

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
July 20, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Paige called the in-person/virtual meeting to order at 6:01 pm on July 20, 2023, in Room 1 at Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

- Members Present: Lisa Paige, Chair
Dan Bullock, Member
Kari Bevevino, Member
Joanne Teeple, Member
Sky Quarto, Member
- Town Staff Present: Lauren Gister, Carbondale Town Manager
Carl Meinecke, Town of Carbondale Arborist/Staff Liaison
Ali Uri, Town of Carbondale Landscape Technician
Eric Brendlinger, Town of Carbondale Parks & Recreation Department Director
Marty Silverstein, Carbondale Board of Trustees Liaison
Chris Hassig, Carbondale Board of Trustees
Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk
- Guests: Melissa Schreiner, the Colorado State University Extension Service Entomologist
Chris Beiser, Town of Basalt Arborist and Horticulturist
Hollis Sutherland, Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission Chair
Hannah-Hunt Moeller, Carbondale Environmental Board Chair
Lisa DiNardo, P.O. Box 432, Carbondale
Daniel Ferguson, P.O. Box 443, Carbondale
Lora Criswell, 530 Dakota Court, Carbondale
Rose McDonald, 530 Dakota Court, Carbondale
Samuel Martinez, 530 Dakota Court, Carbondale
Lorrie Carlson, 1752 County Road 107, Glenwood Springs
Rick Carlson, 1752 County Road 107, Glenwood Springs
Meredith Bullock, 682 Euclid Avenue, Carbondale
Luke Wander, 785 Merrill Avenue, Carbondale
Ken Williams, 266 S. 4th Street, Carbondale
Rob Comey, 655 Glassier Drive, Carbondale

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Dan ***moved*** to postpone review of the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes until the August meeting. Joanne ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the board members.

EMERALD ASH BORER PRESENTATIONS

Carl Meinecke, Town of Carbondale Arborist, presented information on the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Carbondale (please refer to his attached PowerPoint presentation). He detailed planned actions to address the infestation, noting that approximately 10% (approximately 400 trees)

of Carbondale's urban canopy are ash trees, and explained the assessment scale that will determine which trees they focus their efforts on.

Melissa Schreiner, the Colorado State University Extension Service Entomologist, presented EAB entomology, how to identify an Ash tree and current best practices for treating the infestations with insecticides (please refer to her attached PowerPoint presentation). Melissa noted that research conducted on the importance of Ash pollen to honey bees showed that it was a minor source of pollen and there was limited environmental effects from *Emamectin Benzoate* trunk injections.

Chris Beiser, Town of Basalt Arborist and Horticulturist, related his experience with EAB infestations in Michigan and Chicago (please refer to his attached PowerPoint presentation). He listed suggested best practices for addressing the infestation and gave advice on what to expect as the infestation progresses. He also discussed the various treatment options available and highlighted long-term expectations for tree management in the Roaring Fork Valley.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Tree Board

Dan noted that the Tree Board has been active since 1995 and the board has worked hard to develop a diversity of species with the goal of not having more than 10% of any one species in the public right-of-way. He added that when the EAB was discovered on the Front Range, Carbondale's Tree Board removed it from their preferred Street Tree List. Dan pointed out that the Public Works Director does have the ability to declare a hazard tree on private property and can have the tree removed. He wondered how Homeowner Associations might be included in the management plan because he heard that at least one has started spraying because of the discovery.

Chris replied that engaging with the HOAs and provide them with best management practices would be the preferred option. He noted that unless policy is created there isn't any legal way to keep them from spraying.

Joanne cautioned that it is important to understand altitude gradients when considering replacement with native trees, noting that spruce trees are "native," but are best suited to higher altitudes and don't really belong in town. She asked if pheromone trapping is an option.

Melissa replied that pheromone trapping is challenging in areas with fewer concentrations of ash trees and is linked to the numbers of EAB present – if a lot are trapped it is because a lot are there.

Chris added that pheromone traps are a mixed bag because the traps can also attract the bug to uninfested trees. He preferred treating the Roaring Fork Valley as if it is already infested. Chris agreed with Joanne that native trees should be planted where it makes sense and added that he also appreciates the use of "adaptive" native trees noting that the Town of Basalt has had good success with several Elm cultivars, Kentucky Coffee Tree, and Sweetgum.

Dan agreed, but pointed out that some of the species mentioned are very slow growing.

Marty asked if Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield Counties were being included and if they have the resources to address the problem.

Chris wasn't sure but thought that unincorporated areas are less likely to have concentrations of ash trees and it is possible that because they are so spread out, those trees might be missed by the EAB. Chris pointed out the importance of pushing the communication and have information available for distribution.

Marty explained that the next step will be to coordinate between the Tree Board, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Environmental Board to develop recommendations for Board of Trustee approval.

Kari noted the long-term treatment necessary to ward off the EAB and asked if the bug would develop resistance to the insecticide.

Melissa replied that, to date, there hasn't been any noted resistance to the trunk injection, but there is an almost guaranteed resistance to the foliar spray.

Joanne asked if there was a timeline of EAB development throughout the year and how to identify trees for treatment that could be included as part of the public outreach.

Chris replied that the EAB has a roughly annual cycle, but the progression may be different from one end of the valley to the other. Chris encouraged everyone to make an annual assessment of their trees, noting that the spring is a great time to evaluate and a good way to keep track is to take a picture of your trees every year.

Melissa agreed with Chris, pointing out that it may be different because the bug is a relatively recent arrival, and they just don't know yet.

Parks & Recreation Department

Hollis asked what will be done with the wood chips after the trees are chipped.

Carl replied that there is good data that once the tree has been chipped into pieces of less than one inch or smaller, they can be transported, but he recommended not moving them. He emphasized the importance of disposing of infested tree parts correctly.

Hollis asked is part of the management plan would include working with private property owners and HOAs.

Carl answered in the affirmative.

Hollis asked if there was an inventory of trees located in Town parks.

Carl explained that the inventory was last completed in 2010, but he is updating that list now with particular emphasis specific to ash trees, adding that the diameter of the tree is linked to the cost of treatment. He noted that he also must assess whether it is a high-value tree, and whether it is treatable. He was hopeful that he would have the list compiled in the next few weeks, and once it is done, they can make decisions about which trees to treat for the long-term.

Hollis confirmed if the Parks & Recreation Commission will be involved in those decisions.

Carl answered in the affirmative.

Hollis asked if the funding for treatment will come out of the Parks & Recreation budget.

Marty interjected that where the funding will come from will come after the management plan is developed. He assured Hollis that the Parks & Recreation Commission will have input into decisions made.

Melissa added that there are cost-share programs that can be investigated.

Dan thought that preliminary recommendations would be submitted to the Board of Trustees sometime in September.

Hollis asked how the decisions will be made for what gets replanted.

Carl replied that they will refer to the Recommended Street Tree list, but it will also depend upon whether it is a favorable location to replant a tree. He added that they will try to replant wherever it makes sense.

Hollis asked what was needed from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Dan replied that the treatment is what they are most concerned about – what will work in various environments.

Eric noted that if the trees die rapidly, how will public safety be affected. He stated his concern about retaining trees will 30% dieback in public parks.

Carl replied that Chris made a good point – even though trees are treatable, they won't ever regain the appearance when they were healthy. He commented that standard practice was to make decisions about removing and/or replacing before infestation based on risk.

Chris agreed that proactive removal was the easy decision, and the harder decision was deciding which trees to treat indefinitely and communicate those findings to the public. He stated that it will be up to Carl to make those decisions.

Eric asked if dead limbs could be removed after infestation and still save the tree.

Chris replied that that would be the recommendation.

Eric stated that the Weed Management Plan has stated guidelines for public notification for herbicide use but is for airborne chemicals only, and while it is silent on injectable treatments, he encouraged them to consider potential affects to people when developing the management plan.

Chris replied that a common practice is to place a tag on ash trees to identify that it is being treated. He noted that with the advent of the online inventories, it might be possible to include a QR code that takes them to the online software.

Carl pointed out that Carbondale residents may appreciate having that information.

Environmental Board

Hannah-Hunt Moeller commented that the Environmental Board is concerned about the larger environmental impacts of the treatments, noting the previous statements that removal is the preferred option for low-value trees. She asked if there would be some benefit to treating even the low-risk trees to limit the EAB infestation.

Carl replied that the criteria for removal by Town staff would be the size of the tree, the location, and how easy it will be to remove. He stated that there will be some hard decisions on which trees to treat, including cost, and emphasized that the decision-making process will be complicated.

Melissa reiterated that trunk injections aren't likely to be an environmental hazard whereas spraying has a definite impact.

