

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
January 18, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Hannah-Hunt Moeller called the in-person/virtual Environmental Board meeting to order at 6:02 pm on January 18, 2023.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

E-Board Members: Hannah-Hunt Moeller, Chair
Fred Malo, Member
Jane Hendricks, Member
Quinn Donnelly, Member
Michael Port, Member
Tessa Schreiner, Member (arrived late)
Pat Hunter, Alternate

Town Staff Present: Mark O' Meara, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison
Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director
Kae McDonald Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests: Zuleika Pevec, CLEER Representative
Carly O'Connell, Prospective Member

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Jane Hendricks ***moved*** to approve Environmental Board meeting minutes from the December 19, 2022, meeting. Michael Port ***seconded*** the motion, and the minutes were ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no persons present, not on the agenda, to address the Environmental Board.

2023 TOWN OF CARBONDALE INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Eric Brendlinger, the Town of Carbondale's Parks and Recreation Director, presented the proposed 2023 Weed Management Plan to the Environmental Board explaining that the Parks and Recreation Commission has already reviewed the proposal and after the Environmental Board's review it will go before the Board of Trustees for final approval. He gave a brief synopsis of the Integrated Weed Management Plan history, noting that based on citizen requests a task force was formed to review the use of chemical eradication of weeds on Town property. He noted that it took four years to develop the plan and the document was approved in 2019; since that time the Parks Department has endeavored to put those principles into place.

Eric referred to the attachment included in the meeting packet, noting that as part of the 2023 proposal he included an assessment of 2022's site specific techniques as well as a map comparing weed growth at the Nature Park. Eric commented that as they have put

the Weed Management Plan into practice, he has come to realize that each park space is unique and requires an individualized approach identifying the North Face Bike Park as expanses of irrigated dirt, the Nature Park as their largest managed park at 33 acres, the Gateway RV Park, and the various turf parks where weed management has been successful and their efforts are centered on ensuring the weeds don't proliferate.

Eric referred to the individual park spreadsheets included in the meeting packet, noting that they have developed and documented the success of a wide array of weed management techniques which were taken into consideration for the 2023 plan. He added that the Parks Department doesn't work in a vacuum, and they consult regularly with Steve Anthony, Garfield County's Vegetation Manager, and Mark Duff, a local biologist, when faced with a challenging situation. Eric noted that because the noxious weed list can change on an annual basis, he obtains specific direction from Steve Anthony for those weeds that may be a problem in Garfield County. He also described success with management techniques including manual extraction, the use of a steam machine and the use of Avenger – a broadleaf, nonselective burndown herbicide. He explained that while Avenger is a 100% natural product, it doesn't completely kill the plant and must be reapplied. Eric added that while manual extraction can be very successful in weed eradication efforts, it also consumes a large amount of manpower and he recognized local groups such as Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, the Roaring Fork High School Environmental Club, Carbondale Rotary Club, and the Summer Advantage School Program for contributing to that effort.

Eric acknowledged that they have struggled in their weed eradication efforts in three parks including the Nature Park, the North Face Bike Park, and the baseball infields, pointing out that they had been keeping up with the weed management on the baseball infields until a season of play was lost due to Covid. Eric noted that the specific strategies for chemical weed control are included in the meeting packet attachment, explaining that the *Canada Thistle* seed base at the Nature Park is so thick it has outlasted all their efforts to date. He explained that if the weed isn't aggressively treated it will soon overtake everything in the park and is proposing a three-year spring and fall spot-spray application of a systemic, chemical-based herbicide; there is also a recommendation to treat a small infestation of Yellow Toadflax, as well. He added that they will continue with manual weed extraction and burning the park (weather permitting) for *Common Burdock*, *Hounds Tongue*, and *Scotch* and *Plumeless Thistle*. Eric noted that also included in the packet is the information sheet to be posted prior to the chemical application.

Michael asked about the length of time the Nature Park would be closed to the public.

Eric replied that that will be determined according to the chemical's safety sheet protocols, but that it must be done for the public's safety. He reiterated that they would continue to use the nonchemical eradication techniques as much as possible.

Quinn asked if there were noxious weeds located in the adjacent private property.

Eric wasn't sure but thought that since the pasture is used consistently for cattle grazing noxious weed growth was probably limited. He pointed out that some people have recommended the use of goats to eat the weeds but noted his concern that they would also eat the desirable grasses they are working to introduce.

Hannah-Hunt asked for confirmation that the chemical-based herbicide was only going to be used on the *Canada Thistle*.

Eric answered in the affirmative, noting their success in stemming the spread of other noxious weeds using nonchemical techniques. He added that the *Yellow Toadflax* infestation is in a small area, but manual extraction only seems to spur its growth, so they are proposing to fence that area off prior to the chemical herbicide application.

Hannah-Hunt asked for further explanation on how weeds at the North Face Bike Park and the baseball infields will be treated.

Eric replied that at the North Face Bike Park they have engaged volunteer groups for manual weed extraction and have burned the area, but they primarily weed-whack them. He explained that in the past they were forced to close the bike park because the weeds grew so tall, it was a safety concern, and noted that they are proposing a spot-spray application of an herbicide. Eric added that for the baseball infields they plan to bolt drag the area to rip up all the organic material to a depth of six inches, then apply a layer of mag chloride before top dressing with fresh dirt.

Michael thought the proposal seemed reasonable.

Jane asked how they deal with bindweed.

Eric replied that they use a variety of techniques, but that bind weed can be challenging and while manual extraction can work, they don't always have the human capital for that task.

Hannah-Hunt asked if they could follow-up with other questions as needed. She also asked if it would be possible to receive an update after the first treatment of the Nature Park.

Eric replied that his goal is to be transparent and welcomed the feedback.

Motion Passed: Tessa **moved** to support the proposed 2023 Integrated Weed Management Plan. Jane **seconded** the motion, and it was **unanimously approved**.

CLEER CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Zuleika related that the Climate Action Plan subcommittee had a great meeting and there is confidence that the Board of Trustees will adopt some version of the Garfield Clean Energy climate goals. She added that CLEER will be meeting with the Town Manager tomorrow (Thursday, January 19th) and they will have a better idea of their 2023 work plan at that point. She noted that they usually have a flexible work plan that allows them to devote time to ongoing projects while also being able to pivot on issues that may come up. Zuleika explained that CLEER is considering the development of a Climate Progress Fact Sheet to identify those endeavors that are already underway to alleviate duplicated effort.

Hannah-Hunt asked if the fact sheet could encapsulate the five CAP areas.

Michael asked if the BOT would ask for the Environmental Board's input on Carbondale's version of the Garfield Clean Energy climate goals.

Zuleika wasn't sure but added that it is easier to push initiatives forward and identify specific goals on the municipal level.

Fred commented that he would like to see more specificity in how the Town plans to be carbon free in 2030; for example, adding amendments to the Unified Development Code to eliminate gas lines or specifying the number of added electric vehicle chargers.

Pat would like clarification on what might happen if initiatives aren't achieved. He also asked what CLEER is doing for the Environmental Board.

Hannah-Hunt replied that CLEER is developing the framework Zuleika referenced as well as undertaking Garfield Clean Energy's five stated goals. She thought the framework would be helpful to understand where the Town is at at a single point in time. She explained that from her perspective CLEER helps leverage the expertise needed to achieve the Environmental Board's goals.

Pat commented that he would like to set up a schedule with target dates added to any goals.

Michael replied that he is ready to start working on things, but he has also been spending time becoming acquainted with CLEER and understanding what initiatives are in place to maximize efforts. He added that after last week's CAP subcommittee meeting, they do have a work plan coupled with a timeline.

Zuleika encouraged the board members to develop a list of specific items so CLEER can incorporate them into their workplan. She thought a draft of the framework could be ready by the February meeting.

Pat recommended reviewing Avon's recently updated Climate Action Plan.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE UPDATE

Due to Chris's absence, this item was deferred to the February meeting.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION: CARLY O'CONNELL

Hannah-Hunt explained that the Environmental Board was established by a Town ordinance to advise the Board of Trustees on environmental issues. She added that the Board's current undertakings include Climate Action and Energy Use, Ecology and Landscape, and Dandelion Days.

Carly introduced herself, noting that she has lived in the Roaring Fork Valley for nine years, five of which have been in Carbondale. She explained that although her address is listed as Glenwood Springs, she currently lives in unincorporated Garfield County not far from Carbondale. She noted that she is currently employed as a landscape architect and planner for Pitkin County Open Space and Trails. She added that she likes to be involved in the community's that she lives in.

Tessa asked what topic interests her the most.

Carly replied that turf transitioning projects are her current interest, adding that in her current job she is part of the project implementation. She added that she is very interested in the public process.

Hannah-Hunt noted that the Environmental Board can have up to three out-of-town members, which would include Pat, Jane, and Carly. She added that their regularly scheduled meetings are the third Monday of every month and asked Carly if she is generally available, so they have a quorum.

Carly answered in the affirmative.

Pat asked Carly to explain more about resilient design. He also asked what she perceived as the Environmental Board's biggest challenge and what was the most important environmental issue facing Carbondale.

Carly explained that in both her education and profession related to wildfire planning and design. She added that she was also a former wildland firefighter. She noted that she continues that work by teaching at various conferences on how landscape architecture can incorporate wildfire design thinking into their projects. She thought that her challenge is understanding the Environmental Board's interface with Town staff and CLEER. As far as environmental challenges, she explained that it was difficult to separate Carbondale from the Roaring Fork Valley in the context of traffic and vehicle miles traveled to get from place to place and her concern is outlying developments that aren't connected.

