



**Gallatin County Weed District  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 06, 2009**

**Board** members present were Bob Hofman (Chair), Craig Morgan, Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell and Commissioner Joe Skinner. Jeff Littlefield was excused. **Others** present were John Ansley (Interim Coordinator), and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the July meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as submitted.

**Budget/Claims.** Commissioner Skinner announced that the County is waiting on State allocations to find out what the County will receive.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Hofman** asked what the status was on the Landowner Maintenance Agreement for the Organic Farm in the Reese Creek area. Ansley stated that Hengel had been working on it and Ansley will follow up. **Hofman** also asked about the status of the Chevy truck that had engine problems. Ansley informed the Board that the truck along with three (3) others would be disposed of. The other three (3) trucks are a 1990 Nissan; a 1984 Ford Ranger and a 1984 Chevy.

**Ansley** reported that the GYCC gravel pit inspection program was going well.

**Ansley** asked Commissioner Skinner about the stimulus funds that have been awarded to the Weed District for energy improvements to the shop. Commissioner Skinner will find out the status and will offer assistance regarding the process of reporting expenditures to the State.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Public Comment/Other.** None

**2. Monthly Report Q&A.**

- Hofman asked about the Scotch thistle complaints on Camp Creek Road. A property owner on that road has been spraying weeds for neighbors and also in the county right-of-way. She filed fourteen (14) complaints regarding the thistle in the area. Most were not major issues.
- Commissioner Skinner asked if the Weed District does contract work for individuals. Ansley said no, however we have done a few courtesy sprays for other agencies, municipalities etc. or a perimeter spray in an effort to assist a property owner with a major enforcement issue get a start on weed control.
- Bell was late for the meeting but had some questions regarding the Monthly Report. He asked about the GYCC gravel pit inspection program. The program is moving along well. Ansley reiterated the information regarding the Camp Creek Road complaints. Bell also asked about the complaints that we have received on Black Bull Run. Ansley informed him that most of the complaints have been about nuisance weeds not noxious weeds.
- Bell also mentioned that there is a company installing about 5 miles of fiber optic line by Hebgen Lake to the east. He asked if there was a working agreement with the utility company. Ansley reported that he has a call into the Madison County Weed Coordinator to get guidance on this issue as Madison County has a good working relationship in this field.

- Ansley reported that the crews have sprayed county roads in the West Yellowstone area but the cooperative project with MDT in the Hebgen Lake area has been cancelled.
- 3. Commissioner Report.** There was discussion regarding the rehire process for the Coordinator position. Commissioner Skinner remarked that this process can be lengthy. He asked if Ansley and Perry could handle the workload until winter. Ansley made some suggestions to the Board:
- Start the process now and set the hiring date later.
  - Instead of the current set up of Coordinator and Education/Enforcement coordinator he would like to see a coordinator and assistant coordinator and have a team work program in place. He feels that we can accomplish a lot more this way. Commissioner Skinner felt that this would be a question for HR.
  - Ansley also asked about saving money in the budget by not rehiring until winter. If we are not able to save the funds he would like to see the rehire go ahead.
- 4. Interim Coordinator Report.**
- Ansley participated in a weed pull at the East Gallatin Recreation area with the Gates of Life Family Fellowship group. The weed pull was a success. Ansley passed around a photo of the participants. He feels that for weed pulls to work they need to be in coordination with a sponsoring group such as the Fellowship Group or Trout Unlimited.
  - The Weed District had an unmanned booth at the County Fair.
  - We are still receiving a lot of complaints. A Bozeman resident dropped off a list of 18 complaints that Ansley will share with Andy Kerr (City of Bozeman). There are still some complaints coming in regarding "hot spots" on the county roads. For major complaints Ansley sends out property inspection notices, for areas with only a few plants he sends out survey letters.
  - A resident in the Jackson Creek road area brought in an orange hawkweed plant for ID. Ansley inspected the site and did a courtesy spray for one property owner. Another property owner will take care of the infestation on their own property. Infestation is dense. One property owner is actively trying to get all neighbors involved. Apparently the infestation has been spreading in the area for about 13 years.
  - Received a call from a resident in the Maudlow area regarding spotted knapweed on the old railroad bed. The Weed District has sprayed the area.
  - Ansley has done an enforcement action on the Blue Sky Development Story Mill property next to the Boys and Girls Club. Dymarecc Property Services has mowed the property and the Weed District will follow up with a fall spray. Commissioner Skinner asked about the billing process for this. An invoice will be submitted to the developer however, if they do not pay the amount will go on the property taxes. The development is in bankruptcy proceedings so it may be some time before we get reimbursed.
  - In response to more complaints regarding the Maxey property off Durston, Ansley has sent out notice of non-compliance. He would like to work with the property owner/manager rather than do an enforcement action.
  - Three of our crew members are participating in the Big Sky Weed Committee "Super Mapping" week. The team is mapping the entire Gallatin Canyon and also the Big Sky Spur Road.
  - Conservators have been appointed for the Huffine property and they are trying to close out the estate. They have some funding for weed control and are currently reviewing their best options.
  - WMAs. Lower Madison has been slow to start. Have not spent much yet. The Upper Madison will be closed out. The funds have all been spoken for but not all claims have been

received. Frog Rock WMA will be closed out also. Photo points have been done by Ansley, commercial applicators and property owners. Next week Ansley will tour both the Upper and Lower Madison WMAs with Stacy Barta of the Department of Agriculture.

- The rental program has slowed down
  - Ansley set up the Weed Booth at the Back Country Horse Poker Ride at Bridger Bowl but felt it was not a productive day.
  - There are four (4) trucks in our fleet that need to be eliminated. We are working with Dave Fowler (County Road Junk Vehicle program) to get this done.
  - The seasonal crews will finish at the end of next week. The Foreman will stay on for a while to assist with fall spraying and winterizing equipment.
  - Ansley asked Commissioner Skinner if he knew when the energy stimulus money was going to be available. The Shop needs to be cleaned out before CorBond could be installed and it will be a lengthy process.
- 5. Calendars.** The funds for the Calendars come out of our advertising budget. There is very little in the line item. There are two (2) calendars sponsored by the Noxious Weed Trust Fund this year. The Weed District has ordered a few of each.
- 6. Trade Shows.** The payment for booths at the trade shows comes out of our Rent line item. In the preliminary budget we have enough funding to rent space at one trade show or rent a room for the Weed Summit. After a short discussion the Board decided to continue with the Summit, however to cut the program to a half day with coffee and donuts in the a.m. and no lunch. If there is any funding left for a trade show the Board suggested that we select the one that gives us the most results. Ansley felt that would be one of the Home Shows.
- 7. Round Table.** There was no Round Table Discussion.

The regular meeting adjourned at 2.17PM. The Board went in to Executive Session with Cynde Hertzog, Gallatin County HR Director.

The next meeting will be September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary