



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 05, 2010**

**Board** members present were Keith Mainwaring (Chair), Jeff Littlefield, Fred Bell, Craig Morgan, Bob Hofman and Commissioner Joe Skinner. **Others** present were James Greenbaum (Deputy County Attorney, Michelle Passmore (Small Acreage Resource Technician), Rachele Rhoades (MSU Student), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary). John Ansley was excused.

James Greenbaum and Michelle Passmore were introduced.

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the July Meeting had been sent to the Board. Bell had some questions as follow up on some items that were recorded. Morgan moved to approve the Minutes as submitted, Littlefield seconded and the Minutes of the July meeting stand approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Utility Agreement.** Deputy County Attorney Greenbaum explained the difference between the Voluntary Agreement and the Contractual Agreement that he had drawn up. The document that Greenbaum had drawn up is a service agreement that matches County Policies. After listening to the descriptions of the two (2) different documents, the Board felt that the contractual agreement may be the better way to go. Mainwaring asked about the page that requires proof of workers comp, insurance etc. Greenbaum explained that the utility companies or their contractors need to represent that their employees are covered and cannot come back at the County should there be an accident. Greenbaum will submit the document to a Northwestern Energy representative for feedback. Commissioner Skinner also asked Greenbaum about contractors who work in a County right-of-way needing an encroachment permit. Greenbaum will contact Provance (Road Department Superintendent) regarding the encroachment permits. Commissioner Skinner recommended that the Board take a copy of the documents home and review for final discussion next month.
- 2. Huffine Property.** Walking Cross Consulting has been appointed by the Court as conservators for this property on Springhill Road. There are legal issues creating problems for any person trying to do maintenance or weed control. Adjacent landowners have filed written complaints. Ansley has sent a Property Inspection Notice, however access has been denied by a resident on the property. At Ansley's request, Jones asked the Board how they wanted to proceed with the issue. A resident from a neighboring subdivision has also reported that the property is for sale. After much discussion, the Board decided that we should continue to follow the legal procedure as set out by State law and continue with the enforcement action.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Other or Public Comment.** Michelle Passmore reported that the Small Acreage program was going well. She has inspected approximately 70 properties since mid May.

## 2. Monthly Report Q&A.

- Bell asked if we had put together a list of gravel pits for him. Perry has done that and listed the ones that have been inspected.
  - Bell asked about the SRM Property. The property is now known as the Greycliff Ranch and has several heavy infestations of leafy spurge. There are only two (2) ranch employees to work on the problem. Jones is trying to get insects for them to set out on some areas. He has also discussed the problem with Jim Gordon (Crop Production Services) and Gordon has donated 2 ½ gallons of Escalade and some Perspective for trials on the property.
  - Ansley did a courtesy perimeter spray on a property on Trail Creek Road.
  - A property owner in Grand View Heights with a heavy leafy spurge infestation has been offered a perimeter courtesy spray. He will participate later in August.
  - A resident near the East Gallatin River has curly leaf pondweed in her pond. In response to her enquiries Ansley has been researching the best options for treatment. The resident called in stating that she had already treated the pond with Aquathol Super K that she had purchased over the internet. The resident had been informed by both the Department of Ag and the Weed District that State Law requires a DEQ Permit before any herbicide can be put into State water. DEQ and Department of Agriculture were notified of the action.
  - Bell was interested to note that a resident was going to use a leafy spurge infestation on a piece of property they wanted to purchase as a bargaining chip on price.
  - Commissioner Skinner asked how a private individual could get insects for weed control. Jones had gone to Roundup with a group and collected insects that he released on the Rice Ranch near Three Forks. Jones was impressed that the draw where the insects were collected was about 10 miles long and the insects had cleaned up about 5 miles of it. Breitenfeldt (Whitehall High School) gave Jones more insects that were released on the "M".
  - A property owner in the Arrowleaf Hills subdivision came to the office looking for assistance on the subdivision parkland open space. They have a dense common tansy infestation throughout the eight (8) acre park. Investigation showed that this is a county maintained park. Ansley called Harris (Open Lands) and Harris mowed the property. Ansley followed up with a spray treatment on most of the park and will finish next week.
3. **Cost Share.** At the July Board meeting the Board discussed putting a cap on the Cost Share for this field season but did not settle on an amount. Bell moved to cap the cost share at \$75/applicant/year. Littlefield seconded and the motion carried.
4. **Chair Report.**
- NPDES Permits – the DEQ is in the process of setting up a requirement for permits to spray pesticide/herbicide near water. While there are still a lot of questions regarding permit requirements this program will impact all herbicide/pesticide applicators drastically. Commissioner Skinner recommended that the Weed District send a letter for public comment and copy it to our Legislators.
  - Mainwaring brought up the Bozeman Ponds area. Asked if there is a way to work with the City of Bozeman on the weed management in the area.
5. **Commissioner Report.** None.
6. **Coordinator Report.**
- The County Fair booth was slow. On Saturday about 25 people visited the booth. The booth spot was not ideal.
  - Curly leaf pondweed has been found in several locations near the East Gallatin, including the East Gallatin Recreation Area. Jones has done a survey and reported to the Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Skinner asked if it was in the East Gallatin yet. Jones replied that we have had a report of an infestation in the Logan area. In order to treat the infestations we

need a DEQ Permit at a cost of \$400. As the Weed District does not have the equipment for treating aquatic infestations we would need to hire a commercial applicator with the correct equipment to treat the infestations at a rate of approximately \$1200/acre. Yesterday, the Weed District teamed up with MSU and performed a weed pull in the East Gallatin Rec Area. One of our pick-ups was filled with the weed. This may be a good site for an annual weed pull as we do not have treatment costs in our budget. Commissioner Skinner asked how bad the infestations of this weed are. Jones stated that curly leaf pondweed can kill a pond by choking out other plants that decay and eliminate oxygen thus creating a fish kill.

- The Director of the Center for Invasive Plants (MSU) found two (2) yellowflag iris plants by a trail near the Kagy Store. Jones treated plants with an aquatic Roundup. We will watch the area for any regrowth or new plants.
- Landowner Maintenance – there is an organic goat dairy north of Belgrade that has a Landowner Maintenance Agreement with the Weed District. While inspecting another property in the area Ansley discovered a really bad CT infestation not only on the property but also on the County right-of-way. Ansley sent the owner a notice that the CT needs to be cleaned up by August 9<sup>th</sup> or he will revoke the Landowner Maintenance Agreement and inform the Department of Agriculture that the Weed District will be spraying the right-of-way. The Board asked that Ansley and Jones keep on top of this problem.
- Jones reported that he has participated in two (2) river mapping projects. The Madison River mapping was coordinated with Trout Unlimited and the Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species and the Jefferson River mapping was a coordinated effort with Madison County, Jefferson County, Broadwater County, Trout Unlimited, Center for Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species and the Whitehall High School Bio-control group. Littlefield asked if they were also checking for aquatic species. Jones replied that he had found an infestation of curly leaf pondweed near the Kountz Bridge in Jefferson County.
- Ansley and Jones have inspected four (4) gravel pits for TMC, Inc. They have all been certified and the pit operators are continuing to strive towards getting their pits clean.
- MDT Cooperative Project along Hwy 287 in the Hebgen Basin area. The Weed District had three (3) crews working on the project. Ansley and Jones sprayed the County Roads. The West Yellowstone airport was also sprayed.
- FW&P Cooperative Project – Cherry River FAS. Ansley, Jones and three (3) crews spent ½ day on the project. This is a very visible area and hopefully we can make an impact.
- Jones asked the Board about disposing of the three (3) old 65gallon sprayers. The Board elected to advertize them.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.07PM. The next meeting will be on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary