

CWMA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at the San Miguel Mexican Restaurant, Frisco, CO

Call to Order:

The regular quarterly meeting of the Colorado Weed Management Association (CMWA) was called to order at 11:22 am, Wednesday, October 15, 2008 in the in San Miguel Restaurant, Frisco, Colorado. The presiding officer was Steve Anthony. A quorum was present, including the following:

Steve Anthony, Stephen Elzinga, Sheila Grother, Judy Noel, J R Phillips, Jonathan Rife, Cathy Shelton, Elizabeth Brown, Fred Raish (ex officio), Kelly Uhing, (ex officio), and Donna Ralston, Exec. Director.

Absent: Kevin Gallagher & Crystal Andrews

Others present:

Mike Wilkinson, Lisa Taylor and guest Ben Pleimann.

Reading, correction and approval of minutes:

7/30/08 BOD minutes from Glenwood Springs –**Cathy Shelton moved and J. R. Phillips seconded a motion to accept the minutes. Passed.**

Correspondence:

A letter was shared that was written by Steven Anthony to George Beck endorsing an Invasive Weed Master Program.

A letter was written in support of El Paso County's weed program that was in danger of being cut from their county budget-Kelly Uhing reported that they kept the program for at least 2009.

Officer's Report:

Committee packets including minutes from July BOD meeting and committee reports, financials, budget update were distributed electronically prior to the meeting to all attending.

President's report:

Native Plant Master's Program---Steve Anthony reported that he had asked Laura Potts to chair this new program.

New Lobbyist for CWMA-A proposal will be presented to set aside some funds that may later be used for hiring a lobbyist to work on state legislative issues.

Executive Director's Report: Donna Ralston

Printed report was handed out.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Stephen Elzinga

The financial statements for September 08 were distributed-since Donna had to re-create the year start-end dates of the computer system beginning in July, it is not possible to give comparative reports using 2007 data. A Balance Sheet showing all assets and an Income/Expense comparing to the budget were distributed. New ING Direct accounts were established for three titles: permanent reserve, book reserve and a savings account that can easily have funds transferred to the checking account. Two Permanent Association reserve CD's are still to mature on 3/9/09 for \$15,235.77 plus interest and on 2/14/09 for \$7739.09 plus interest. These reports were filed.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Col. Dept. of Ag—Kelly Uhing

- Funding
 - CO Water Conservation Board (CWCB) tamarisk and Russian-olive control cost-share grant
 - \$1M
 - RFP early December 08
 - Projects awarded late-January 09
 - Cap of \$200K/project
 - \$100K set aside for research and admin
 - Other state agencies and fed's cannot apply
 - EQIP – new for 2009
 - Russian-olive and tamarisk can be applied for funding when managing separately
 - African rue, sulfur cinquefoil, and Russian knapweed added to prioritized list of species eligible for funding
 - RFP December 08. deadline Jan 31, 2009
 - State and Private Forestry
 - Redesign potentially terminated, SPF should be secure through 2010 – nice addition to state weed fund
 - Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)
 - Potential funding through BoR's Water for America program to go towards management of tamarisk, Russian-olive, and phragmites along riparian areas. CDA is a member of the Platte River Partnership which will submit a RFP and allow CO to take a majority of the first year's funds if the proposal is awarded.
 - If Congress approves President's budget request, \$39M will be available for this program.
 - This is an alternative to the Salt Cedar Russian-olive Control and Demonstration Act (SCROCD) under which the Bureau was to provide \$20M in 2006, and \$15M for each year to go towards salt cedar and Russian-olive projects. Not a reliable funding source.
 - BoR is placing high priority on ANS issues and will be taking funding from tamarisk projects to put towards ANS.
 - Congress may remove BoR as the lead federal agency for tamarisk and place it under a land management agency
 - State Weed Fund
 - Hiring and projects freeze declared by Gov. Ritter until end of October 2008 for cash-funded projects and the end of January 2009 for general fund.
 - The weed fund and List A and B positions will be coming out of the cash fund. CDA still on schedule.
 - Weed fund will probably be in the amount of \$150K for 2009 projects. RFP's should go out early 2009, proposals awarded spring 2009. This will be on a reimbursement basis, similar to that of State and Private Forestry.
 - 2009 State Weed Management Plans
 - Eurasian watermilfoil, hoary cress, Russian knapweed, and sulfur cinquefoil are scheduled for management plans.
 - Crystal will send out quarter quad surveys to all counties this fall
 - Russian knapweed biocontrol
 - Talking with APHIS as to when the Russian knapweed gall wasp will become available to the public for release. So far, 2010 is the projected year, but the CDA Insectary will seek a permit to conduct experimental releases in CO in 2009

- Yellow starthistle
 - New sightings reported
 - Beulah (Pueblo Cnty) – approximately 40 acres but still eradicable.
 - BOCC sent out ‘alerts’ to all residents in the area and have received numerous responses
 - Paonia (Delta Cnty) – approximately 60 acres on private property. Included in hay that was sold for past three years. Aerial herbicide applications took place this year by Webb Callicut (Delta Cnty Weed Mgr)
- African rue
 - Coordinated large-scale mapping effort in areas adjacent to infestations south of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. This was an effort to determine if A. rue has reached the Purgatoire River.
 - An estimated 300 acres have been infested in Las Animas County.

Healthy Habitats-This proposal to hire a full time lobbyist for national issues wants to raise \$100,000 from several sources: business partners, associations, volunteers groups to make a year round effort working on weeds. Tim Richardson, lobbyist, is being considered and money is needed ASAP. This is tied to NIWAW and Wildlife Forever for a national emphasis. Questions were raised about how much non-profits can give toward lobby activities without putting the 501C status at risk. If we continue to pursue our own state wide lobbyist, and the Wash. DC trips and this initiative, we may be approaching the upper limit of what’s allowed. A decision will be made in Nov. Donating to Wildlife Forever which is a non-profit may not count toward our allowable limit.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws Changes- Fred Raish

A draft of the changes was distributed to include the term Invasive Plants instead of Noxious Weeds in the mission statement, the election section was streamlined and the annual meeting rotation in 3 general areas of the state every 3 years. **Sheila Grother moved and JR Phillips seconded a motion to accept the proposed changes. Further discussion about the election timelines resulted in Elizabeth Brown moving and Stephen Elzinga seconding an amendment to the above motion to indicate the ballots would be sent out 30 days prior to the annual meeting and were due postmarked 10 days prior to the annual meeting to allow time for mail delivery and counting prior to the annual meeting. The Amendment passed. And the Motion Passed.** These new bylaw changes will be sent to the members only and posted on the web.

Board Policies-Elizabeth Brown

These proposed policies were distributed at the end of the July meeting and via internet and after some discussion, the item 4.3 was changed to the “committee chair” approving invoices that need to be paid (instead of the Secretary-Treasurer), and the number of issues of the newsletter from 4 to “3 or 4” and that it should continue to be printed and mailed as well as posted on the internet. The ballot issue dates for elections was also added per the by-laws for the ballots to be mailed 30 days prior to the annual meeting and postmarked 10 days prior to the annual meeting to allow for mailing and counting. With these changes, **Elizabeth Brown moved and Jonathan Rife seconded a motion to accept these new board policies. Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Native Plant Masters-Sтивен Anthony

This new program will be chaired by Laura Potts from Extension and is supported by many organizations including the Native Plant society. Classes will be taught in several locations around the state. They are asking for 500 Weed books to be made available and \$1000 for

database/administrative operations. **Elizabeth Brown moved and JR Phillips seconded a motion to support this. Passed.**

State Legislative Liaison-Fred Raish

A proposal was presented to take the next 6 months to develop a plan & establish priorities for weed support statewide. He asked for \$30,000 to be set aside in a special savings account to hire a lobbyist to increase the weed awareness level at the capital. CCWSA has been asked to also help out on this financially. Kansas has received more money from State & Feds for “weed management areas” due to their hiring a lobbyist to focus on weeds. More involvement of the whole legislative committee is needed and some confirmation of the amount of funds a nonprofit organization can spend on direct and non-direct lobbying activities without jeopardizing the non-profit status is needed. Dues notices also need to reflect what % of dues they pay is non-deductible as supporting lobbying activity. **Stephen Elzinga moved and Jonathan Rife seconded a motion to open an addition ING Direct savings account for \$30,000 to be held for this purpose when a fully executable plan is ready. Passed with one “no” vote.**

Weed Spotter form-Kelly Uhing

There are two forms being used to report weeds to the CDA causing some confusion—one prepared by Jefferson County and one by CDA. After discussion of the differences, **Stephen Elzinga moved and Cathy Shelton seconded a motion to only post the CDA form on the website. Passed with one “no” vote.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conference- Elizabeth Brown

The theme is to be “New Places and New Faces”. The Sheraton West Hotel on 6th & Simms in Lakewood has 84 room reservations so far with the deadline Oct. 19 for the room block. There are 8 vendors and 63 attendees so far. The agenda has been mailed to everyone (2000 from the CDA mailing list and about 1000 from the CWMA mailing list). New Mexico wanted to offer CEU credits so Elizabeth was asked to send them the necessary speaker bio’s and class descriptions to approve for credits. The Casino night is scheduled on **Wednesday**.

Professional Applicator

Mike Wilkinson

The 2nd joint CWMA & CALCP Field Day event was held Sept. 4 at Chatfield Reservoir. 11 sponsors financed the event and fees were \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members with no returned checks. 6 credits from CDA were granted and 83 people attended. Postcard announcements were mailed to both groups. Profits of approximately \$1000 will be split with CALCP. A 3rd event is being planned for 2009. With new products coming on to the market, the private applicator is being asked to take on more risk—the special Dow Agri special training to use their products has been removed as a requirement.

Nominations/Awards

Lisa Taylor

The nomination for awards info was mailed and the committee has met to select the winners. The election ballots are being prepared to mail and will go out Friday, Oct. 17 and due back Nov. 18

Education: Crystal Andrews & James Johnson

A written report was sent ahead of time and included the following topics:

- Russian Olive booklet should be ready soon.
- Day Planner—the proto type was presented with two different covers available—it was decided that we liked the glossy cover best that would bring the production cost to about \$13.06 each. Layout would also cost \$221. So it was decided to sell these at the conference for \$15.00.
- Horse Brochure-Donna has about 200 left.

Executive/Finance Steve Anthony

Intern/Scholarship Jude Sirota

A letter from CU showing they received the scholarship money for Sarah Wagner was passed.

Internet Alicia Doran

Many hits continue to occur daily. The Weed Professional Applicators list has been updated. Could increase the scope of membership by indicating “private homeowners, interested citizens” to the audience.

Legislative Fred Raish

The National Park Service bill passed allowing them to go on to adjacent property to work on weed solutions. The fate of Salt Cedar Russian Olive Demo Act is in limbo. National Invasive Weed Awareness Week is also having conference calls debating/deliberating on how it will be set up and operated.

Marketing J.R. Phillips

This committee will meet this winter.

Newsletter Tina Booton

The 3rd issue for 2008 was mailed on Tuesday and should be arriving in mailboxes any day. Tina Booton has resigned and a new editor is being sought. Per discussion about the Policies and Procedures earlier there will be 3 or 4 issues per year. Everyone was reminded that a volunteer could only chair one committee. It was again suggested that a graphics person be hired to prepare the newsletters after the editor collects the material.

Ornamental Committee Judy Noel

There are 670 of the 2009 Calendars left and they will be offered for sale at the conference for \$5.00 each. There are enough being held in reserve to send to all 2008 members in December as a thank you with their 2009 dues renewal notices. A few will be used at the bookstore at ProGreen Expo as an incentive for purchasing books. Input is requested on the project to make improvements for 2010 version.

Look-A-Likes will have 17 groups and be a web-based brochure-progress is speeding up and the same info will be used for the 2010 calendar.

Special Projects Cathy Shelton

Project proposal form is ready to be posted on the website. This form does not necessarily limit a committee from proposing a new project mid-year.

Weed Book-Can folks prepay for the new 10th edition of the weed book-Donna indicated that this would be possible-it just means extra accounting and bookkeeping to track orders til the new books are printed and ready to ship...a meeting is scheduled on Oct. 28 on the new book.

P4C-some reimbursement checks are just being paid for events held in 2008.

Spring Training School Kevin Gallagher

Kevin announced that the committee has met and prepared a preliminary proposal/agenda for April 7, 8 & 9, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel in Ft. Collins. He suggested that \$40 gift certificates be given to all speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.