



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 8, 2009**

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

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

Claims/Budget. Littlefield asked if the ATV Trailer had been purchased yet. Hengel informed him that he had returned to the dealership and the price had increased by \$50.00. The funds that Hengel wants to use to purchase the trailer need to be transferred from the Revenue Account to an Expenditure account. Hengel has started the Resolution process to add the funds to budget and into an expenditure account. Bell had a question regarding the cost share for the Hebgen Lake Estates HOA. Hengel informed him that the amount was a 50% cost share from the Upper Madison WMA grant.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Weed Summit Awards.** At the December meeting Hengel had recommended that Tom Greason (FW&P) and Don McAndrew (Big Sky Weed Committee) be the recipients of the Agency Award and the Weed Warrior Award. Hengel stated that working with Tom Greason has enabled the Weed District to get a lot of FAS cleaned up. There was discussion regarding the difference between the two (2) awards. Hengel explained that the concept of the Agency Award was recognizing the work performed by an individual within the Agency, not the Agency itself. Fred Bell moved to award Tom Greason (FW&P) the Agency Award and Don McAndrew the Weed Warrior Award. Bob Hofman seconded and the motion carried.
2. **Board Training.** Littlefield asked the Board if they had received the flyer. Copies of the flyer were handed out. Commissioner Skinner has already signed up. There was a short review of the Agenda for the training. Fred Bell, Jeff Littlefield and Keith Mainwaring stated that they would attend. Bob Hofman would like to attend, but won't know if he will be able to get away until closer to the event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None
2. **2009 Chair Appointment.** Fred Bell moved that Bob Hofman be appointed to Chair position for 2009, Keith Mainwaring seconded and the motion carried. The gavel was passed to Hofman.
3. **Commissioner Report.** None.
4. **Chairperson Report.** Littlefield reported that Hengel's evaluation was due in March. Bell suggested that they do it at the February meeting. Littlefield will call Human Resources for the forms.

5. Enforcement/Education Coordinator Report.

- Ansley reported that he took some vacation time during December.
- He has been entering data from his inspection reports and complaint reports into the Weed data base.
- Ansley reported that Hengel received a call from Palffy regarding the enforcement action taken on the Maxey property off N 7th Ave and Durston. She requested that all information regarding the complaint be faxed to her. Hengel contacted Deputy County Attorney Gray who recommended that Hengel ask for the request for documents in writing. A "Request for Documents" form was mailed to Palffy on December 8th, 2008 and as of this date she has not responded. Hengel informed the Board that the District will need to pursue the issue as not all the property was treated. The letter process will be reinitiated in the spring and the letters will be sent both by certified mail and regular mail with a delivery confirmation request.
- Ansley is currently working on an end of year report for the Board.
- Thank you letters and calendars have been mailed to contacts from Ansley's programs.
- Ansley is working on a power point presentation for a Rangeland workshop sponsored by NRCS that he and Hengel will be participating in on January 20th. License credits will be available from this meeting.
- Stacy Barta (Dept. of Ag NWTF Grant program) complimented Ansley and Perry on the grant application for the Lower Madison WMA.
- The Spring Home and Garden Show will be February 28th and March 1st at the Fairgrounds. The price for a booth for a non-profit is \$200. Ansley asked the Board if they felt we should have a booth. The Board felt that it would be a good investment and will help staff the booth.
- The Bozeman Home Show will take place at the Fairgrounds on January 23, 24 & 25th. Ansley can work any shift necessary. Fred Bell, Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman and Jeff Littlefield will all take shifts. Fred Bell asked about the Big Look Display. Hengel informed him that when the business moved our file was lost. It has since been found but he has not been able to connect with the person who is working on our project.
- Ansley will have a manned booth at the Wild West WinterFest on February 13, 14 and 15th. He gave the exhibitor times to the Board and will ask for assistance at the February Board meeting.

Fred Bell brought up discussion regarding the gravel pit requirements. Hengel is still working with the GYCC to continue the gravel pit inspection program. The program is working to get a voluntary certification program going and then will turn to the problem pits for compliance. Bell would like to see a list of clean pits published thanking the operators for conducting weed control work on their property, and this would also give the private citizen the option of finding a source for clean gravel.

Bell also had questions regarding the location of the Morning Star Meadows subdivision that was listed on the Monthly Report. This has been an ongoing process since June 2008.

Hengel explained the situation to the Board.

Bell also had a question regarding the hydro mechanical obliteration weed control that was mentioned in the Monthly Report. Ansley explained the process.

6. Coordinator Report.

- Hengel reminded the Board that the MWCA Annual meeting is next week in Billings and the Staff will be attending. Also the Weed Summit is coming up in February. Mainwaring stated that his brother would like to attend the Summit.
- Hengel informed the Board that the Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D annual meeting and banquet will take place on February 5th. He would like to attend with Ansley. The consensus of the Board was that they should attend.

- As a follow up on the mechanic position Hengel reported that after discussion with the Fairgrounds Manager, Sue Shockley, they both felt that for the Weed District could contract the Weed District's work as needed. The Board felt that this was a good option.
- Hengel informed the Board that as follow up surgery on last year's ankle surgery is required. He will possibly have that set up for February 18th, but will let the Board know for sure at the February meeting.
- Fred Bell asked about the status on the Black Bull Run development and the Love Lane disturbance. Hengel reported that the situation needs to be resolved through Northwestern Energy as they are the agency that created the disturbance. State Law requires utility companies to have an approved WMP on file before they create a disturbance; however there is no penalty if they do not comply with State Law. Bell stated that the Weed District needs to develop a working relationship with the Energy Company so that they know what the requirements are.

Chairman Bob Hofman thanked Jeff Littlefield for his dedicated service to the Weed District.

Hengel brought up the topic of a subdivision that presented a WMP and MOU at the same time. The property has a large area of fallow land that was formerly in small grain production that was not addressed in the WMP and on inspection of the property Hengel found scattered infestations of CT and SK. The developer will be required to provide a paid contract for weed control or enter into an improvements agreement before MOU approval.

7. Round Table.

Mainwaring informed those present that KMMS is now streamed on the internet. There is a program on Monday afternoons from 4-6PM that the Weed District can host. Mainwaring asked Hengel if he would like to participate. They decided that it would be good to participate starting around April.

Fred Bell asked what the status was on the interactive mapping project. Hengel said that the County GIS Department has had several staff turnovers and the project has stalled. However, GIS recently hired Frank Dougher, former MSU mapping specialist. Dougher knows noxious weeds and is familiar with the Weed District's mapping program so the interactive mapping project will take off again. Mainwaring stated that Mike Jones (Big Sky Weed Coordinator) mapped a lot of the Gallatin Canyon and the Big Sky Weed Committee is hoping to eventually make the results available to the public. Hengel and Ansley both would like to move forward with the production of new trace maps for the spray crews.

Hengel brought up the Missoula Weed Curriculum. We have been contacted requesting another contribution for this program. Gallatin County contributed in 2006 and 2007. Missoula County is developing a certified curriculum that can be used in schools statewide. Fred Bell moved to contribute \$300 to the Missoula curriculum project, Jeff Littlefield seconded and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be February 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary