

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT MEETING

**Wednesday March 13, 2019
10:00am at the HaydenTown Hall**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions: Welcome (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Discussion on Creating a New Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project Mission Statement (Tamara) 15 minutes

Draft: "The Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project engages land owners, agencies, educators and organizations who share a concern for the economic and ecological integrity of the Yampa Valley—working together to establish an effective program of integrated management for invasive leafy spurge."

4. Update on Research Grant (Tamara) 15 minutes
 - a. Review of YRLSP CWCB/YWG Progress Report (See Attached Report)
 - b. Group discussion
 - c. Next steps
5. Update on 2018 CDA WF Grant Final Report (Ben, Lynn) 5 minutes
 - a. Final CDA Payments
 - b. Thanks to Lynn Haskins and CO First Board (April 11th Board Meeting)
6. Update on Donations Account with Friends of the Yampa (Ben) 10 minutes
 - a. Account balance
 - b. Discussion and Approval of Expenditure to Rig to Flip for Website Update and Maintenance
 - c. Need for future funds: Second Landowner Letter (\$400-\$500)
7. Process for Obtaining Landowner Permissions for Leafy Spurge Mapping (Group) 30 minutes
 - a. Critical nature of obtaining permission for use of data (Clinton)
 - b. Discussion of John Husband's draft Permission Form (Tamara, Group)
 1. Final Permission Form by April 1st (Tamara, Ben, John)
 - c. Second landowner letter with Permission Form by April 1st (John)
 1. John and Pete to coordinate for landowner addresses
 - d. Obtain landowner permissions by May1st

8. Update on New Logo (Tamara) 5 minutes
 - a. Complete by April 1st for Landowner Letterhead

9. Mapping Update (Pete) 10 minutes
 - a. Completion of Yampa maps from Hayden to Duffy Mt.
 - b. Biocontrol release sites
 - c. MapItFast License and MapItFast Strider form
 - d. Plans for leafy spurge mapping of Hayden to South Beach and LYC, June 1st

10. Follow-up on Goals/Do List for 2019 not already discussed (Group) 15 minutes
 - a. Fund and complete 3rd treatment protocols: TePee Draw and West of Hayden
115+/- acs (Jesse, Greg)
 - b. Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal (Emily)
 - c. 2019 Show Me Float (overnight) June 21st (Ben)

11. Other: 5 minutes
 - a. FOTY Board Meeting (Ben)
 - b. Yampa Basin Rendezvous (Ben)
 - c. Recreating the RC Soil Conservation District (Clinton, Barry)

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Education and Outreach-Youth Meeting: April 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Extension office in Craig.

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday May 8th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda
YRLSP CWCB/YWG Progress Report
2019 Goals/Do List

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

March 13, 2019 10:00am

Hayden Town Hall

Draft Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Ray Beck, Moffat County Commissioner
Greg Brown, Routt County Weed Program
Jesse Schroeder, Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
Emily Spencer, Dinosaur National Monument
Barry Castagnasso, Routt County Landowner
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen
Todd Hagenbuch, RC CSU Extension

Guest:

Mary Murphy, Routt County Landowner

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:10 thanking everyone for attending even under the difficulty snowy weather conditions. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves since our guest Mary Murphy may not know everyone.

Barry Castagnasso related that due to personal commitments he would not be able to participate for at least a year.

Ben asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

First Discussion: Creating a New YRLSP Mission Statement

Ben presented a draft Statement by Tamara Naumann. During the discussion it was decided that this draft was too long for a letterhead and just too long. Emily Spencer liked the idea of including "integrated management". Ray Beck and Barry suggested that we should remove the phrase "who share a concern for the economic and ecological integrity of the Yampa Valley" as being superfluous.

The Group suggested that the following be considered for the YRLSP Mission Statement:

"The Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project engages landowners, agencies, educators and organizations--working together to establish effective programs of integrated management for invasive leafy spurge."

Task 1: Tamara and Ben will continue to develop the Mission Statement.

Second Discussion: Update on Research Grant

Ben directed everyone to the Research Grant Progress Report by Tamara included in the meeting packet.

The following were the comments and discussions regarding the four sections of the Report:

General:

1. The Group should see copies of the invoices for payment presented to FOTY.

Task #1 - Develop a watershed scale management framework for leafy spurge...:

1. Prof Dan Tekiela had offered to development a good leafy spurge ID handout. He has not been able to obtain good photos. The Group wondered who would help so that this ID handout would be available for the Second Landowner Letter.

Task #2 – Identify best management practices for reducing leafy spurge seed production...:

1. Barry thought that due to this winter weather season that Dan might need to reschedule his visit to continue to identify the four to five test sites to June.

Task #3 – Education and Outreach – Engage youth in the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project, using biocontrol...:

1. Greg Brown thought that the Palisade Insectary should know the number of releases to assist Pete Williams in his mapping of past release sites and that the in the past Routt County and Moffat County have not had the resources to judge the effectiveness of the past releases in various soil or bio-types. John Kaltenbach or the Insectary should have this type information.
2. Greg and Barry said that John Kaltenbach of CDA should know and be able to help with the best targeted population numbers of beetles for successful releases on different sites.
3. Todd Hagenbuch related that Tyler Jacox has taken on the responsibility for developing signage for release sites.
4. Todd also reported that he has gotten commitments from five Master Gardeners to help with the bio-control efforts.
5. Emily announced that DNM is considering a massive dump of beetles in Rainbow and Island Parks in the attempt to slowdown the increase in leafy spurge infestations.

Task 2: Tamara will continue to update the Group on the progress of the Research Grant.

Third Discussion: Update on 2018 CDA WF Grant and Approval of Paying Rig to Flip for Work on Website:

Ben explained to the group that he thought these two agenda items should be combined.

Ben said that thanks to Lynn Haskins, after her conversations with Lara Duran of CDA and her two months of work, had finally been able close out the 2018 CDA Grant Final Report. It was not completed in a satisfactory manner. CDA finally paid John Husband \$456.79 for the Landowner Letter, Ben \$37.17 for copying, but only \$414 for the website up date to Cody Perry, Rig to Flip.

Ben asked the Group to approve out of the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account the remaining \$801 due Cody. Ben presented to the Group two invoices: 1. A Revised Rig to Flip invoice for \$633.70 and an invoice from Wix.com for payments for the website that Cody will pay for \$167.30. Ben said that as of 3/12/2019 with a donation of \$100 from Ben that with the payment of Cody and a 5% FOTY admin fee there would be a \$58.95 balance in the Donation Account.

Ben pointed out to the Group that there are still issues that need to be straightened out in the website update.

The Group agreed that Ben should pay Cody \$801.00 from the FOTY/YRLSP Donation Account.

Ben pointed out to the Group that the YRLSP will need another \$400 to \$500 if we are to mail out a Second Landowner Letter as proposed. Ben suggested that he would see if it was appropriate to request this funding from the Taylor Grazing Act funds from the Routt County Weed Board.

Task 3: Ben and Cody to see if they can complete the items that still need to be accomplished in the website update.

Task 4: Ben and Greg will work on a proposal for the cost of the Landowner Letter and see if the RC Weed Board will approve funding.

Task 5: Ben will work to have someone attend and make a presentation to CO First Conservation District at their Board meeting on April 11th as a thank-you for being the fiscal agent for the YRLSP.

Fourth Discussion: Landowner Access Permission and Second Landowner Letter

Ben opened the discussion by relating to the Group that Clinton Whitten, NRCS, had related that there was a case where NRCS had put together resource data during a study that could not be used do to the fact that correct landowner permissions had not been granted. With this in mind John Husband, Tamara, Pete and Ben had met in Craig last week to start a process for obtaining the necessary landowner permissions in order

to map the leafy spurge infestations from Hayden to Duffy Mt. After that meeting John had put together the Landowner Letter and Permission Form in the meeting packet.

Ben related that the proposed process was to be a mailing of the Landowner Letter with Permission Form to John's addresses used in the December letter with additional landowners with existing beetle release sites and with the sites to be used for the CWCB Research Project. The letters would be finalized by April 1st with access permission completed by May 1st. Ben acknowledged that there probably would not be many permissions granted with the letter and that personal contact would be necessary.

John, Tamara, Pete and Ben wanted to get feedback from the Group and then put together a second draft of the Landowner Letter and Permission Form.

Mary Murphy as a landowner stated that landowners are not going to sign a permission form. Mary appreciates what the YRLSP is doing and she spends \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year on leafy spurge treatments on her properties in West Routt up to the Moffat County line.

