



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 7, 2010**

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

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

Budget. No discussion.

2010 Chair Appointment. After discussion regarding rotation Fred Bell moved to appoint Keith Mainwaring as Chair for 2010. Jeff Littlefield seconded and the motion passed. The gavel was passed to Mainwaring.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Weed Summit Awards.** As previously discussed the Board had decided to present the Agency Award to MDT and to present a Special Recognition Award to Commissioner Skinner in appreciation of all he has done for the Weed District. Ansley would also like to nominate the Gallatin County GIS Department for Special Recognition as they have gone above and beyond the call of duty with the Weed District mapping programs. The Board felt that this was a good idea.
- 2. Hofman** asked Ansley if enough of the stimulus funds had been received to cover the cost of the new furnace. Ansley has been informed that some of the funds have been received by the County and has forwarded the invoice for the furnace to the Grants Department for payment.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Public Comment/Other.** None.
- 2. Monthly Report Q&A.**
 - There was a question regarding the "Eat a Frog for Breakfast" comment. This was a webinar on time management that Ansley and Perry participated in.
 - There was a question regarding the response from 3 Rivers. This will be addressed in the Coordinator report.
 - Bell had questions regarding the Patterson Park subdivision and the issue of the Commercial Applicator not being paid for weed control work done. There was discussion regarding prepaid contracts and other options. This will be a topic to address with Planning and the County Attorney.
 - Hofman asked about the Weed District transferring an ATV to the Road Department. Ansley explained that the ATV was an old Kawasaki that is no longer used for spraying and is currently being used by the Road Department as a run around at their new site.

3. Commissioner Report. None

4. Interim Coordinator Report.

- December is a slow month and Perry and Ansley have both taken some time off.
- We have not heard anything back from the Dept of Ag regarding the grants which is hopefully a good sign.
- Ansley and Perry attended a conflict resolution workshop. The workshop dealt with categorizing people into color groups (blue, gold, yellow & green) according to behaviors. Knowing the way someone in a certain group will respond to a situation assists others to understand and work with people from other categories.
- Ansley met with Matt Wilhelm (Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species), and representatives from Trout Unlimited, Madison River Foundation and Madison Conservation District. The group would like to map the entire Madison Watershed from Hebgen Lake to the Headwaters of the Missouri. This will be a good project for the Weed District to be involved in as part of the project is in the Lower Madison WMA. The project is scheduled for the end of July.
- The center panel of the educational display had started to peel away from the base so Ansley took it back to Big Look. They repaired it at no charge.
- Energy project update. The new furnace is in. Ansley passed around before and after pictures for the Board. Door Tech will probably install the new doors within the next couple of weeks. The insulation cannot be done until there are a few days of above 40 degree weather. Ansley received an email from the grants department the last week of December listing added requirements for the companies that have been awarded the contracts (Davis-Bacon wage schedule and a Dunn's number for the contractors). Fortunately these extra requirements did not create any planning problems. Ansley is the first to get the contracts presented to the Committee and get work started.
- Vehicle Update. The four vehicles that will be disposed of are almost ready to go. Asset forms have been filed at the Courthouse. Fowler (Road Department) will assess the vehicles and see if they will go for auction or to the junk vehicle program. Other items include a copier, a Nikon 35mm camera, a computer and an adding machine. These will all go in the Auditor's surplus sale.
- The MWCA Annual Conference is next week – 12th, 13th & 14th January in Missoula. Ansley, Perry and Jones will attend.
- Ansley announced that we will have a booth at the Wild West WinterFest in February and asked the Board if anyone would like to help man the booth. Mainwaring stated that he would talk to Murdoch's to see if he could get bags for literature. He suggested getting a rubber stamp with the Weed District logo and information on it.
- Weed Summit. A draft Agenda has been put together. Ansley asked Littlefield if he would be able to give a presentation. Littlefield said he would. Bell stated that in the past agencies had given reports on their projects that were very useful for planning. Ansley has made allowance for these reports in the Round Table discussion area.
- Ansley is working on the Trace Maps and descriptions that the seasonal crews work from when they are spraying.
- Landowner Maintenance. The list of people participating in the Landowner Maintenance program is being updated. A letter will be sent out to former participants requesting that they re-enroll with the Department by filling out the new contract and using our metal signs. This will make it easier for the crews to spot and provide uniformity. The Landowner Maintenance areas can also be marked on the Trace maps.

- Utility Agreement. Ansley passed around copies of a draft of the utility agreement that he has prepared. He requested that the Board take the draft home for review and bring any comments or suggestions to the next Board meeting.
- Ansley will be attending the Hyalite Meadows subdivision HOA meeting on January 26th. Dan Durham of the Gallatin Conservation District is planning a Realtor training. Ansley referred him to Fred Bell. Bell has not been approached yet. Approximate dates are between April 17th and 19th.
- Ansley asked the Board if they wanted him to do an End of Year Report for 2009. The consensus of the Board was that the project is too time consuming and expensive to produce and therefore not necessary.
- Ansley showed the Board a pie chart that he had put together showing complaints according to weeds. Spotted knapweed and Canada thistle were by far the most prevalent.

5. Round Table.

Hofman informed the Board that he had been contacted by Hertzog (HR Director) regarding the hiring process. There were 38 applications. Hertzog and Commissioner Skinner will do the initial cut of the applications.

Littlefield was concerned that the process is moving slowly. With a start date of February 1st. we are getting close to the wire. Bell asked Perry to email HR stating that the Committee would like to sit down and review applications as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.40PM. The next meeting will be February 4th.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary