



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

Members Present: Janet George
Tony Lewis
Trace Baker
Jackson Moller
Kristine Johnson
Derek Turner
Carol Byerly

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1. **Call to Order**
 2. **Roll Call**
 3. **Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

Jackson Moller abstained.

Moved by Trace Baker

Seconded by Carol Byerly

APPROVED

4. Presentations

4.1 Peer Agency Weed Management Practices

Presenters: Jim Bromberg, Restoration Ecologist, and Ann Mills, Revegetation Specialist, Rocky Mountain National Park; Casey Cisneros, Land Stewardship Manager, Larimer County Natural Resources Dept.; Steve Murdock, Natural Resources Team Lead, and Alicia Duran, Invasive Species Coordinator, Jefferson County Open Space

Action Requested: Information only

No public comments will be taken until after the Summary of Proposed Changes to the Draft Integrated Weed Management Plan.

Question to presenters: Do you use aerial spraying, and do you use glyphosate?

Larimer County: We do use aerial spraying and we are looking into using drones for that. We use glyphosate. We find it a fantastic tool for revegetation.

Rocky Mountain National Park: We do not use aerial applications because the terrain is not conducive to that type of application. We mostly use spot treatments. We do use glyphosate, but it's limited. It's good for controlling cheatgrass.

Jefferson County: We only do limited aerial applications where appropriate. We are looking at new technologies, such as drones. We use a very small amount of glyphosate.

4.2 Summary of Proposed Changes to Draft Integrated Weed Management Plan

Staff Presenters: Stefan Reinold, Resource Management Manager; Justin Atherton-Wood, Planning Supervisor; Joe Swanson, Weed Manager

Action Requested: Information only

Public comments will be taken.

Q: If reducing herbicide applications on open space by 50%, what does that mean?

Response: Application area. Herbicide application will be reduced 50%, from 1,120 acres to 560 acres by 2030.

Q: With Crane Hollow, are you using less herbicide because you don't need to use it, because there are fewer weeds?

Response: Yes, we've achieved the management goal, which was to create native habitat for Preble's.

Q: Are you considering the condition of the new properties you will purchase and what treatments might be necessary?

Response: Yes, we are taking that into consideration.

Q: Is this plan for just for open space natural lands, or all areas like ditches and agricultural lands?

Response: This is everything but agricultural lands. The Cropland Policy covers weed control on county-owned agricultural lands.

Paula Fitzgerald joined remotely to comment that the revised draft plan reflects the input that has come in from the public and POSAC. She appreciates the efforts to protect biodiversity by limiting the harmful effects of cheatgrass and other invasive weeds. She would like to see a clearer decision-making matrix that lists the various control protocols. She would also like to see the plan reduce herbicide use by 50% in fewer than 6 years, if possible.

Derek Turner would like to see more detail around aerial spraying and why those particular areas were selected.

Janet George is uncomfortable with aerial spraying using a helicopter. She would like to see glyphosate eliminated, although she does see the need to use it on stumps.

Carol Byerly is gratified by the work staff has done and she is more comfortable with the current draft. She is against using helicopters for spraying and the use of glyphosate.

Trace Baker is glad to see the updates to the plan. He would like to see the decision-making process more explicit. He would like to see the use of helicopters eventually stopped. He doesn't think it's reasonable to suddenly ban the use of a particular herbicide, but he would like to see glyphosate eliminated eventually.

Jackson Moller is in favor of the 50% reduction. He is supportive of using drones over helicopters. He would like to see a clean break from glyphosate.

Kristine Johnson is concerned about Rejuvra being outside the WHO tables. She would like to see water monitoring. She would like to see glyphosate use eliminated. She pointed out that this plan does not cover agricultural land. She thinks public engagement has improved the plan.

Tony Lewis agreed that public input has helped the process. He would like to see more transparency regarding treatment areas and showing that on a map. He would also like to see a decision matrix for better transparency. He would like for glyphosate to be eliminated and to stop the use of helicopters. He thinks there should be no aerial spraying within 2 miles of homes.

Public Comments

The following spoke against the use of all chemical herbicides:

Richard Lear, Lyons

Erin Meschke, Boulder

Amanda Dumenigo, Lyons

Richard Andrews, Boulder

Michael Moss, Boulder County

Mark Guttridge, Longmont

Tess McDonald, Lyons

Alex Markevich, Boulder County

Anyll Markevich, Boulder County

Christel Markevich, Boulder County

The following spoke in favor of the IWMP draft plan:

Rob Alexander, Longmont

Keith Bateman, Boulder County

Paul Schlagel, Boulder County

Wyatt Barnes, Boulder County

Scott Schlegel, Boulder County

Jules Van Thuyne, Boulder County

Dan Lisco, Boulder County

Scott Miller, Lafayette

Bev Baker, Louisville

5. **Public Comment Period for Items Not on the Agenda**

None

6. **POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on the Agenda**

None

7. **Director's Update**

- FAQs were added to the IWMP webpage:

bouldercounty.gov/open-space/management/weeds/

- Our Lands to Your Hands was held yesterday and today. 1,200 fourth graders came to the Boulder County fairgrounds to learn about agriculture.

8. **Adjournment**

11:20 p.m.