



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 05, 2009**

Board members present were Bob Hofman (Chair), Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell and Commissioner Joe Skinner. **Others** present were Susan Shane (HR), Kara Schile (Schile Consulting), Mike Jones (Big Sky Weed Coordinator), John Ansley (Interim Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

The guests were introduced.

Budget. Discussed later.

Minutes. The Minutes of the October meeting had been mailed to the Board and were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Coordinator Job Description. Agenda Item #3 was discussed first as Susan Shane (HR) was present to review the Coordinator Job Description and Job Posting. The items that the Board had requested at the October meeting have been added to the Job Description. There was discussion regarding the Job Posting. Commissioner Skinner felt that budgeting knowledge should be a requirement. Bell asked to have grant writing included. These items are listed in the Job Description but not on the Posting. Susan Shane will add these two items before the Posting goes out. After discussion the Board decided to post the Position on November 13th at the Job Service, in the Chronicle, on the County web page and with the MWCA on their web page. The closing date will be December 18th.

Budget. The Budget for FY'10 has been finalized. Ansley thanked Commissioner Skinner for procuring the extra funds for herbicide. This will allow for more boom spraying and increase the quality of the weed control program. The vacancy savings funds have been approved for the purchase of another spray truck and new spray unit, and also for a security fence around the Shop. Ansley asked Commissioner Skinner if it was necessary to get three (3) quotes when purchasing the new truck. Commissioner Skinner felt that three quotes should be procured before purchase.

1. Public Comment/Other.

- Mainwaring stated that he, Mike Jones and Don McAndrew would be doing a radio talk show on KMMS1450 at 9.00am on Tuesday 10th. They will be discussing the Big Sky Weed Committee program and their achievements. Mainwaring is also organizing a weed pull in Belgrade for 2010.
- Schile stated that she had participated in the Trout Unlimited Weed Pull and felt that it was a good program. Hopefully this will become an annual event.

- Hofman asked if the Weed District had sprayed behind the Country Kitchen in Belgrade. We had not but in response to letters from Ansley they have sprayed. Mainwaring stated that the property looks a lot better.

2. Monthly Report Q&A.

- Bell asked what the status was on the Blue Sky Development enforcement and where the property is. The developer has been billed according to State Law and we are waiting to see if we get a response. If there is no response by November 28th a copy of the bill will be sent to the Treasurer for attachment to the taxes.
- Bell asked if Timberline Insulation had submitted a quote for insulation of the Shop. Ansley informed him that they had looked at the Shop but declined to give a quote.
- In response to a question regarding the GYCC Gravel Pit program Ansley responded that he had attended the GYCC Fall meeting with Jones. A decision has been made not to fund the program next year (2010) and it would be up to the Counties to keep the program moving. The Board felt that this is an important program and hoped we would be able to continue in Gallatin County.

- ## **4. Commissioner Report.**
- Commissioner Skinner reported that he had checked in to Mainwaring's question regarding responsibility for the maintenance of the Three Forks Trail. Maintenance of the trail is the responsibility of the Town of Three Forks. Ansley informed the Board that as most of the trail is in our Lower Madison Grant area the Weed District has done courtesy sprays along the trail.

5. Interim Coordinator Report.

- Ansley and Jones attended the Big Sky Owners Assn meeting with utility company representatives. Ansley is developing a contract agreement that will be used for utility companies with projects in Gallatin County.
- Ansley, Perry and Jones attended the SW Area Council fall meeting in Butte. Further discussion with Edsall (Madison County Weed Coordinator) regarding the utility company agreement.
- The Ophir School Weed Pull was late this year taking place in mid October, however the students were enthusiastic and a lot of weeds were pulled. This is a combined effort of the Weed District, Big Sky Weed Committee, USFS, Conservation District and the Ed and Awareness program. Those involved feel that it is a very good educational event.
- Ansley and Perry turned in the Grant Narrative reports and the Claim for Reimbursement forms to the Department of Agriculture. The Upper Madison and Frog Rock Grants have been closed out.
- Some of the topics discussed at the SW Area Council meeting were the restructuring of the State Noxious Weed List and the pesticide container recycling program. The Department of Agriculture is setting up a recycling program for the 2 ½ gallon herbicide containers. Strict rules are in place in order for the containers to be accepted. Gallatin County will save their containers and Beaverhead County will collect them on a regular basis and store them until the Dept of Ag shredder takes them.
- Ansley announced the MWCA Raffle and asked the Board if they would be interested in participating.
- The County Auditor has done an audit of the Weed District. Commissioner Skinner informed the Board that this is protocol when a department head leaves.
- Ansley reported that he and Perry have attended training programs provided by the County. Defensive Driving and Customer Service training and in December they will attend Conflict Resolution training.

- As part of the ongoing Shop cleaning program Ansley asked about disposing of five (5) 65 gallon spray units that have not been used for a long time. Some other Weed Districts have expressed interest in taking them and refurbishing them. Ansley asked about the protocol for disposal as none of the sprayers are listed on Department Inventory. The Board would like to see if they can be refurbished as rentals before giving them away. Cost will need to be researched. There was a lot of discussion with the Board finally deciding to table the topic until Ansley has time to see if the engines work.
- Ansley and Perry are currently rewriting two grants. The Upper Madison has been renamed the Hebgen Basin WMA and will remain the same in area. The Frog Rock WMA has been renamed the Rocky Creek WMA and has been expanded from the Gallatin/Park County line to Bear Canyon.
- Ansley has all the quotes for the energy stimulus projects, however when he called the Grants Department to get information on protocol he was informed that the money has not arrived yet. This puts us in a quandary as we are dealing with a short time window on the insulation. The Board reviewed the quotes for the furnace. The quotes were close. Mainwaring moved to select Tin Works, Inc for the furnace replacement with their quote of \$3,495. Bell seconded and the motion passed.
The Board reviewed the quotes for the garage door replacement. These quotes were more spread out. Mainwaring moved to select Door Tech, Inc with their quote of \$6,674 for the replacement of the two (2) overhead doors. Bell seconded and the motion passed.
The quotes for the insulation were reviewed. Bell moved to select the quote of \$14,300 from Gallatin Insulation for the insulation of the shop. Mainwaring seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Skinner recommended that we let the companies know who was selected as soon as possible with the understanding that the money has not yet been wired to the County and there will be a delay in initiating the work. Once the funds have arrived the insulation project will be placed on a Public Meeting Agenda. The quotes have come in under the awarded amounts and there was a question of what would happen to the balance. Commissioner Skinner will check to see if the Weed District will be able to use the balance for other projects or if it will be diverted to other departments that did not receive awards in the first go round.

6. Round Table.

- Commissioner Skinner remarked that if we are authorized to give away the 65 gallon sprayers he would like to see them stay in the County.
- Mainwaring stated that a disgruntled citizen had called him and suggested that we eliminate two seasonal positions and do more boom spraying. Ansley brought up that booming with one person is difficult as the driver cannot always see where the spray is going. This brought up discussion regarding the MDT equipment where street sweepers had been converted to spray trucks.
- Ansley remarked that he had received a complaint this week of field bindweed on a city lot. Unusual to get a complaint in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.43PM
The next meeting will be on December 3rd, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.