MINUTES OF WEED BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH 30, 2026 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE WEED OFFICE 757 EAST 1800 NORTH DUCHESNE, UTAH

Present

Weed Department Supervisor Braxton Spencer; Duchesne County Weed Dept. Employee Matt Skewes; Board Members Rodger Ames, Melissa Hughes (via phone), Kim Harding, Ryan Harrison, Jim Young, Commissioner Tracy Killian, and Connie Sweat taking minutes of the meeting.

Welcome

Welcome by Rodger Ames.

Consideration of Minutes From September 29, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Ryan Harrison, second by Melissa Hughes. All in favor.

Review of 2025-26 Winter Projects (Russian Olives)

Supervisor Spencer presented slides of the winter projects. Roughly 250 acres were treated for Russian Olive trees in Tabiona. From Craig Thomas' along Hwy 35 to Hanna. Trees were cut, some burned, others chipped and spread out. Also treated Turnbow's near the cemetery. Needing to find out who leases the Tribal property above the park. This was a BIG success, can control the spread.

The twenty acres in Pleasant Valley (Crook's) was done in November, will retreat again this summer / fall.

Pictures of the slash piles near the Roosevelt Golf Course in the Victory pipeline ROW. Still working on Ioka Lane.

(Kim Harding entered the meeting at 6:12 p.m.)

Review of 2025 Biological Controls

Supervisor Spencer gave an overview of the biological controls / bugs they have been using. Knapweed Root Weevil used for spotted & defuse has an 80% kill rate. They have had 13 releases. Bugs were released in the Rock Creek area along ROWs. This is a high watch area for Spotted Knapweed. The burn scar in Bear Wallow is also a target area.

The Cynipid Gall Wasps used for Russian Knapweed has had 10 releases. As high as 95% was lost to grasshoppers in the Bridgeland and Fruitland areas. They fly and get around, have been seen in the Roosevelt area.

Release sites are shown on maps at https://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/index.cfm. The Weed Dept. has been pinning work areas / release sites. Anything that has been documented can been seen.

Discussion and Consideration of Spring – Summer Schedule

(Because of the unseasonably warm weather everything will be bumped up.)

1. April – May (Short and Tall White Top)
   Job fair at Union High School, noxious weed discussion with students
2. April / May bring on temporary hands, four seasonal for 2026
   Summer sales start April 13th
3. May – July (Thistles, Musk, Canada, Scotch, hounds Tongue, Knap)
   Dedicated Hunter? projects June – July
4. Application deadlines close end of 2025 for Scotch funding (NRCS) for Ioka

area

5. All noxious weeds are scheduled by appointment. Time to seeding decides Priority. Other projects will be pushed back to make sure we don't seed Out White Top or Thistle
6. July – August (Japanese Knotweed, Loosestrife)
7. Aug – Oct (Olives and Willows)
8. Aug (County Fair) will have a booth
9. Fall Weed Board Meeting (October 2026)

Summer help must be over 18 years old. Pay is $16 / hour. Budget allows for four (4). One employee will be returning from last year.

Discussion about a problem area in Myton / Pleasant Valley near Maurice Harvey's.

Noxious weeds will go absolutely nuts with the hot dry weather.

Discussion and Consideration of Problem Weeds / Properties

Altonah – Musk Thistle – in the works, confusion with one person

Tabiona – Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle on Tabiona Mountain

Fruitland – Knapweed, mostly everyone is working them

Roosevelt – Knapweed – some working with them

Everywhere – White Top – on private property and along roadsides, Pleasant Valley, BLM

Duchesne County – Russian Olives (everywhere)

Mapping within the County is not finished – work in progress. Have mapped roughly 50,000 acres of Russian Olives, estimate mapping will show 60,000-70,000 acres of Russian Olives when finished. One mature Russian Olive can use up to 200 gallons of water a day, 73,000 gallons a year. 400 Olives on one acre – 29.2 million gallons of water a year. 200tpa at 200gpd – 40,000GPD x 200 days a year = 8,000,000 x 60,000 acres = 480billion GPY = 1,473,066.167 acre feet lost every year in Duchesne County just by Russian Olives.

Brief discussion of water loss thru trees. Water could be used for a better benefit. Brief discussion of a test plot that was sprayed via plane. Only resulted in about 10% kill rate.

Comments & Concerns

Possible meeting with Uintah County.

Adjourn

Jim Young motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 P.M.

Read and approved this 2nd *day of* September *2026.*

Braxton Spencer
Weed Supervisor

Rodger Ames
Chairman

Minutes of meeting prepared by Connie Sweat Connie Sweat