Motion Passed: Hannah-Hunt *moved* to recommend the approval of Carly O'Connell to the Board of Trustees as a regular voting member of the Environmental Board. Quinn *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

GO EV CITY ORDINANCE UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Quinn noted that he has yet to receive feedback from board members on the draft Go EV City ordinance included in the December meeting packet. He added that he anticipates scheduling meetings with Town staff in the coming weeks and plans to meet with the Parks & Recreation Director, the Fleet Manager, and the Public Works Director.

Hannah-Hunt asked board members to please submit any feedback to Quinn no later than January 23rd. She suggested that it might be helpful to identify specific targets that are highlighted in the document.

Quinn replied that he wants to be sure to have realistic targets.

Pat asked if Quinn had looked at ordinances adopted by other municipalities.

Quinn answered in the affirmative, noting that he plans to contact someone in Glenwood to see how successful their ordinance has been and how well it was received.

Tessa volunteered to connect Quinn with the team member in charge of Aspen's program.

Hannah-Hunt reminded everyone that last week's Sopris Sun detailed the installation of the new EV chargers at the Third Street Center.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES: LANDSCAPE/LOW WATER

Hannah-Hunt reported that their group is growing but that their focus remains on:

1. Identifying low-water resources at the residential level. They plan to utilize Dandelion Days to disseminate that information. They would like to develop a network that connects people with resources.

2. Develop a local plant list. Review the plant list and code passages that Glenwood Springs adopted.
3. Research the turf replacement funding and work towards a plan to leverage that funding.

Hannah-Hunt explained that their planned next steps include meeting with Mark O'Meara for an update, discuss with Town staff how to partner efforts, and identify funding and grant sources. She added that their next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 27th at 4:00 pm at the Thompson House.

Jane added that the Thompson House is a great place to meet because the turf is overwatered and is affecting the building's foundation. She also noted that education must be a big part of any efforts they undertake.

350.ORG UINTA BASIN LETTER

Hannah-Hunt asked if there were any additions to the Environmental Board's letter to 350 Roaring Fork.

Fred asked about a letter to the BOT asking them to sign the petition that will be sent to Secretary Vilsack.

Hannah-Hunt explained that the letter currently under consideration is specifically from the Environmental Board to 350 Roaring Fork, but she would like to take the next step and ask the BOT to support efforts to stop the Uinta Basin Railway.

Fred announced there will be another demonstration on Saturday, January 21st at 12:00 noon at Centennial Park.

DANDELION DAY: BUDGET PROPOSAL AND VOLUNTEERS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Hannah-Hunt noted that the Landscape/Low Water Subcommittee discussed a lot of possible educational programming for the upcoming Dandelion Days. She asked if there were board members interested in participating and/or planning that programming.

Pat commented that he is planning on bringing his induction hot plate; he will need some money to purchase brauts, and a power source. He would also like to have a battery tool demonstration.

Tessa wondered what the regulations for serving food were. She asked if the Town currently owned an electric fleet vehicle.

Mark replied that they have a hybrid vehicle and a small electric truck.

Quinn, Hannah-Hunt, and Michael volunteered to help with the educational programming. Michael added that he would like to include something regarding composting.

Tessa volunteered to bring her solar phone chargers which might help bring people to the tent. She suggested developing verbiage that everyone can use to communicate the mission of the Environmental Board.

Hannah-Hunt reported that the Environmental Board has a \$6,000.00 budget for 2023, of which \$2,000.00 is earmarked for Dandelion Days support. She referred to Quinn Port's budget breakdown included in the meeting packet and asked board members to communicate with her if they have comments. She explained that the entities involved with the event have developed a scope of work:

- Carbondale Arts will act as the accountant and handle the bookkeeping.
- KDNK will take care of the music and the beer tent.
- The Environmental Board will oversee the event's organization, choose the t-shirt design, provide additional manpower and host the educational tent.

Michael asked for clarification on who pays for the t-shirts.

Hannah-Hunt explained that they are initially paid for by Carbondale Arts who then is reimbursed as the t-shirts sell.

Pat commented that the Environmental Board also contributes a lump sum for t-shirt production.

Quinn reminded the group that there is a new policy regarding private security requirements at events hosting over 500 people.

Hannah-Hunt acknowledged that they would need to review those requirements and consider the additional costs.

Motion Passed: Michael *moved* to approve the proposed Dandelion Day budget. Tessa *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Pat noted that he read an article on "forever" chemicals and that fish have been found to be full of them. He reported that the local fire department uses it for firefighting, but they are trying to get rid of it.

Mark replied that they aren't testing for it yet, but a new program is being developed for that purpose.

Pat noted that Rio Verde – a town outside Tucson – just had their water cut off due to extreme drought conditions in the Colorado River. He suggested everyone consider the implications of that action.

ADJOURNMENT

The January 18, 2023, regular meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15**, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald