

Cache County Weed Control Board

Meeting Agenda

December 3, 2025

11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Cache County Public Works Building

1020 E. 600 N.

Hyrum, Utah

Cache County Weed Control Board

George Daines –County Executive

Mike Spackman- Chairman Zone 1

Brett Christensen Zone 2

Darrin Evans Zone 3

Clark Israelsen Zone 4

Jack Brown Zone 5

David Erickson- County Council Liaison

Cache County Vegetation Management Division

Matt Phillips– Public Works Director

Jake Forsgren-Noxious Weed Supervisor

Alex Wilhelm- Municipalities/N.G. Operation Assistant

Dakota Shadle-Grants/S.P. Operation Assistant

Garrett Johnson-Aquatics/R.S. Operation Assistant

Holly Marshall- Public Works Office Specialist

Call to Order/Introductions: Mike Spackman, Chairman

Approval of Minutes (March 5, 2025): Chairman

Items for Discussion:

1. Board Member Terms Expiring

Clark Israelsen (Zone 4) Term ends December 2025

Jack Brown (Zone 5) Term ends December 2025

2. Vegetation Management Year End Report 2025

3. Open Discussion- Chairman

4. Set date for the spring 2026 Meeting (March)

5. Adjourn

Attendees: Mike Spackman (Chair, Zone 1), Bret Christensen (Zone 2), Darin Evans (Zone 3), Clark Israelsen (Zone 4), David Erickson (County Council Liaison), Matt Phillips, Jake Forsgren, Holly Marshall, Alex Wilhelm, Dakota Shadle, Garrett Johnson, Sydney Southers, Jessie Danning, Rae Robinson, Rod Elwood, Joshua Butcher, Justin Clawson, Joseph May, Brad Ashcroft, Ben Law

- ❖ A motion by the Chair to approve minutes from Spring 2025 Weed Board Meeting was passed
- ❖ Board Members with terms expiring end of December: Clark Israelsen & Jack Brown
- ❖ Items for discussion:
 - Jake briefly discussed the Utah Noxious Weed Act (R68-9-5) that states, every county commission is to submit a year-end report to UDAP by January 15th of each year with information on noxious weed practices. It helps with grant funding to show them that we're doing the work and using the funds appropriately.
 - The weed division is broken down into 3 different operations with Jake overseeing all operations as the Supervisor.
 - Aquatics/Roadside Operation led by Garrett Johnson
 - Grants/Special Projects Operation led by Dakota Shadle
 - Non Grant/Municipalities Operation led by Alex Wilhelm
 - The county has a great GIS department that's created a system to help us keep track of all of our weed points. This is a year round thing that we're always preparing for. We're already preparing for next year and getting ready to notify land owners to help us get weeds under control.
 - This year 2,475 letters were sent to land owners/parcels in our county. Responses were as follows:
 - 1,337 needed some sort of help from the county for weed control whether that was education or going out and helping them with control efforts.
 - 828 that thanked us for letting them know and inquiring about chemicals and timing and they had the means to take care of it themselves
 - 310 that we monitored, parcels that are being developed or potential problems for 2026
 - Public Outreach/Education: we're able to help with programs, for example:
 - Cache Valley Homeschool Career Days
 - Assist with Bag of Woad Program
 - USU Equine Health/Nutrition Class
 - Weeds and Wildlife HWMA Bio Days
 - Canyon/Heritage Elementary Ag Days, among others.
 - Fair display set up this year with information about what the weed division is and what we do. We had lots of positive feedback from the public about this information.
 - Time turned over to Garrett to discuss the Aquatics/Roadside Operation
 - One of his main projects this year was the Goatsrue
 - Goatsrue has become a major issue in the county
 - Sprayed about 12,000 gallons and about 265 acres
 - Down about 15% from previous years, excluded 2022 because it was the year after the flooding



- Parrot Feather was again found this year in some of the ponds behind Gossner's
 - Watched a drone video coverage of the Parrot Feather areas
 - It grows down in between the cat tails which leads to not being able to spray as much but still looking a lot better than it was
 - 2011 is believed to be the first possible infestation, 2014 for sure seeing it
 - Was treated using a local drone service and will be monitored yearly for progress
- Also sprayed the Bear River – goes from Cutler reservoir all the way up to the Idaho border
 - About 35 acres sprayed
 - Noticing a lot of weeds are moving south from Idaho
 - Received some grants to take care of Phragmites on certain sections of river
 - Seeing progress but it does take time
 - Service offered for canal companies for weed control on banks
- County roadside spraying for county and some municipalities
 - Decrease of about 14.7% over last 3 years
 - Being smarter about spraying, not just everything but where the weeds are
 - Watched a short video showing how the spraying is done
 - Showed picture comparison of road 10100 North near Clarkston with one picture being from the early 2000's & one now to see the progress and how well the weed management is working
 - Trail on Deep Canyon in Mendon we were able to spray some hydro seeding to help with growth and act as soil stabilizer
- Time turned over to Dakota to discuss the Grants/Special Projects operations
- EDRR Project sprayings
 - Monitored about 19,013 acres
 - Treated about 483 acres
 - 16,605 gallons sprayed
 - 14 eradication sites
- Worked with Pacificorp who allowed us to put a purple loosestrife on their property
- Weeds and wildlife at Hardware Ranch with Edith Bowen
 - 2 days long, 50 students each day
 - Insectary tent moved to a better location for the Canada thistle
- Cache County biological control release sites, were able to get quite a few bugs this year
 - Poison hemlock moth (which Pacificorp is using)
 - Rush skeletonweed agent from Boise, Idaho (very labor intensive to collect)
 - Spotted knapweed agent (larinus minutus & cypho achates) cypho is also very labor intensive
 - Russian knapweed agent (these were released at Wansguard Farm/Cornish Area)
 - Field Bindweed agent (put on by Coldwater)
 - Canada Thistle agent (collected with Amber the Utah Bug Girl)
 - Released a total of 11,450 different species
 - Showed video of how they catch these agents through a respirator
 - Showed Idaho news clip of bug catching
 - There is lots of rush skeleton in Idaho which is what we want to prevent here in the valley so that should be what the agent is going to help prevent
 - We didn't have to purchase any of the agents, they were all shared and/or donated to us by other counties and transported to the valley



- Time turned over to Alex to discuss the Non Grant/Municipalities operations
- Non grant projects: pastures, fields, etc.
- Dedicated mower that goes and mows down weeds a few weeks after they are sprayed
- UWSA Project grant which was used for the American West Heritage Center Area
 - Total of 10 landowner notifications sent
 - Total of 5 requesting county's help with herbicide application
 - Total of 5 not wanting any county help
 - 860 gallons sprayed, 340 acres monitored & 24 acres sprayed
- Very important that we keep some of these species out of the Hardware area; Poison Hemlock and Goatsrue for example.
- Vacant lot projects: anything found within a city or municipality boundary
 - Sent 572 landowner notification letters
 - 178 heard back from wanting county help
 - 321 not needing help or have been treated by other means
 - 73 parcels from this year that have been treated in the past are now developed
 - 10,896 gallons sprayed, 215 acres treated and 351 acres monitored
- Mowing: 279 total hours with 161 acres mowed
 - Mower only 6 feet wide so takes some time to do
 - Majority of parcels done have been in North Logan, Providence, Logan and Nibley
 - Cache County Sheriff's Complex done as well
- Non Grant Projects:
 - 308 calls for help, 168 county treated, 148 not treated and 5 parcels eradicated
 - 19,714 gallons sprayed, 512 acres treated and 2,029 acres monitored
- Union Pacific Railway Project: trying to do more and more each year
 - A lot of these areas are extremely difficult to get into, slopes too much to be able to drive, will walk and wear backpack sprayer and take care of that way as best we can and then monitor
 - Area towards Cache Junction & south towards Valley View highway treated for Rush Skeleton
 - Little dirt road by Cutler trying to spray as well with limited access
 - Longest one is from Idaho line to Smithfield, this one is easiest to get into and spray
 - Working on doing more through Nibley into Hyrum, Wellsville and back side of Mendon
- Time turned back over to Jake
- With federal cuts with grants this year it's been kind of a rough year
- Aaron Eager with UDAF not able to attend but did get together with a few others and made a video that showcased 2 landowners from Cache County talking about the importance of the ISM program for the State of Utah
- Working with UDAF on trying to get the legislatures to know that the ISM program is very important. We've used this grant for 8-9 years and it has benefited a lot of land owners.
- End of year information:
 - 90,000 gallons of herbicide put on the ground
 - 30,000 acres monitored throughout the county
 - 2,707 acres treated
 - Infested parcels have gone up since last year (which is to be expected)
- Key Points:
 - Small bugloss found here in the county, has been on the states watch list for 10 years



Cache County

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- Was found in Wellsville on a parcel a few years ago and has now spread to 5 parcels in the area. We are constantly monitoring this area and working with landowners to treat & watch.
 - Rush skeleton is increasing, finding more and more each year. Working with Box Elder County to get the moths to try and get a handle on this and sharing back and forth.
 - Eurasian Milfoil found in Tony's Grove lake a few years ago, have been monitoring and was able to have it sprayed once in 2024, and it has been eradicated for now
 - We do not want this in our irrigation system and are keeping a close eye on it
 - We have eradicated noxious weeds so far off of 148 parcels within the county
- Date set for Spring Meeting: March 4th, 2026
- A motion to adjourn was passed