



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

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the September meeting had been sent to the Board. Littlefield had a question regarding the unused FY'10 Budget funds rolling into FY'11. These do not add to the Budget line items. The Minutes were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Huffine Property Update.** Ansley reported on the progress of the complaint property. The resident on the property has given the Weed District permission to spray if we can find an organic herbicide. She does not want herbicide on the property. She informed Ansley that she has mowed and disked; however on inspection the area cultivated is approximately 3 acres of the 120 acres that needs treatment. At this time a decision has been made to hold off until spring.
2. **Utility Agreement.** Ansley asked Commissioner Skinner if we need a Resolution to put the document through a Public meeting. Skinner referred Ansley to Greenbaum (Deputy Co Attorney).

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Other or Public Comment.** None.
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.** None
3. **Chair Report.** None
4. **Coordinator(s) Report.**
 - Mike Jones reported on the progress that we are making on the Eurasian water milfoil infestations. Jones showed a map of known infestations to the Board. A coordinated survey was done with Gallatin County, Broadwater County, FW&P, and the Department of Agriculture in the Three Forks area near the Jefferson River. A number of low density sites were found in ponds and side channels; however there is a need to survey upstream to find a source. A heavy infestation was found in a slough near the Drouillard Fishing Access. There is a need to educate people regarding this weed. The Gallatin County Weed District put a notice in the Three Forks Herald; contacted other weed coordinators and commercial applicators with aquatic licenses, to invite them to inspect the Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation at the Drouillard site and also a native milfoil site in a pond near Three Forks on the north side of I-90. The tour was well attended with coordinators from Broadwater County, Beaverhead County (2), Powell County, BLM (Butte & Dillon), FW&P (Townsend & Bozeman), Big Hole Watershed Committee, three (3) of the four aquatic licensed commercial applicators in Gallatin County, and two (2) members of the public. Treatment of infestations is a challenge. Broadwater County has hired a diving dredge company out of Idaho to deal with an infestation at the Toston Dam; however this is costly. DNRC is funding the Toston Dam project. The infestations in Gallatin County are in fairly shallow water, Jones is currently setting up the permits needed to work in the waterways. FW&P (Spoon)

has access to a small suction dredge and we will try that on the slough near Drouillard. Commissioner Skinner asked what the impact would be if we did nothing. Jones stated that the sloughs would be lost, and the infestations would create a source for the Missouri. Ansley also mentioned that the weed chokes up dams, irrigation systems and takes away habitat for fish, aquatic birds and other species that live in wetlands. Littlefield asked if there would be Trust Fund monies available. The Department of Agriculture is working on this funding option. Ansley commented that we may have to ask for some extra funds for herbicide in the spring if we have to use this approach to the problem.

- Ansley brought up the possibility of coordinating with the City of Bozeman and GVLТ to hire a crew dedicated to parks and trails. Trail maintenance is an issue.
- Ansley brought up that Extension is trying to make the Small Acreage Resource Technician a full time year round position. The Sonoma is currently on loan for the use of the Technician. Ansley suggested transferring the Sonoma to Extension. Commissioner Skinner reminded the Board that the original agreement with the Conservation District was that the Weed District would provide the truck and fuel. The Board decided that this was a good investment as the position takes a load off the coordinators.
- Ansley and Jones have been busy spraying roads, gravel pits and the Fairgrounds. Ansley also did a follow-up spray on the Arrowleaf Hills Park. Crop Protection Services gave the Weed District Herbicide (Escalade and Perspective) to do trial plots on Leafy spurge. Western Conservation will do plots in Bridger Canyon and Ansley and Jones did some areas on the Greycliff Ranch. Escalade was used with success on a property in the Grand View Heights subdivision.
- A check was done on the County right of way bordering Brown's Organic Farm and the weeds are still pretty low. Follow-up will occur in the spring.
- The surplus sale was not a success; however we got rid of a lot of old equipment through the e-waste program.
- The Budget has been approved. Fowler (Road Department) is looking for a new spray truck and a run about truck. We also have funds for a new sprayer for the new truck.
- We are currently working on the Grant Reports for the Department of Agriculture as these are due next week.
- The rest of October will be dedicated to finishing the roads and rewriting the Hebgen Basin WMA and the Rocky Creek WMA grants.
- Ansley, Jones and Perry attended the Department of Agriculture Recertification training. A representative from the DEQ gave a presentation on the NPDES permitting program. There are still a lot of unanswered questions.

5. Round Table.

- Mainwaring was asked if freezing impacts Tordon. Ansley said the label states not to freeze; however he has known people to use it after freezing with success.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.00PM.

The next meeting will be on November 4th. Morgan asked to be excused as he will be guiding.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.