

Wasatch County Weed Board Minutes
Administration Building, 25 N. Main, Room 100
Heber City, Utah 84032

APPROVED
11-15-2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Topic	Discussion
Attendance	✓ Laurie Backus—Weed Board Chairman ✓ Steve Farrell—County Council Weed Board Chairman ✓ Quintin Lewis—Weed Dept. Head ✓ Eric Bunker—Weed Board ✓ George Muir—Weed Board ✓ Steve Smith—Weed Board ✓ Wesley Crump- USU Extension ✓ Amanda Simpson—Wasatch County Public Works Office
Welcome and Review of Minutes	The July 12, 2023 Minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Steve Smith, seconded by George Muir.
Weed Grant Updates from Quintin Lewis	<u>Title II \$13,407 (2022-2023)</u> We billed the Forest and received final payment of \$8,880. <u>Leafy spurge and other invasive \$9,800 (2023)</u> We finished the project and processed the bill, now just waiting on payment to come in. <u>Forest Contract \$22,000 (2026)</u> The contract has been signed and we will start on this project next year.
Updates on CWMA from Quintin Lewis	We have a new Public Works Director Terry Ekker, he started the first of August, a new worker, Kort McMillan, who started September 11th and had interviews yesterday for one more worker for the Weed Department. <u>USFS Invasive Plan, Pesticide Use Coordinator Tour</u> The Weed Supervisor Association put a tour together for regional managers for the Forest Service to show how we are spending Forest Service money, utilizing the Weed Supervisor Grant process. They wanted our Dutch Hollow project to be a part of the tour. Quintin and employees put some boards together of before and after progress pictures. Dutch Hollow is one of the longer going projects, and when the poster was brought out that shows the root system of Leafy Spurge, it helped everyone to realize what is actually being fought and how long it takes to gain control over it. They are impressed with how well our State works together county to county and with the CWMA to get projects completed, and they want to use Utah as an example for other states. It was good to show off this project and have such a good response on it, as they give Utah a lot of money for these projects. <u>Equipment and Chemical hand out</u> We have a new secretary, Nancee Farrer, she started in July and has been helping out with the CWMA and Landowner Project. The count, to date, is as follows:

	Acres treated - 8,465 Hours turned in - 665 2-4,D - 339 gallons Milestone - 50 quarts Duracor - 11 quarts Trailer – 373 days Backpack – 211 days The trailers have been put away for the year due to freezing temperatures, but backpacks are still available. <u>Seeding project at Dutch Hollow and Cascade Springs</u> We went and put seed out in September on the burn area in Dutch Hollow. This has already been seeded but it needed spot treated on the places that had been sprayed. There was a lot of spraying at Cascade Springs for thistle, so it needed reseeded on those areas. <u>How is Biocontrol working in Wasatch County?</u> Quintin met with Amber Mendenhall on the 27th of September to look at Canada thistle and Knapweed sites to see Biocontrol progress. Bugs were found at Rock Cliff, Bench creek, and Wolf Creek pass. There was a spot off Old Hwy 40 with a big patch of Canada thistle and bugs were found in the very first plant that was cut in to. This was a good indication showing how the bugs are doing well in Wasatch County. There was only a single Gall found on Old highway 40. Considering how these are put out every year we could tell the shade-less areas really affected them. At Fisherman Parking lot, a highly shaded area, the plants had 5 to 6 Galls on them. This site has only had biocontrol on it a few years, so that was good to see. <u>November 9th will hold our annual summit & Wasatch County CEU Training from 9:00 to 3:00</u> We are just waiting on Henry with the UDAF to see what CEU's can be received from attending this training. Once this information is available we will get an email out so that everyone can get signed up. We have done this for a few years now and would like to keep it going. <u>2024 Calendar</u> An order of 400 calendars was put in to Castleland. This is the same quantity that has been ordered in past years.
Follow Ups from Last Meeting	None

Committee Concerns, Updates and Issues	Eric Bunker asked if Quintin and Amber looked at the Yellowstar thistle. Quintin said no, as it would have required a four wheeler to get to that site, but last year they did see bugs when they sprayed last year, and that was after not releasing any bio-control there for about 4 years. Wesley Crump had a question about drone usage for mapping, if that was something that has ever been done here before or done by other counties. He met with a drone specialist who was looking for collaborations and talked about mapping with the drones. Quintin said that we have never used drones. He said that Sarah Jo does a lot of mapping, but did not know if she used them either. Quintin commented on how drones could hit a lot of hard to get to sites. It was discussed with Sarah and she talked to Aaron regarding ISM money on the Yellow Star Thistle, because it is so high risk, to get to maybe a drone to do for spraying. Laurie stated how that would maybe something they would be more interested in them mapping. Steve Smith reported on coordinating a meeting with the Forest Ranger on Livestock grazing. Steve pursued him last year and he was going to see at the Spring meetings if there was any interest. Steve made up a survey and sent it to the ranger so that he would be able to get out to permittees as an easy way to get feedback from them on interest in it.
Next Meeting / Meeting Adjourned	Next meeting to be scheduled November 15th, 2023. Motion to adjourn was made by Eric Bunker, seconded by Steve Farrell.