



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 03, 2010**

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the May meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Utility Agreement.** The meeting with the County Attorney, Ansley and Commissioner Skinner regarding the Utility Agreement did not take place in May due to time constraints. Commissioner Skinner told Ansley that he would have time this month and they need to set up an appointment.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
 - Littlefield had a question regarding the WMP that had identified Rush skeletonweed on a subdivision in Big Sky. Jones inspected the property and the weed had been misidentified along with other weeds. The WMP preparer will redo the WMP and resubmit.
 - Bell asked about the status of the Phillips Minor subdivision. Ansley stated that Hengel had inspected the property a few years ago and found dense infestations of SK and CT. When Ansley inspected the property there was still a lot of SK on an area that looked like it had been a gravel pit. There is a contract in place with John Huyser. Bell stated that the property is in much better shape now than it was.
 - A question was raised regarding the Maxey property. Ansley did a perimeter spray about two (2) weeks ago and PPYC has the contract for the rest of the property. Bell informed Ansley that the property behind U Haul has been mowed.
 - Bell noted the requests from the public regarding Cost Share and asked if there was a possibility of getting the Cost Share program reinstated. It is unlikely that the Budget will cover the cost share; however the Board feels that it is a good program and would like to continue to push for it.
 - Bell commented on the City of Bozeman marking water and sewer lines before the posts were set for the security fence. The Shop is on the City water and sewer system.
 - Bell asked about the call from a Willow Creek resident who had asked the Weed District to spray over his fence while we do the County right-of-way in front of his property.
 - Littlefield asked about the record keeping software. We have been using a product designed by a former weed coordinator and he has developed an upgrade that will enhance producing reports and invoices for different agencies at the end of the year.
3. **Budget.** Ansley reported that he had given a Budget request presentation to the Commissioners and Mainwaring had attended the meeting also. Commissioner Skinner asked about a request the Commission had received this morning that did not match Ansley's presentation request. Ansley will look into that and discuss with Blackman (Finance Director). Blackman and Therrien (Budget Coordinator) came to the Weed Office for input of the Weed District Budget request.

Ansley announced the dates of the off site Budget meetings at the Library. Commissioner Skinner suggested that it would be helpful if the Board attended on June 23rd.

4. **Chair Report.** None.
5. **Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner stated that Ansley did a good job with his budget presentation. He suggested that Ansley discuss the personnel discrepancy with Blackman.
6. **Coordinator(s) Report.**
 - Ansley reported that he and Jones had participated in a weed pull on the Gallatin Gateway Trail. It is in pretty good shape. Bell asked if any one was taking care of the field just north of the Gateway Inn. Ansley will follow up on that.
 - As a follow up on the commercial applicator requesting our mailing list, we received notification from the County Attorney's office that we could not furnish the list to others.
 - The spray crew consists of four (4) returnees from last year, one (1) returnee from four years ago and one (1) new employee. They are attending the SW area crew training in Alder this week. Spring spraying is difficult this year due to wind and rain.
 - The four (4) trucks that were slated for disposal have gone to the Junk Vehicle program. The other Chevy is currently having the sprayer stripped off it and then it will also be disposed of.
 - The posts for the security fence have been set and the contractor hopes to get the fence finished early next week. Ansley has purchased heavy duty pipe that will be set in concrete to protect the corners.
 - The herbicide has been ordered and the majority has already been delivered. There was discussion regarding possible options for cutting herbicide prices – coops, bulk buying with other counties etc. Ansley has discussed this with other coordinators and the price does not change as we are already purchasing at a discounted price.
 - The Retrofitting of the light fixtures at the shop is progressing. The rebate form for Northwestern Energy has been submitted and Haubrich Electric hopes to start the project next week.
 - The old sprayers will be listed for disposal through the normal county disposal procedure.
 - The Farm Fair was a good event. We are able to reach a lot of people through this avenue.
 - Ansley presented his requests for the Special County Grant. We are asking for a new computer to replace a six year old computer, a GPS Unit for mapping weeds and educational supplies. Mainwaring signed the application as Chair.
 - The Office received a call from American Bank regarding the Blue Sky Development at Story Mill. American Bank is the lien holder on the property and discovered the charges for the weed control enforcement when they went to pay the taxes. A copy of the weed management plan was faxed to the bank at their request. Ansley will work with American Bank to get them going on a weed management program.
 - The Extension Office has hired a Small Acreage Intern. The Weed District will contribute to the program by lending the Sonoma for inspections.
 - Jones informed the Board that the Big Sky Weed Committee has hired Mohler to assist with the Big Sky project. They will meet with Trout Unlimited people to get the June 26th weed pull organized. The group plans to meet at the Castle Rock Café this year. Ansley and Jones will participate and have a Weed District truck and trailer there to help haul weeds to the landfill.
 - The Big Sky Weed Committee will also try to get some cost share funds.
 - There is a really bad infestation of oxeye daisy on property owned by Boyne USA Inc. near the golf course at Big Sky. Contact with the owners has not been productive. The Big Sky Weed Committee plans to set up a demo area on the property for treatment of oxeye daisy in an effort to get some cooperation.

- Ansley informed the Board that he was approached by Steve Saunders (DOW Rep) regarding the Galligator Trail. We need to contact GVLТ or the City of Bozeman regarding spraying the trail. DOW will donate the herbicide Chaparral to spot spray.
 - Jones has done a couple of subdivision inspections. Property owners in the Meadowbrook Estates subdivision just off Gooch Hill Road requested a field inspection of the common areas. Jones identified the weeds for them and gave them recommendations for control.
 - Rentals are going well. The only hang up is the weather.
7. **Round Table.**
- Littlefield asked about the cost share on the grants. These are run on a first come first served basis. There was also discussion regarding before and after pictures for grants and other events such as the Trout Unlimited Weed Pull.
 - Bell asked if we have a list of gravel pits. There was discussion regarding weed management plans for gravel pits. Currently they are good for three (3) years however Bell felt the WMP needs to run the duration of the permit. He would also like to run an ad listing gravel pits that are certified. Ansley stated that there are gravel pits still wanting to be part of the certification program. He has some inspections lined up as soon as the weather breaks.
 - Bell also stated that he would like to see weed management plans on conservation easements. Commissioner Skinner thought that could possibly be achieved on county open lands contracts, however did not think we could do that with properties being set aside by private companies. Ansley will check with Harris (Open Lands) regarding the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.15PM. The next meeting will be on July 1st, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.