Chris agreed that he heavily favors trunk injections because the trees are only treated every two years, thereby allowing for treatment of half the trees one year and the other half the next. He also reiterated that the insecticide is put directly into the tree, and it is unlikely to move off target. He recommended only using the soil drench where the tree is isolated in a tree well and does not recommend using it in a park setting.

Hannah-Hunt asked if the tree injection was both a treatment and a preventative.

Chris replied that it is primarily a preventative.

Hannah-Hunt asked if there would be any benefit to guide the management plan to make a specific recommendation for trunk injection as policy.

Chris replied that that could be tricky, noting that there are some cases where trunk injection can't be used, but agreed it could be recommended as the treatment of choice where appropriate. He thought the EAB Working Group could develop a flyer that lists each of the treatment options along with the pros and cons of each. He noted that cost is the biggest factor with trunk injection – up to \$22.00 dbh.

Melissa added there are a lot of Colorado State Extension Service resources and there is a fact sheet that provides information on the treatment options. She encouraged the group to utilize existing resources and to not reinvent the wheel.

Chris added that the minimum size for trunk injections is 6" dbh, but he recommended a dbh of eight to ten inches so the trees can survive the injections.

Dan stated that most of the ash trees in Carbondale are nine inches or greater in diameter.

Public

Lisa DiNardo asked if there was a list of vetted tree contractors available to distribute to interested customers.

Chris replied that they haven't yet developed a contractor list, but suggested that, at the minimum, engaging an ISO certified arborist and they should also have their pesticide application license.

Daniel Ferguson asked if the trunk injections were harmful to birds like woodpeckers.

Melissa replied that the soil drench is a broad-spectrum chemical and insects will be impacted broadly by that type of application. She suggested looking at the Environmental Protection Agency for that information. She stated that she was unaware of any studies linking the effects of the trunk injection to avian health.

Sam Martinez began by noting that his company, Colorado Ash, currently has 5,000 trees under their care. He pointed out that Perdue University has published an updated study on how often to treat, the pros and cons of treatment, and a cost calculator, adding that it is important to balance the balance the cost of continued treatment against tree removal. He acknowledged the multiple strategies available for treatment and emphasized the importance of gathering all the information before deciding about treatment versus removal – with removal being the last option. Sam noted that the Perdue study has found that if the area isn't a hot spot for EAB infestation, trunk injections can be spaced out to every three years and only show dieback after four or five years, and such a plan will lower costs and be less impactful to the tree. He also noted that the soil drench is a G4 unrestricted chemical and there has been some success with diluting it more and increasing the frequency, adding that there is less resistance in uptake.

Joanne commented that the EAB is an emergent condition and if it takes two years to pupate the biennial trunk injection could prevent some trees from becoming infested.

Sam agreed, noting that starting treatment may forestall a wider-spread EAB infestation.

Laura Criswell asked if any projected start dates for treatment.

Chris replied that it depends on which town, noting that he will implement treatment in Basalt by next spring for high-value trees but also wants to see how the EAB infestation progresses.

Rob Comey asked whether trees under 6 dbh would be considered high value, noting that if they are young, vigorous trees there should be a cost/benefit analysis to consider treating them.

Carl replied that he doesn't have a management plan yet, but his experience in Longmont was that the smaller trees were removed as a common practice.

Chris added that EAB infestations can spread quickly and there is a sense of urgency in bringing it under control. He pointed out that every property owner will have to make their own decision and it behooves a valiant effort to try to save them all. He noted that there are still some unknowns about how the infestation may spread because the Roaring Fork Valley is not in the native ash range.

Rob asked how trees will be treated if the trunk injection is not an option.

Chris replied that they will probably rely on the soil drench for the smaller-sized trees they want to save. He reiterated that the goal of the management plan is to manage the pace of tree removal and replacement.

Rob pointed out that the literature states that trunk injections can occur every third year.

Chris agreed that that is the updated interval, but pointed out that if there is a heavy EAB infestation he would still recommend a trunk injection every other year. He noted that there are a lot of factors that go into the trunk injections.

Rob asked if the EAB will infest single-leaf ash.

Joanne replied that single-leaf ash is not a *Fraxinus* and won't be affected.

Dan added that *Colorado Tree View* shows Carbondale's tree inventory and Miner's Park has 11 ash trees and Sopris Park has 10 or 11.

ADJOURNMENT

The July 20, 2023, regular meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on August 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald
Town of Carbondale Boards and Commissions Clerk