



Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Division

Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

June 4th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

In-person/Virtual Hybrid Meeting

305 Interlocken Parkway Broomfield, CO 80021/ 9:00 AM/Rio Grande Conference Room

Attendees

Committee members (in-person):

Brian Berg – Municipal Official
Dan Tekiela - Federal Weed Manager
J. Paul Brown – Ag Producer
Jim Alexander - Conservation Organization
Kallie Rand – County Official
Ken Howlett - CDOT (non-voting)
Lucas Casias - County Weed Manager
Luke Wheeler - At-large
Mary Fabisiak - Private Landowner
Nathan Troudt – Ag Producer

Committee members (online)

Rachel Seedorf - Weed Scientist

CDA Staff: Patty York, Emily McGrath, Emily Gilbert, Les Owen, John Kaltenbach

9:00 Welcome, housekeeping, and Agenda review (Patty)

9:05 Review and accept minutes from November's minutes (Patty)

Approved with no edits.



9:15 CDA Staff Updates (CDA Staff)

Division Update (Les)

- Biggest news is that CDA has hired a Manager for the Non-lethal Wolf Conflict Reduction Program and is housed in the Animal Health Division at CDA.
- CDA has created a new division “Division of Animal Welfare”, where the “Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act (PACFA) will be housed.
- HB24-1249 passed, this bill introduces a state income tax credit for individuals and businesses engaged in active agricultural stewardship practices. What everyone is trying to figure out is what is the definition of “good stewardship practices”.
- Noxious Weed Bill 24-031: Concerns local authority enforcing violations of the Noxious Weed Act. The minimum fine has been set at \$500, (where there was no minimum before), and maximum fine is \$1000.

9:30 Rocky Flats: Rocky Flats Site, Superior, CO 80027

The Noxious Weed Advisory Committee visited the Rocky Flats Site to tour and learn more about Legacy Management's (LM) restoration efforts in the natural landscape of the former nuclear weapons plant. During the visit, the Committee was informed about the management of current noxious weeds at the site, including the use of biocontrol methods. We also learned about the challenges LM has faced over the past 19 years since the site's closure and the erosion control methods implemented.

12:00 Return to CDA

12:30 Lunch

1:00 Biocontrol Update (John Kaltenbach)

The Palisade Insectary started in the year 1945 and was originally started for the management of the peach moth. Over the years we (the Insectary) have worked with 89 agents, and we are currently working with 23 biocontrol agents for 15 weed species.

Our mission is to provide agents through the Request-a-Bug program where we only ship to Colorado residents unless it's an out of state agency that has a USDA permit. We're best described as a partner in pest management.

Pros:

- Effective



- Sustainable
- Affordable
- Environmentally benign

Cons

- Slow acting
- Hard to get agents selected/approved
- Doesn't work 100% of the time
- High initial investment
- Irreversible once established

Currently we have agents for:

- Canada thistle: *Puccinia punctiformis*, Rust Fungus (pending with EPA)
- Dalmatian toadflax: *Mecinus janthiniformis*, Stem Weevil
- Diffuse & Spotted Knapweed:
 - *Larinus minutus*, Lesser Knapweed Flower Weevil
 - *Cyphocleonus achates*, Knapweed Root Weevil
- Russian knapweed:
 - *Aulacidea acroptilonica*, gall wasp
 - *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, gall midge
- Field Bindweed: *Aceria malherbae*, Gall Mite
- Leafy Spurge:
 - *Aphthona spp*, flea beetle
 - *Oberea erythrocephala*, longhorned beetle
- Musk thistle: *Trichosirocalus horridus*, Rosette Weevil
- Puncturevine:
 - *Microlarinus lareynii*, Seed Weevil
 - *Microlarinus lypriformis*, Stem Weevil
- Tamarisk: *Diorhabda carinulata*, Northern tamarisk leaf beetle
- Yellow toadflax: *Mecinus janthinus*, Stem Weevil

There are a handful of new agents in the pipeline including ones for Russian thistle, Russian olive, and flowering rush (but Flowering rush is list A in CO so it won't be used for managing).



1:45 Newsletter Walkthrough and Survey Ideas (Emily G.)

Overview: The first newsletter came out in May of 2022 because the Noxious Weed team was getting frequent inquiries, so it made sense to create and distribute a newsletter. The state pays for the program Constant Contact where the Noxious Weed and many other CDA program's newsletters are created.

- A brief intro/salutation followed by a list of each section included in the newsletter.
- CDA news, or other highlights: for example, the NWAC meetings, or introduction to new EDRR field crew employees.
- Conferences/events: Provides details about any conservation related events around Colorado. I include the name, date, time and location of the event and a brief description of it.
- Get Involved: This section includes ways to be involved in the noxious weed/conservation community that doesn't have a specific date and time. Examples include funding opportunities and requests for proposals.
- Articles: This is where I provide links to conservation/noxious weed related articles, including articles by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and US Forest Service.
- Job announcement: This is where I provide the link to the Google Document where Colorado conservation job opportunities are listed.
- Help spread the news: Here is the link to sign up for the Noxious Weed and other CDA newsletters.

Survey ideas suggestion

2:10 Chemical Recommendations Conversation (Patty York)

Overview:

There is a part in the Rule that states that CDA must provide recommendations for each of our listed species according to their management strategies. As we update our Fact Sheets for accessibility reasons, the CDA attorney informed us that we need to take off all chemical brand names and would like us to only list the active ingredient of the chemical.

We want to find a middle ground of providing the necessary information to both landowners and weed managers, as the Rule says we should.



Discussion key points:

- Integrated Weed Management: most of our species can be treated mechanically, but it's important to note that for some species, mechanical treatment isn't the best option and chemical treatment would be more effective. We'd like to make it clear that for some species, mechanical treatment isn't feasible.
- Are the Fact Sheets directed toward homeowners or weed managers?
- Each reader requires a different level of information.
- Are the readers licensed applicators, should we list restricted pesticides?
- What is the importance of providing application rates?
- What is the importance of providing timing of treatment? ("actively growing" is relative to where people are in the state, so it is likely the most relevant timing to use on a general document.) Should the Fact Sheets itself indicate active months, for example "Actively growing May through June"?
- What is the importance of providing Mode of Actions? Weed managers may find this helpful while homeowners may not.
- Would it suffice to provide links to the CSU Extension website so they can provide further information?

Solutions ideas

- List only active ingredients.
- Do not list rates, instead direct them to the label (the label is the law), or direct to CSU Extension for specific recommendations.
- Do not list the timing of application, instead provide CSU Extension link.
- Provide a general statement on each Fact Sheet stating that all the recommendations on the Fact sheet are general, and for more site-specific information they should contact their CSU Extension Agent.
- The goal is to have a facilitator direct each person in the right direction.

We don't want to completely dismiss chemical recommendations on our website, or simply tell people to contact another agency.



2:30 Committee Roundtable

- Brian B: We are working on an ordinance to make right-of-ways part of landowner's responsibilities.
- Dan: Dashboard! I am co-chair of Western Coordinating Committee who came up with the idea of a dashboard to consolidate all activities that are federally funded. It's live, and Colorado is spearheading the states at getting all their data in. The Forest Service at a national level is really interested in this dashboard idea and funding might increase.
- Jim: Summit County is having another annual Weed Day, and a couple follow-up events as well. I will also be attending the Plant Assessment Form Sub-Committee meeting and go through running species through AI.
- Luke: Will also be attending the Sub-Committee meeting.
- Lucas:
 - CWMA:
 - The booklets are in the printing process of the 15th edition, and they should be available this year.
 - CWMA board member terms are changing, so I will be stepping down and my spot will be open in December.
 - Costilla County:
 - I was able to rehire my previous seasonals from last year.
 - We are partnering with the Conservancy District to do noxious weed watershed assessment and wildfire protection plans.
- Mary: Can the committee send a thank-you letter to the Rocky Flats employees who gave us the tour? (Yes).
- Kallie: Appreciate the grants, the America the Beautiful grant has been a nice set up, as now we are working directly with the watersheds.
- Ken: CDOT has lost a lot of people on the northwest and west side of Colorado to retirement, the NW area currently has no applicators, and we are relying on IGA's/contracting.
- Nathan: We are still fighting Canada thistle in Morgan County, but we are making progress.



3:20: Next Meeting Dates Ideas

Next meeting will be the 2-day trip. We need ideas on where we want to go.

Ideas include:

- Eagle County,
- Insectary,
- Rafting in Craig on Yampa,
- Camp Hale became a National Monument, (work being done by Eagle River Coalition, but still in progress),
- Copper Mountain has native seed gathering program, possibly in September.

3:30 Adjourn