

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
Wednesday 10:00am April 8, 2020  
by  
Zoom Video Conference**

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben Beall 5 minutes
2. Introductions: 5 minutes
3. Review Agenda: 5 minutes
4. Update on the CWCB Grant (Tamara) 25 minutes
  - a. Budget
  - b. Timeline for completion of tasks
  - c. Report on monitoring of leafy spurge test plots (Hannah)
  - d. Report on success of remote sensing efforts (Chloe)
  - e. Upcoming events:
    1. Collection of leafy spurge beetles 6/30 thru 7/2
    2. Education and Outreach with Youth, biocontrol
5. Leafy Spurge Infestation Mapping 2020 (Pete) (15)
  - a. Timeline
  - b. Organization/Volunteers for mapping from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt.
  - c. Landowner permissions:
    1. Existing permissions from 2019 and public lands
    2. Maybell Ditch Owners
    3. Plan for remaining landowners
6. 2020 Show Me Float 6/19 and 6/20 (John, Ben) 15 minutes
  - a. Invitees
  - b. Integrated Water Management Plan (Committee of the YWGRT) members
  - c. Organization boats, food etc.
7. West of Hayden Leafy Spurge Monitoring (Ben, Tyler) 15 minutes
  - a. Update
  - b. Challenges (Baili, Tiffany)
  - c. Monitoring protocols (Baili)
  - d. RC Rangeland Improvement Funds process (Tiffany)
  - e. Timeline
8. Update on FOTY Donations Account (Lindsey) 5 minutes

9. Partner Plans and Updates for 2020 Leafy Spurge Management (Group) 20 minutes

- a. Routt County Weed Program
- b. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
- c. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- d. Yampa River State Park
- d. BLM
- e. CO State Land Board
- f. NRCS
- g. Dinosaur Nat Monument
- h. Friends of the Yampa
- i. MC CSU Extension
- j. RC CSU Extension

10. Other: 10 minutes

- a. CO First Conservation District Meeting (Ben)
- b. Carpenter Ranch Conditional Use Permit

Next Scheduled Meeting:

**YRLSP Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, June 10th at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda

# **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

**Zoom Video Conference**

**Final Meeting Notes**

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **Working Group Members Present**

Ray Beck, Moffat County Commissioner  
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
Tiffany Carlson, Routt County Weed Program  
Baili Foster, NRCS Steamboat Springs  
Tyler Jacox, CO Parks and Wildlife  
Dan Tekiela, University of WY Plant Science Dept.  
Jesse Schroeder, Moffat County Weed and Pest  
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Routt County Extension  
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen

### **Guests and Interested Parties:**

Amanda Stahle, University of Idaho

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:10. He thanked Dan Tekiela and the University of WY for hosting the meeting on Zoom. He asked Dan to outline the Zoom video meeting process. Dan welcomed everyone and said the he would be the gatekeeper. If there was any buzz or static from those in attendance on their computers or from their phones he would attempt to mute. He explained for those who were unfamiliar that the use of Zoom would be easy. The only issue could be if more than one person was talking. He suggested that if anyone had an idea or question while someone was talking they could use the chat box which he would monitor.

Ben hoped that everyone had a copy of the agenda. If not he said that he would follow the agenda as has been done in the past. There is a way in Zoom where documents can be posted for view. Maybe if we do this again we could use that feature.

Ben asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

## **First Discussion: Update on the CWCB Grant**

Tamara Naumann stated that there were not any big changes from the February meeting.

She reported that she had been able to invoice for the Univ of WY to the Friends of the Yampa for reimbursement. She worked with Lindsey Marlow at FOTY.

The Grant has been fully funded with the deposit of Routt County's 2nd donation of \$7,500.

The 6 month CWCB Progress Report is due by May 19<sup>th</sup>. This should be completed by the end of the month.