Ray Beck stated that if Mary is hesitant to sign how are we going to get the other landowners to sign. Landowners are very protective. He suggested doing away with the Permission Form that a stakeholder meeting of landowners would be a way to get access permissions. Landowners like to talk and eat. Need someone to sponsor a dinner. The YRLSP needs to let the landowners know that we are asking for their help.

Greg Brown recommended that the RC and MC attorneys need to look at any access permission form. By State Statute counties can observe weed infestation only from public ROWs without permission. Need to address the liability issue for the landowners. The YRLSP needs to overcome the legal "culture" of CDA to gain the confidence of landowners.

Todd Hagenbuch thought that the letter's main objective should be to continue to gain the trust of the landowners.

Emily Spencer thought that the YRLSP needs to offer something at a stakeholder meeting for the benefit of the landowners: resources for help and mapping.

Greg stated that it was not going to be easy. The YRLSP needs to create a situation where the landowners are willing to be a part of the project proposed by the YRLSP. There needs to be participation by organizations that landowners trust: The Community Ag Alliance in RC and the Cattlemen's in MC. He liked the idea of a stakeholder meeting.

Ben voiced his concerns that without obtaining access permissions that the YRLSP would not be able to complete the proposed leafy spurge mapping from Hayden to Duffy Mt this summer. This mapping is a necessary part of the Research Grant in order to do the risk analysis and beetle monitoring.

Mary thought that the YRLSP did not understand the extent of the leafy spurge infestations in Northwest Colorado. She pointed out that she has observed and treated infestations all the way up Elkhead Creek to the Forest Service boundary.

Mary stated that it is important that that the area be flown. You could map from the airplane. She suggested that she could arrange a flight with Blain Tucker. She made a map a couple years ago that could be used. Greg thought that this map is in his office.

Ben said that he may not be the right person for the flight, maybe Prof. Dan Tekiela.

Ray wondered if NRCS has data already available.

Greg thought that maybe we could acquire what data is available and figure out how we could use it for the YRLSP initiatives.

Emily suggested that we cherry pick parcels, low hanging fruit, i.e. public lands (SLB, BLM, mine lands) and map and use this data for the risk management.

Ben again expressed frustration regarding the ability to use data from landowner parcels without their permissions and working this new stakeholder meeting into a workable time frame. Maybe with the high runoff a new timetable could be worked out.

Todd suggested that a revised letter we worked up and sent out. The letter maybe could be in a postcard size advertizing the stakeholder meeting. He thought that a stakeholder meeting could be held before mid-May.

Ray recommended using either the MC Pavilion or the conference room at The Haven in Hayden.

Todd will look to see if the Extension/Master Gardeners have any funds to help with the dinner.

Task 6: John, Tamara, Pete, and Ben will work on another draft of the Second Landowner Letter and send out for Group comments with the plan on mailing by April 1st.

Task 7: Greg to look for the map that Mary said she had given to RC Weed Program and share with the Group especially with Pete.

Task 8: The Group needs to work on ideas for the funding of the proposed Stakeholder Meeting and Dinner.

Fifth Discussion: New YRLSP Logo

Ben explained that Tamara had contacted a design company in Craig to work on a new logo.

The Group discussed that any new logo should fit as a letterhead.

Task 9: Tamara to continue to work on the new logo and try and get consensus from the Group in time to be used on the Second Landowner Letter.

Ninth Discussion: Follow-up on Goals/Do List for 2019

Goal #7: Fund and complete 3rd treatment protocols: TePee Draw 15+/- acres and West of Hayden 115 +/- acres.

Jesse Schroeder said that he was working with BLM to see if he could contract or treat by MC Weed and Pest TePee Draw.

Greg will ask the RC Weed Board for \$10,000 to treat West of Hayden. In 2018 \$10,000 from the Taylor Grazing Act Funds was approved but not spent due to the drought.

Goal #8: Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal.

Emily related to the Group that she has scheduled with DNM two trips: 1st on May 23rd to the 28th and 2nd on June 19th to the 24th for the pulling of leafy spurge. She is now working with and looking for volunteers for the trips.

Goal #12: 2019 Show Me Float (overnight) June 21st and June 22nd.

Ben relayed that as soon as John returned that John would start to work on an invitee list. John would like suggestions from the Group. He is thinking of putting an invitation in the Second Landowner Letter.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Education and Outreach-Youth Meeting for Bio-control: April 3rd, 2019 at 10:00am at the Extension Office in Craig

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday May 8th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch

Adjourned: 11:55

