

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

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben Beall 5 minutes
2. Introductions: 5 minutes
3. Review Agenda: 5 minutes
4. Report on Cancellation of 2020 Show Me Float (John, Ben) 5 minutes
5. Update on CWCB Grant Status (Tamara) 20 minutes
 - a. Receipt/acceptance of grant report of 5/19 by CWCB
 - b. Tasks to complete
 1. Update on Education and Outreach with Youth, biocontrol plans and constraints
 2. Timeline for completion of tasks
 - c. Upcoming events:
 1. Collection of leafy spurge beetles
 2. Monitoring of Test Plots (Hannah Kuhns)
 3. Satellite sensing of leafy spurge (Chloe Mattili)
6. Report on 2020/2021 Permission Forms (John, Pete) 10 minutes
 - a. Leafy spurge mapping
 - b. Test sites monitoring
7. Status for Preparation for Leafy Spurge Infestation Mapping 2020 (Pete) (15)
 - a. Possible timeline/River flows
 - b. Organization/Volunteers for mapping from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt.
8. Update West of Hayden Leafy Spurge Monitoring (Ben, Tyler, Baili, Tiffany) 15 minutes
 - a. Approval of \$2210 by Routt County Commissioners
 - b. Proposed Monitoring Plan
 1. Premonitoring meeting
 2. Monitoring protocols
 3. Monitoring timeline
9. Update on FOTY Donations Account (Lindsey) 5 minutes

10. 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

11. Other 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 12th at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Zoom Hosted by Prof Dan Tekiela, University of WY

Final Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Lindsey Marlow, The Friends of the Yampa
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

Guests and Interested Parties:

John Kaltenbach, CO Dept of Agriculture
Barry Castagnasso, Routt County Citizen

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:10. He reported that John Husband will be absent because he and his wife were preoccupied. The roof on his house had been destroyed by one of the thunderstorms about 10 days ago.

He thanked Dan Tekiela and the University of WY for hosting the meeting on Zoom. He asked Dan to present the rules for the Zoom video meeting. Dan welcomed everyone and said the he would be the gatekeeper. 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. He asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

First Discussion: Report on the Cancellation on the 2020 Show Me Float.

Ben reported that he and John, who has done most of the organizing of the past Show Me Floats, had talked over the last couple months about the possibility of cancelling the

Show Me Float due to the coronavirus. In the end it became obvious that it just wasn't responsible to hold the 2020 Show Me Float for 20 to 25 participants. It is a shame that we have had to cancel two Show Me Floats in a row. Ben stated that there were about 10 individuals interested in participating: Craig Godbout, CWCB, who was a participant on the canceled 2019 Float and members of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable Integrated Water Management Plan Committee headed by Nicole Seltzer.

Ben had sent out an email to the YRLSP email lists announcing the cancellation.

Ben thought that the Show Me Floats had been a good PR event for the YRLSP and hoped that another one would be organized for 2021.

Second Discussion: Update on the CWCB Grant Status

Tamara Naumann stated that she had submitted the third 6th month report on May 19th. There had been no questions from CWCB.

Tamara reported that due to coronavirus restrictions, which limit the meeting of the Boys and Girls Club kids to 5 individuals, the Education and Outreach part of the grant would have to be postponed. She has contacted Craig Godbout, CWCB, to see if the YRLSP can get an extension for this part of the Grant. Craig is sending a request form. He doesn't see any problem. With the extension, the Grant expenditures would be extended to December 31, 2021.

Tamara doesn't see this extension affecting the expenditure of the County funds.

The mapping part of the Grant will be completed this summer. John Husband has been working on the access Permission Forms and he probably will be able to get a few more. The mapping will start on June 23rd with Pete Williams and Ben with a couple of volunteers.

The Beetle Collection trip to the Front Range will work with John Kaltenbach, CDA, in the collection and sorting. Tamara has constructed two sorting towers. This trip will take place next week with releases probably on Earle's and/or BLM properties in Routt County and eastern Moffat County.

John Kaltenbach said that his office is still closed to visitors but that we shouldn't have a problem with the beetle sorting. There is a big open area for the sorting for social distancing.

Tamara anticipated that we will need some tables for the sorting. She asked John if we need to bring some. She will bring a large cooler. She thought that we could do some sorting in the field on Tuesday. John thought we should meet at 8:00am and then we would go to the old Lowry Range and/or the Cherry Creek State Park.

The CPW bug purchase and releases have been delayed to July.

Tamara asked Dan to give an update on the University of Wy parts of the Grant. Dan reported that Hannah Kuhns is still planning on travel to complete her monitoring and analyze the four Integrated Management sites, even though there are still some travel restrictions. Chloe Mattilio has purchased all the imagery that she needs which cost less than anticipated.

Tamara pointed out that in the most recent invoice reimbursed by CWCB that there was no invoice from the U WY for the imagery. This is a significant part of the Grant expenses. Dan didn't see a problem since this was a recent expense and he will work with the accountants at U Wy to get this invoice so that they can be forwarded to FOTY and CWCB for payment.

Task 1: Tamara to complete the request for an extension to the CWCB Grant due to the coronavirus.

Task 2: Tamara, Dan, and FOTY will work to get the satellite imagery invoice straightened out.

Third Discussion: Permission Forms and Leafy Spurge Infestation Mapping

Pete said that he would follow up with John to see if he has more Permission Forms. Right now we need Forms from BLM and TriState. He doesn't see a problem. With BLM and TriState the YRLSP will have 100% of the Landowner Permission Forms for access between Duffy Mt. and Juniper. Below Juniper to Sunbeam we only have about 50% and below Sunbeam to Cross Mt. we only have $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Forms. Pete said that from looking at the river photos he doesn't see much of a problem if we don't get all the Permission Forms. We will still be able to map effectively from the river.

The mapping will start on Tuesday June 23rd and Wednesday 24th from Duffy Mt. to Sunbeam. After that Pete sees either a single day or two day trips to Cross Mt. The river gauge at Maybell says that the river is running at 5,000 cfs. Pete doesn't see a problem in running the Maybell Diversion in the next couple weeks.

After Cross Mt. there is only one river reach above Dinosaur Nat Monument. Pete thought that this would be easy to complete this summer.

Tamara said that we need Permission Forms from CPW to map their river access and launch sites. She suggested that Ben with his relationship with Jacob Dewhirst, Director Yampa River State Park, should see if he can get Jacob to complete a Form similar to the Form given for last summer's mapping.

Pete wondered if we had all the Permissions for Hannah's integrated management sites. John has said that he has verbal permission on the Wagner site.

Jesse Schroeder said that he had talked to Jay Wagner and Peroulis and that they were both fine with Hannah monitoring the sites. He also said that Moffat County is good with working again on the County site west of Loudy Simpson.

Dan suggested that Jessie should call a week or so in advance of Hannah's monitoring so as to make sure that everything is fine.

Task 3: Pete to follow up with John to see if he has received more Permission Forms.

Task 4: Tamara to work with TriState and BLM to make sure that the YRLSP has permission to access their properties.

Task 5: Ben to be in touch with Jacob Dewhirst to obtain permission to access CPW river access and launch sites from Duffy Mt to and including Cross Mt.

Task 6: Dan and Hannah should contact Jessie a couple weeks before they are planning on visiting the Integrated Management sites.

Task 7: Jesse to touch base with the owners of the four Integrated Management sites a week or so before Hannah's monitoring trip to make sure of access permissions.

Fourth Discussion: Update West of Hayden Monitoring

Ben updated the Group on what has taken place since the April meeting. He has sent out multiple emails to the West of Hayden Committee which includes Tiffany Carlson, Baili Foster, Tyler Jacox, Todd Hagenbuch, Barry Castagnasso, and Don Stinton. Since the last meeting, the Routt County Commissioners have approved spending of \$2210 from the RC Range Improvement Fund as recommended by the RC Weed Board. These funds were for the time and materials that Don and Barry said would be necessary for their participation in the monitoring.

Ben related that it had been difficult to contact Barry and Don. He did talk to Don on the phone. Don was interested in assisting but was not interested in a pre-planning meeting. Don had said that he would be able to tell what it looked like before the treatments and what affect the treatments had. Don thought that the later part of June would be the best for monitoring. Barry was interested in assisting and was participating in the meeting today. Barry was enthusiastic about the project.

Ben said that his main concerns were regarding the limited information that was available. He had sent to the Committee what information was available that Tiffany had found in the RC Weed Program files which contained Don's treatment reports. Also, he sent out a map put together by Pete which showed photos taken by Barry. Barry said

that these photos were of the treatment sites. However, on Pete's map most of these photos appear to be river photos taken on the 2018 Show Me Float. In addition, Ben said that Pete's shaded areas (supposedly of the 115 acres +/- of treated areas), which were taken from a map drawn by Stinton and given to Routt County, did not seem accurate.

He stated that after today's discussion that the Group should make a decision on whether to move forward with the Project.

Pete pointed out that he had sent out three maps for the photos obtained from Jesse's Map It Fast files at MC Weed and Pest. There were two of Barry's photos from the 2018 Show Me Float and one of seven photos upstream of Dorsey. None of these looked like they corresponded with the West of Hayden treated areas marked on Don Stinton's map.

Barry said that he had given Tyler some other photos from his computer that were uploaded from the Map It Fast mapping app.

Tyler didn't think these photos were that valuable, and that they were actually the same photos recorded on Pete's maps.

Barry said that there were additional treatment areas not included on Pete's maps, and that he thought that it would be important that we monitor these treatment areas. He said that he had been involved with two years of the treatments and had seen a lot of changes in the leafy spurge over the three years relative to other not treated areas. He said that there is a lot to learn from these treatments. He even referenced a 1 acre CPW test site that had been treated for 10 years and was now grass.

Baili said that in her monitoring experience there should be more than just photo points on a map. It is important to know what the coverage is and what other species are present. She is interested in a quantitative analysis, i.e. 20% reduction in coverage. She would like to have access to the photos.

Tyler was concerned that some of the information was anecdotal and not of the treatment areas.

Tiffany said that the treatment area needs to be defined. Barry said that the majority of the treated area was on the south side of the river on the old Frentress Ranch, now J Quarter Circle and SLB property.

Tiffany asked Barry if the same areas were treated in all three years. Barry said yes.

Tiffany said that the RC Commissioners approved the monitoring funds because they wanted to know what would be effective treatments. Baili wondered what kind of report was needed. Tiffany thought that any monitoring would be appreciated to understand the effectiveness of the \$30,000 expenditure.

Barry said that there is a lot that can be learned from the treatments which would be beneficial to landowners, for example: the timing of the treatments is important and differs from what CDA is recommending.

Tyler thought that the first thing that needed to be done was that Don and Barry need to designate what actually was sprayed. Tyler volunteered to make copies of Pete's maps and sit down with Barry so that he could delineate the treated areas.

Ben brought the discussion to a close and stated that after they all receive a map with the treated areas that he would reach out to the Committee to see what the next steps were.

Task 8: Tyler to meet with Barry to designated areas treated on Pete's map.

Task 9: After there is a map of the areas in West of Hayden that were treated Ben will reach out to the West of Hayden Committee to see what the next steps are.

Fifth Discussion: Update on FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account

Lindsey Marlow reported that there had been no new donations since the April meeting. Greg Henion's spread sheet of April 1, 2020 with Rob McCarthy's donation is the corrected sheet. The account balance is \$1,305.21.

Sixth Discussion: Partner Plans and Updates

1. Routt County Weed Program: Tiffany said that there was nothing new to report regarding leafy spurge.
2. Moffat County Weed and Pest: Jesse reported that around July 15th that Moffat County would be contracting for spraying on leafy spurge.
3. Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Tyler said that sometime in July that they would be receiving leafy spurge beetles from Montana to place on the YRSWA.
4. BLM: Tamara said that she had talked to Chris Rhyne, who said that she was finishing up the necessary NEPA compliance forms for biocontrol. Chris would like to release leafy spurge beetles on Tepee Draw.
5. CO State Land Board: Tamara said that she is working with Jerod Smith to complete the permission/access form necessary for mapping for the CWCB Grant work this summer.
6. NRCS: Baili reported that the Technical Committee of the Yampa River Water Fund had recommended that the Stetson Property not receive funds to treat the leafy spurge infestation. At the Committee meeting there were questions regarding why there wasn't

a letter of support from the YRLSP. Baili and Lindsey thought that it was a shame that it didn't get funded. Lindsey said that there had been a lack of communication with the Water Fund. However the current Stetson Ranch Manager understood the importance of treating this infestation just above Stagecoach Reservoir and adjacent to the Yampa River.

7. Dinosaur National Monument: Tamara said that she had had conversations with Emily Spencer, and that Emily had completed the NEPA forms to be able to release beetles for biocontrol in DNM. There will be at least one volunteer leafy spurge pulling trip in the next few weeks, which will also be looking to see if there are any beetles that have migrated on their own into DNM.

8. Friends of the Yampa: Lindsey reported that this year is the first year that FOTY had funded a Volunteer Coordinator for DNM. This coordinator assists in making sure that there are volunteers for all the work and research trips in DNM, i.e. leafy spurge and bighorn sheep research.

9. Routt County CSU Extension: Todd Hagenbuch reported that, unless CSU changes their rules regarding Covid-19 meeting/social distancing requirements, it will be difficult for the Master Gardeners to work with Tamara regarding monitoring the leafy spurge beetle release sites and the kids event.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 12th at the Carpenter Ranch

Meeting Adjourned: 11:55