Tamara reported to the Group these significant contributions for the CWCB Grant:

1. Moffat County Weed and Pest, dinner for the Maybell Stakeholder Meeting, \$500
2. BLM, copies of handouts for the Maybell Meeting
3. NRCS, mailings for the Maybell Meeting, \$300
4. CPW, biocontrol location signs

Tamara showed everyone the YRLSP T-shirts that had been made for the Education and Outreach task. She asked if everyone who had paid had received their T-shirt. If they hadn't she would deliver them.

Tamara asked Dan to give an update on the U Wy part of the grant research. Dan reported:

Hannah Kuhns is studying the interrelationships between targeted sheep grazing and herbicides on the four designated test sites. Her emphasis is to see where there is a reduction in seed production. She is also interested in how the leafy spurge plant rhizomes are affected. This was not a designated part of the grant but Hannah wants to follow up on other research that U Wy is conducting.

Amanda Stahle said that she is really interested in this question regarding the leafy spurge rhizomes. What are the smallest that are viable after treatment?

Dan answered that this is a basic question that needs further study but there is potential in this as it relates to other weeds that propagate through rhizomes.

Chloe Mattili has two tasks in the grant:

1. Create a susceptibility map using the infestation data collected last summer and compare these infestations to ones in Wyoming counties where the infestations started earlier and are further along in the process of moving out of the riparian areas.

2. Use satellite imagery to detect leafy spurge infestations using last summer's mapping for ground-truthing. She has been checking to see what imagery suppliers would be best. It may cost around \$10,000 to get the needed imagery.

Dan let the Group know that the U Wy has canceled all field research for this season to September 1st for safety reasons. However he feels that the CWCB Grant research can probably be excepted. He will be able to make a submittal for exception. The main issue will be cross-border travel. He expects that there will have to be multiple day trips, no overnight stays.

**Task 1: Tamara will complete the May 19<sup>th</sup> CWCB Grant progress report.**

**Task 2. Dan will keep the Group advised regarding the restrictions on U WY research due to the coronavirus.**

### **Second Discussion: Leafy Spurge Infestation Mapping**

Pete Williams let the Group know that he had uploaded all the 2019 map data to EDDMapS. This uploading to EDDMapS was done to satisfy the Colorado Dept of Ag Weed Program, which wants all Colorado noxious weed data stored in EDDMapS as the centralized database. Pete is not so confident that the YRLSP data will eventually be easily accessible from EDDMapS. He has looked for the Dinosaur National Monument map information that Emily Spencer uploaded last year and they do not seem to be available.

Dan asked Pete who was the responsible person for the EDDMapS data at the CO Weed Program? Pete said that last year it was Lara Duran, but he wasn't sure about this year. Dan said that he was for the WY data, and that it would be good to find out in order to pursue any data issues with EDDMapS.

Pete said that in 2019 by May the YRLSP was working on getting the Landowner Permission Forms signed. John Husband and Ben actually did most of the contacts. This year with the coronavirus things will have to be different and the timeline will probably be different.

So far for this summer the YRLSP has received 4 new Landowner Permissions Forms for 2020. Pete also anticipates that there will be no problems with renewing permission for 2020 on Axial Coal Co, BLM, and State Land Board properties.

Tamara suggested that Jesse Schroeder see if he can check with the landowners in Moffat County who signed the 2019 forms to see if they will allow them to be used in 2020.

Tamara said that Tonia Folks was the representative of Tri State, with which Axial Coal Co is associated, and probably there wouldn't be a need to sign a new permission form.

Pete thought that we will still have time to acquire mapping permissions for the 2020 season. He expects the mapping trips to take place in the last two weeks in July, at roughly the same time as last year. The anticipated Yampa flows will probably be good at that time.

John agreed that we have time. He said that he personally knows some of the landowners that we will need 2020 permissions from.

Pete asked John if he had the parcel maps and current list of landowner contact information that he and Tamara had generated for this year's mapping. If he didn't he said that he will get them to him. John said that he had received the maps and list.

Ben volunteered to make phone calls.

Pete asked about how are we going to get the permissions from the Maybell Ditch owners? John thought that the Spring Maybell Ditch meeting had been canceled. He would contact Mike Camblin. John wanted to know if we are planning on mapping the ditch infestations.

