



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 5, 2009**

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the January meeting had been mailed to the Board and were approved as presented.

Claims/Budget.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Weed Summit Awards.** Hengel reported that the Weed Summit Award plaques from Bozeman Trophy are complete.
- 2. Board Training.** Hengel reported on the Weed Board Training that was provided in Butte. The training provided good information on issues related to Weed Boards. Littlefield brought up the topic of embargo abilities by Weed Districts as discussed at the training. According to state law (MCA 7-22-2126) Weed Districts have the abilities to establish embargo programs to reduce the spread or introduction of noxious weeds. The embargo program applies to both forage and gravel pit material. Bell asked for a motion for the Weed District to develop an embargo program for point sources of noxious weeds including but not limited to gravel pits and forage. Keith Mainwaring seconded the motion. During discussion Hofman asked if the embargo program would apply to flower seed mixes as well. Hengel stated that the state already has an inspection program that directly applies to flower seed mixes and that the embargo program would probably not apply to flower seed mixes. Littlefield asked if the County Weed Management Plan (WMP) needs to be updated by a certain date. Hengel stated that there is no required "due date" and the Weed District last revised the WMP in 2007. Hengel said that he is currently working on an update. Bell's motion to implement embargo program passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Public Comment/Other.** Dan Durham and Marcie Murnion-Learn with the Conservation District introduced themselves. Marcie discussed Dan's position duties with small acreage program and that they will be implementing best management practices. Marcie brought up the use of a Weed District vehicle. Marcie recently attended a Pine Beetle meeting to address the issue of the spread of the insect. She asked that the Weed Board expand their program and consider providing insecticide and purchasing a sprayer to assist the public with the pine beetle issue. The Board stated that they could not make a decision at this time but would place the topic for discussion at the next (March) board meeting.

2. Commissioner Report. None.

3. Chairperson Report. Bob Hofman asked if weed display is done. Hengel stated that it is very close to being complete.

4. Enforcement/Education Coordinator Report.

- Ansley reported that he has been working on end of year report.
- Ansley reported that he had produced a PowerPoint presentation for he and Dennis for the Range Management Workshop that was held in conjunction with the NRCS and the Conservation District.
- Ansley reported that he worked on and finished the 2008 Complaints/Reports Binder.
- Ansley reported that he attended the MWCA Annual Meeting in Billings and that he was nominated Vice-Chair for the SW Area Council.
- Ansley is currently working on a Lower Madison WMA PowerPoint presentation for the NWTf Hearings which will be March 4th.
- Ansley reported that he worked on a map of insect release sites in the Bozeman Pass Area. He received some GPS points from Reggie Clark of the USFS and entered them into Google Earth along with GCWD points to create a map of the release sites in the Bozeman Pass Area.
- Ansley reported that he worked at the Weed Booth at the Bozeman Home Show.
- Ansley is currently working on Noxious Weed of the Week for the Belgrade News. We will have approximately 14 weed articles and the first one will start in early May and will be Whitetop since it is an early bloomer.
- Ansley stated that there will be a Weed Booth at the Wild West WinterFest which is Feb. 13-15. He gave the times and asked the Board who would be willing to help man the booth. Jeff Littlefield will help but he will get back to us on specific time.
- Ansley informed the board that there will be a Weed Booth at the Spring Home and Garden Show which is Feb. 28 and Mar. 1. He gave the times and asked the Board who would be willing to help man the booth. Keith stated that he could help from 10am - 2pm on Feb. 28.

5. Coordinator Report.

- Hengel commented on the weed booth at Bozeman Home Show. The booth was very successful. While attending the booth Hengel was contacted by a landowner who owns property near the Headwaters State Park. The landowner talked about his efforts on weed control (primarily spotted knapweed and leafy spurge). The landowner expressed interest in participation in the Lower Madison WMA for 2010.
- Hengel commented on MWCA Annual Meeting held in Billings. The meeting sessions and topics provided good information but the facilities and service provided by the motel were poor. As per last year the District's Administrative Assistant, Rosemary Perry, attended the conference and provided assistance with registration. Hengel was selected as Chair for the MWCA Partnership Committee.
- Hengel presented to the Weed Board the 2008 Annual Report. Hengel quickly reviewed the highlights (especially the Weed Board Priorities and Work Completed sections) of the report. Hengel asked the Board to review the Annual Report in the upcoming days for an in-depth discussion on next month's agenda.

6. Round Table.

Bell asked which county has entered into agreement with utility companies for weed control for 3 years. Hengel stated that Beaverhead County (Jack Eddie) has developed agreements with the utilities companies. Bell recommended that the Weed District incorporate similar agreements in the Gallatin County Weed Management Plan.

Mainwaring informed those present that a local radio show has a new format called "Wild Card" which is on Monday afternoons from 4pm - 6pm. Hengel and Mainwaring could host the

program. Hengel mentioned that we could to start in April and go through June. In addition, Mainwaring said that a couple of people that stopped at the weed booth stated that when they are camping, they go out and pull weeds for a couple of hours.

Littlefield stated that at the Board Training in Butte there was discussion on the addition of several more weeds to the noxious weed list including Russian Olive, some aquatic species, and possibly adding cheatgrass.

Mainwaring stated that he talked with Commissioner White and there is a good chance that the budget would take a hit this year.

Marcie Murnion-Learn stated that there is a Conservation District banquet March 5 at the Bozeman Senior Center.

Bell asked what meeting is Stacey Barta having after the Weed Summit? Hengel said that this is a Scoping Meeting regarding the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Program (NWTF). The Scoping Meetings are being conducted throughout the state to determine the effectiveness of the NWTF Program.

The next meeting will be March 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Hengel, Coordinator