



Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
December 2, 2010

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

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Bell** asked what the status was on the Utility Agreement. Ansley informed him that it has been finalized and the procedure is now in place. Bell suggested sending out a "news flash" to utility companies. Mainwaring brought up a project that has been underway on Amsterdam Road. Ansley will check into it. Hofman stated that the construction company had done a good job finishing the surface of the project area.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Other or Public Comment.** None.
2. **Board Duties** – Susan Shane (HR). Shane went over the Performance Evaluation procedure with the Board. She handed out blank forms and copies of the Position Description to the Board. She would like the reviews back in January as Ansley's annual review is due in February.
3. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - Bell had questions regarding seeding costs in the Hebgen Basin area. Some residents in the Hebgen Basin WMA had asked about cost share for reseeding. The staff made calls to some businesses to get estimates in order to include the seeding in the new Grant application.
  - Bell asked if the revenue from subdivision review fees stays in the Weed Budget. Yes the funds stay in the Weed District Budget.
  - Littlefield asked about the Weed Law changes. Jones passed out copies of the current law, proposed changes and how the changes would impact the weed district. There are some changes that bring up more questions. The Board was asked to review the suggested changes and bring comments to the January 2011 meeting as Commissioner Skinner and the County Attorney will be present.
  - Bell brought up the item regarding the disclosure of noxious weeds on property for sale. There is no provision in the law regarding the entity that would police it. The Board will review the changes and then present ideas to Lambert (County Attorney) at the January meeting.
  - Bell asked where payments from non-compliance go. The funds are deposited into the Weed District budget as reimbursement to cover the expense of the enforcement action.
4. **Chair Report.** None.
5. **Coordinator(s) Report.**
  - ❖ The Hebgen Basin and the Rocky Creek WMA grants have been rewritten. Rocky Creek WMA has been expanded from approximately 12,000 acres to 14,000 acres at the request of

bordering landowners. The Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant hearings are in early March. Ansley is planning to do a cooperative project with MDT in 2011 on the Bozeman Pass. Bell asked about the MRL property on Bozeman Pass. MRL contacted Ansley last summer requesting suggestions for critical areas to spray in Gallatin County. Ansley suggested all the MRL property from Belgrade over Bozeman Pass. He will follow up on this again in the spring. MRL will be invited to the Weed Managers meeting in February.

- ❖ At the November Board meeting the Board had decided that as working relationships had been built with other agencies there was no need to hold a Weed Summit in 2011; however, at a meeting with the Big Sky Weed Committee Board Ansley and Jones were asked to hold a weed managers meeting to develop coordinated plans for the 2011 field season. The meeting has been set for February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Bozeman Public Library. Mainwaring asked if we were going to give out awards, however Ansley and Jones wanted to keep the meeting informal. Mainwaring would like to give Mohler an award for Weed Fighter of the Year for her work with the Big Sky Weed Committee. Following discussion Bob Hofman moved to give Mohler the Weed Fighter of the Year award, Fred Bell seconded and the motion carried.
- ❖ Ansley, Jones and Perry attended the SW Area Coordinators meeting in Butte. At the meeting there were a number of resolutions that the SW Area Council signed off on regarding the changes to the Weed Law.
  - a) Support Legislation change to Senate Bill 343
  - b) Support Legislation House Bill 2
  - c) Support Legislation – Non-compliance
  - d) Support Legislation on Montana County Weed Act Revisions

There was also discussion regarding the aquatic invasive species surveying to be set up for 2011 over a five (5) county area.

- ❖ MPDES Permits are still under discussion. The DEQ has not finalized the process. Currently fees of \$500 for a permit and \$500 per year have been proposed. The Department of Agriculture and the Montana Weed Control Association are working together to try and get permits more generalized rather than for a small specific area. This would make the permit process more economically sound.
- ❖ The MWCA Annual Conference is in Great Falls from January 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The literature display rack that Mainwaring had requested is in so arrangements can now be made to get it hung in the Courthouse.
- ❖ There is an Invasive Species meeting in Helena on December 9<sup>th</sup> and the staff will be attending that. A key topic of the discussions will be Eurasian water milfoil.
- ❖ Ansley brought up the subject of biological control of hawkweed. Littlefield explained to the Board the procedure for getting biological agents through the APHIS process. Littlefield is the primary researcher on the *aulacidea subterminalis* (wasp). There a couple of concerns from the public but once they are resolved there is a plan to start the releases on dense orange hawkweed infestations in the NW part of the state.
- ❖ Mohler took over the Big Sky Weed Project from Jones. She got a late start but managed to get a lot done. 2900 Post cards were sent to landowners, \$2000 was spent in cost share and approximately 1800 acres were treated. The Big Sky Weed Committee will have a planning meeting in January and will also attend the Weed District planning meeting in February to discuss cooperative projects. The Weed District could possibly help the Committee write a NWTf grant next fall. Jones hopes that there will be some monitoring of the areas that were mapped in 2009 in order to see what sort of progress has been made with on the ground treatment. The Board had questions regarding the county line. Does Madison County spray

their area? The Madison County Weed District does spray the Big Sky property in their county.

- ❖ Ansley and Jones are going through the rental sprayers and replacing parts that are worn in order to make the rental program go more smoothly in 2011.
- ❖ The Fairgrounds mechanic has been servicing all the trucks and getting them ready for 2011 field season.

The meeting adjourned at 2.20pm. The next meeting will be on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2011. Mainwaring reminded the other Board members that the County Attorney will be at the January meeting to discuss the changes to the Weed Law and interaction between the Weed Department and the County Attorney's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.