy spurge biological control sites through working with CDA and youth organizations

Tamara has sent the application to CWCB staff and received their comments.

The next steps:

1. CWCB meeting for approval of the application on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>
2. Site visit by Dan Tekiela either on September 26<sup>th</sup> or October 10<sup>th</sup> when he was available. Site types needed: actual river channel/cobble sandbar, riparian forest, riparian meadow, and tributary site.

It was decided due to the fact that Tyler Jacox was not available on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> that Sept 26<sup>th</sup> was the best date.

**Task 2: Barry and Tyler to work to find a couple site on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area.**

**Task 3: Barry to investigate other sites in the west of Hayden area including sites on the gravel pits near Loudy Simpson.**

**Task 4: Ben to coordinate the site finding since Tamara will be out of town.**

#### **Fourth Discussion: Update from CDA Weed Program**

Lara Duran, CDA Class 2 Noxious Weed Specialist, reported that for the 2018 grant cycle there had been more applications for funds than the \$700,000 for grants. Very few of the applications were fully funded.

Ben asked Lara to explain the requirement that the funds for the 2018 fiscal year ending on June 30<sup>th</sup> had to be spent during that time which was reflected in the YRLSP First Quarter Report. Lara said that was a misunderstanding. Those funds could be carried over through the project timeline.

Lara explained the change in dates in the 2018 YRLSP grant was due to the fact that CDA did not want two grants open at the same time. The 2018 grant ends on December 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. New applications for 2019 will be taken in November or December so that

the funds will be available for the Spring/Summer weed treatments. This should be better timing than the June 18<sup>th</sup> start date for the 2018 grant.

The group discussed with Lara the difficulty because of the drought and low water in the Yampa River of fulfilling the grant requirements for grant match including: mapping and leafy spurge treatments.

Lara recommended that a grant only needs a one-to-one match requirement not the two-to-one that is in the 2018 grant. This should make it easier to fulfill the requirements. It had been the understanding that the more match the better the application.

Lara recommended that in the Second Quarter Report due October 30<sup>th</sup> that the YRLSP look at modifications to the existing grant Performance Activities in the grant Statement of Work. These modifications need to be coordinated with Lynn Haskins, Grant Applicant, and Greg Brown, CDA designated spokesperson.

Ben asked Lynn to explain Colorado First Conservation District's request for reimbursement in the 2018 First Quarter Report.

Lynn explained that due to the rushed deadline of the grant report for the 2017 CDA Grant that COFirst had not requested reimbursement for the 5% administrative fee for being the fiscal agent. Lynn had discussed this with Lara so COFirst had requested not only 5% for the 2018 CDA Grant but also the 2017 5% fee in the first Quarter Report. The \$1,300 fee request was paid from the \$1,950 grant line item for treatment on the Cross Mt. which could not be completed.

Lara reported that she had held in the morning a EDDs mapping work session at the Hayden Town Hall. At this work session the participants, RC Weed Program employees and YRLSP members discussed the process of integrating the CDA requirements and Routt and Moffat Counties and the YRLSP use of mapping app MapItFast. This integration is complicated because of the difficulty of using the Strider Forms from MapItFast and coordinating with data requirements from CDA.

**Task 5: Greg, Tamara, and Ben as a subcommittee to meet toward the end of October to finalize modifications to the 2018 CDA Grant Statement of Work.**

**Task 6: Ben to complete a draft Second Quarter Report for the 2018 CDA Grant and coordinate with Greg and Lynn. This report should be completed with enough time before the October 30<sup>th</sup> deadline so as not be rushed.**

**Task 7: Pete Williams will look into the feasibility of getting a license for MapItFast for the YRLSP.**

## **Fifth Discussion: Leafy Spurge Treatments:**

Barry Castagnasso told the group about the 100+/- acres treated west of Hayden, south side of the Yampa. This was paid for by Routt County through the Taylor Grazing Act funds as match for the 2017 CDA Grant. This was the second annual treatment in a proposed three treatment protocol. He reported that he noticed a difference in the leafy spurge infestations from last year's treatment. Since there didn't seem to be as much leafy spurge and Don Stinton as the contractor was familiar with the land they were able to add approximately 35 new acres to the treated acres.

Barry also displayed the maps and photos he had taken of the area on his tablet. He explained that he was having difficulty downloading the information to RC's MapItFast and CDA's EDDs data bases. This info was supposed to be included in the 2017 Grant Final Report. CDA is continually asking for this data.

Barry stated that some of the lands on the YRSWA look pretty good after all the treatments. Tyler Jacox said the CPW had not done any treatments this year and he didn't think that State Parks had done any.

The group discussed the effects of the drought on late summer and fall treatments. The late summer/fall treatment planned for TeePee Draw never happened. It would have been less visible than last year.

**Task 8: Barry was asked to look for a new 100+- acres west of the existing treated area that could be included in a 2019 CDA Grant application**

## **Sixth Discussion: Mapping and Landowner Access**

Ben advised the group that he had not been able to map the Yampa infestations from Dorsey Beach to Loudy Simpson. This was caused by low water and the drought which restricted the visibility of the leafy spurge.

Pete was also disappointed that mapping was not done in Little Yampa Canyon. He had created a base map for MapItFast on three reaches of the Yampa River with a landownership layer. However, he had not been able to coordinate with MC Weed and Pest for the data Strider Form.

Tamara said that the YRLSP should not be kicking themselves for not accomplishing the physical mapping. The YRLSP had one survey trip in Little Yampa Canyon and Pete spent many hours creating the base maps for the Yampa which will be used next year.

Ben passed out copies of the landowner lists that Barry had created including the west of Hayden to the MC Golf Course with landowner permission.

John thought that the YRLSP should send out a letter to all the landowners with information about the YRLSP and accomplishments as PR for the project. John will be

out of town but would like to volunteer to create a draft letter for review at the next meeting.

**Task 9: Pete will continue to work to create a Strider Form for the YRLSP mapping goals.**

**Task 10: Ben and Pete will plan to map the reaches of the Yampa from Dorsey Beach through Little Yampa Canyon to Duffy Mountain for early next summer.**

**Task 11: John will create a letter and suggest how the YRLSP might contact the landowners who have property along the Yampa for the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

### **Seventh Discussion: Beetle Releases**

Ben opened the discussion by pointing that in the 2018 CDA Grant SOW the YRLSP was to establish two new beetle nursery sites. He introduced John Kaltenbach, CDA bio-control.

John confirmed that he had tried to contact Greg Brown in order to plan for beetle release. They were never able to get together. There were no beetle releases.

The group discussed the importance of bio-control to the management of leafy spurge and the lack of monitoring of the existing beetle release sites. There is also a need to identify the existing sites.

John confirmed that the CDA Palisade nursery is interested to continue addressing the needs of the YRLSP.

Ben asked Lisa Baldwin if Dinosaur National Monument would be a place for establishing leafy spurge beetles after the success in the DNM of the Tamarisk Beetles. Lisa explained that there would have to be environmental studies before beetles could be released in DNM. Tamara thought that the size of the infestations was too small for a successful beetle release.

**Task 12: The YRLSP needs to prioritize bio-control and work to establish protocols for existing sites and future sites.**

### **Eighth Discussion: General Project Updates**

**Dinosaur National Monument:** Tamara updated the group on the two leafy spurge pulling trips. Tamara said that the volunteers in rafts were able to work at all the identified sites except one which was missed due to the fast moving water. John said that he had only been on the first trip and that the volunteers had pulled leafy spurge and packed only the blooms into 20 plus seed bags which were disposed of at the end of the trip. The second trip disposed of a similar amount.

Lara said that CDA would like all the mapping information for leafy spurge in DNM. Pete thought that these had been already uploaded to EDDs CDA mapping system.

**2019 Show Me Float:** John wanted to start planning for the 2019 Show Me Float. He suggested a two day float in Little Yampa Canyon. There was a suggestion from Cody Perry that this should be a joint float with Friends of the Yampa. John suggested that the YRLSP plan the trip for June 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be contingent of river levels which everyone hope would be more of the normal flow.

The group recommended that the YRLSP write a letter of thanks to the Parrotheads for their work on the 2018 Show Me Float.

**New 100 +/- acres for 2019 Treatment:** Barry thought that he could identify a new 100 acre site. He would have to get permission from a private landowner probably west of the YRSWA in Moffat County.

**Task 13: Pete to coordinate with CDA to understand why the DNM leafy spurge mapping was not downloaded to the CDA EDDs mapping system.**

**Task 14: Ben and John will create a letter of thanks to the Parrotheads for their continued support of the YRLSP's Show MeFloat.**

**Task 15: John to update the group at the November meeting on planning for the 2019 Show Me Float.**

**Task 16: Barry to bring back to the group his ideas for a new 100 +/- acre treatment site that could be treated in 2019.**

**Next Meeting: November at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch**

Adjourned: 3:20p