

**APPROVED 09/15/25**

**Grand County Noxious Weed Control Board**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**July 14th, 2025 at 16:00**

**182 N 500 W, Moab UT**

**Virtually on Google Meets**

**Members Present**

Tim Higgs, Sena Hauer, Ben Menard, Brian Martinez

**Members Absent**

Jordan Nesbitt

**Others Present**

Elizabeth (Izzi) Weimholt, Maria Rago, Kara Dohrenwend

**1. 16:00 Tim Higgs called the meeting to order**

**2. Approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 5th, 2025**

**Motion to approve** - Ben Menard

**Seconded motion** - Sena Hauer

**Motion passes 4-0**

**3. Citizens or Agencies to be heard**

Kara Dohrenwend, Rim to Rim Restoration (RRR) - Kara gave an update about the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG). RRR has been working on a priority matrix to help with assessing project sites. The cooperative agreement with Grand County Weeds has been fully executed, and a Fuels Reduction Coordinator has been hired (Maria Rago). RRR has also been working on bird habitat considerations and improved mapping with LIDAR.

**4. Old Business**

None

**5. New Business**

**a. Updates and discussion on County Noxious Weed Board by-laws**

The board opened the discussion for the final edits for the proposed revisions to the by-laws, with the intention of voting to approve the changes during the meeting. Tim relayed to the board that he had contacted the County Attorney since the last meeting with the edits that he wanted to make to the board's by-laws. A discussion ensued. Tim then forwarded the email that he had sent to the County Attorney and Commission Liaison Brian Martinez to the rest of the board, and the board then shifted the discussion to finalizing the revisions.

The board moved on to the Supervisor Report before voting, then circled back near the end of the meeting to approve the changes.

The board agreed on the following revisions:

- A review of the State By-laws at the first meeting of each year, and again in the event that the State By-laws change
- A review and approval of the annual report to UDAF prior to submission, and to follow all State guidelines for any additional approval processes
- The County By-laws will reference the State code for board member make-up
- Change all mentions of “County Council” to “County Commission”
- Correct all typos or misspellings

**Motion to approve** - Sena Hauer

**Seconded motion** - Ben Menard

**Motion passes 4-0**

**b. Upcoming Board Vacancies**

There are two upcoming board vacancies, on 12/31/25, for Tim Higgs and Jordan Nesbitt.

Applications are open and the online form can be found [here](#). Brian agreed to advertise the upcoming vacancies at the next County Commission meeting. The board plans to hold interviews at the November meeting.

**c. Weed Supervisor report**

- Izzi coordinated and participated in the annual Middle Colorado River Watershed Cooperative Weed Management (MCRW-CWMA) Purple Loosestrife trip. 16 participants attended from Mesa County Weed and Pest, Grand Junction BLM, Rivers Edge West, and the DNR Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- 21 acres of goatheads treated, including weekly re-visits. Sites include trailheads, boatramps, the bike path from Lions Park to Arches NP, and public sidewalks.
- 2 chemical treatments at the African Rue patch. Population numbers have decreased significantly.
- A new seal kit has been ordered for the water pump leak on the spray truck
- Maria Rago has been hired for the Fuels Reduction Coordinator position. Maria has been with the department for two years, and has worked as both an Invasive Plants Technician and more recently as the Crew Lead. She has four years of wildland firefighting experience, and direct experience working with local project partners such as Rim to Rim Restoration.
- The County has placed a hiring freeze, which has affected the hiring of Isabelle Jones as the new Crew Lead. Isabelle has worked with the department since 2023 as a seasonal and as a full-time Invasive Plants Technician. Until the Crew Lead position can be filled, the department can not support a full crew of grant-funded technicians.

**d. Grant updates**

Izzi submitted all remaining invoices for costs from July 2024 - June 2025 at the end of the State fiscal year on June 30th, for a total of \$121,546.06 over the entire fiscal year. The Department has now started fiscal year 2026 with current funding at \$186,700. These funds are intended to be used for grant-funded wages, equipment maintenance, mileage costs, tool purchases, and personal protective equipment (PPE). The department was awarded the funding based on the costs of operating a full crew of 3-4 seasonal technicians.

**6. Committee Reports**

**7. Discussion of Future Agenda Items**

**a. Items from Staff**

Maria expressed excitement for the Fuels Reduction Coordinator position, and for upcoming projects under the CWDG grant.

**b. Weed Board Members**

Ben Menard suggested that the board circle back to the approval of the by-law revisions.

**Motion to adjourn** - Sena Hauer

**Seconded motion** - Ben Menard

**Motion passes 4-0**

The board re-opened the meeting to reschedule the next meeting, originally scheduled for September 8th, 2025

**Motion to re-open the meeting** - Sena Hauer

**Seconded motion** - Ben Menard

**Motion passes 4-0**

**Motion to reschedule the next meeting for September 15th** - Sena Hauer

**Seconded motion** - Ben Menard

**Motion passes 4-0**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting** - Sena Hauer

**Seconded Motion** - Ben Menard

**Motion passes 4-0**