Pete said that we should prioritize the river. Tamara didn't think that we should commit to the mapping of the Maybell Ditch this year. John agreed.

Pete thought that the only things needed for the mapping trips were: the landowner permissions and volunteers. Our MapItFast account license has already been renewed for this year. Ben said that he already had the volunteers from last year ask about the mapping trips.

Tamara wanted to make sure that we renewed the permissions for Hannah's research plots. Jesse thought that these permissions were not date specific. Ray Beck suggested that it would be a good idea for Jesse to contact the four landowners.

**Task 3: Pete to find out who is the CO Weed Program staff person responsible for the EDDS Mapping and coordinate with staff regarding his uploading the YRLSP data.**

**Task 4: Tamara to check with Tri State, Axial Coal, BLM, and SLB to see if the 2019 Permission Forms are still valid for this season's mapping.**

**Task 5: Jesse to check with the landowners of the four test sites to see if the 2019 permission for research is still current.**

**Task 6: Ben will assist John in contacting landowners for permissions.**

### **Third Discussion: 2020 Show Me Float**

John said that he had not spent a lot of time on the Show Me Float. He said that he was skeptical that it could happen this year due to the various coronavirus closures. Ray thought that we would know a lot more in 4 to 6 weeks. Ray thought that the closures would be opened by June 19th, the date of the Show Me Float.

Pete suggested that we probably should change the notice of the Show Me Float as stated in the YRLSP website to “Dependent on the Lifting of Coronavirus Closures.” John agreed and thought that we would have enough time to organize the trip if the closures were removed. Ben wondered that even if the closures were removed would folks want to go on a trip with twenty-five others where social distancing would be unworkable.

Ben updated the Group on the conversations with the Integrated Water Management Plan Committee of the YWGRT headed by Nicole Seltzer and some of their members’ interest in participating in the Float. Nicole thought that 10 members might be interested.

**Task 7: Pete will make a note on the 2020 Show Me Float on the YRLSP website that it is tentative due to the closures/social distancing.**

**Task 8: John to monitor changes to closures/social distancing rules and make a decision as to the go/no go of the 2020 Show Me Float.**

### **Fourth Discussion: West of Hayden Leafy Spurge Monitoring**

Ben acknowledged that at the February meeting not everyone approved of pursuing after-the-fact monitoring of the leafy spurge infestations on the West of Hayden 115 acres. However, since then he had had conversations with Don Stinton, who treated West of Steamboat in 2016, 2017, and 2019. Don had talked to Barry Castagnasso and they had come up with a cost of \$2,210 for labor, materials, and fuel for visiting the site and assisting with a monitoring program. Ben submitted this cost to the RC Weed Board for funds from RC’s Rangelands Improvement Funds.

Tyler Jacox said that he had talked to Barry about the idea of monitoring West of Steamboat. Barry told him that he had taken photos with coordinates of the infestations and treated areas using his tablet and Moffat County’s MapItFast account. Tyler thought that Jesse should be able to access these. Pete thought that it would be a good idea to download these photos and verify their locations on the West of Hayden parcels. Jesse thought that most of the photos were taken from the river.

Baili Foster thought that at a bare minimum for any successful monitoring the locations where the leafy spurge infestations were treated would need to be identified and the types/quantities of herbicides used would need to be known. She said that Don should

be able to tell us the herbicide he used. She said that she would be willing to develop a rough draft of a monitoring protocol for West of Hayden to understand if it was practical to start a monitoring program.

Tiffany said that she had found in the RC Weed Program Files a report, maps, and treatment applications from Don for his work in 2017 and 2019. Also, she had talked to the RC Weed Board and they seemed willing to approve the funds if the RC Commissioners approved.

Ben told the Group he was not sure even with all the information collected and assistance from Don and Barry that monitoring would be successful, or that it should even take place. He thought that before the start of any monitoring the West of Hayden Committee should have a meeting with Don and Barry to discuss the project and make a decision whether to proceed.

**Task 9: The West of Hayden Committee will continue to research and collect information on the treatments on the parcel in 2016, 2017, and 2019.**

**Task 10: Tiffany to notify the Committee regarding the potential approval of the funds from RS's Rangeland Improvement Fund, and to let the Committee members know if they need to communicate with the RC Commissioners or be present for a video conference.**

**Task 11: Ben will arrange when appropriate a Committee meeting to include Don Stinton and Barry Castagnasso to plan/decide on the West of Hayden monitoring for this summer.**

### **Fifth Discussion: Update on FOTY Donations Account**

Ben told the Group that he had talked to Lindsey Marlow, the FOTY Program Manager to get an updated balance. Lindsey had been unable to talk to Greg Henion, the FOTY Treasurer, but the balance as of April was \$1,162.71. This included two new donations minus fees since the February meeting: Catherine Krautkramer (\$200) and Steven Otis (\$510).

Ben appreciated the effort of Lindsey in following through with the recommendations from the February meeting: Working with the YRLSP Thank-You letter template in sending out thank-you letters from FOTY/YRLSP for the donations and putting together the account balance.

Tamara wanted everyone to remember that Moffat County had given a donation to the YRLSP of \$1,500 This is separate from the funds in the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account. Tamara would like to be able to invoice for these funds. The Moffat County Commissioners approved this expenditure for biocontrol and other items. Tamara would

like to get an approved list of possible expenditures from Moffat County. If the YRLSP cannot come up with this list we should think about turning the funds back this year.

Tamara outlined some possible future expenditures that the YRLSP may incur that will need to be paid either out of the Donations Account or the Moffat County Funds: \$168 for the YRLSP website host, \$40 to \$60 for the website domain, and \$500 for the annual MapItFast license. (Note: In 2020 the MIF cost will be paid out of the CWCB Grant.)

**Task 11: Tamara to work with the MC Commissioners to finalize where their \$1,500 donation can be used.**

### **Sixth Discussion: YRLSP Partner Plans and Updates**

a. RC Weed Program: Tiffany reported that the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust has requested funds from the Yampa River Fund for Don Stinton to treat the leafy spurge infestation on the Stetson property near Stagecoach.

b. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management: Jesse reported that he is waiting to see if certain verbal agreements are successful for some upland leafy spurge treatments.

c. CPW: Tyler said that CPW is still scheduled to spend \$500 for beetles for biocontrol.

Amanda asked where is the YRLSP getting the LS beetles? Tyler responded that CPW is purchasing them from Montana. Tamara added that also the YRLSP has a trip planned to the Front Range in conjunction with John Kaltenbach (CO Dept Ag) to collect beetles. Also, the YRLSP has found that there are three types of "legacy" LS beetles and a type of moth that we have found on leafy spurge infestations during the 2019 monitoring.

Amanda asked Tamara what was her impression of the effect of the LS beetles. Tamara explained that that was a long answer and suggested that she and Amanda talk later by phone.

d. RC CSU Extension: Todd Hagenbuch

1. Iron Springs Ranch (Stetson Ranch) is for sale and the potential new owner is willing to support the plan agreed to last year to address weed management as part of the easement agreement.

2. There are some Master Gardeners that are willing to volunteer to collect leafy spurge beetles in the Front Range in June if needed.

Tamara said she already had six volunteers for beetle collection but would let Todd know if she needed more volunteers.

## **Seventh Discussion: Other**

a. CO First Conservation District Meeting: Ben reported that he had made a short presentation to about 75 participants. Chris Rhyne, BLM, had made handouts and copies of the 2020 Permission Form that he placed on all the tables. Lynn Haskins was the only person that said that she would get two signed Permission Forms from relatives in Maybell.

b. Carpenter Ranch Conditional Use Permit: Ben updated the Group, saying that the RC Planning Commission had approved a revision to the Conditional Use Permit. Groups like the YRLSP will still be able to meet but there may be restrictions on researchers being able to spend the night.

## **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday June 10th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch**

Adjourned: 11:30am