



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 06, 2010**

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

Michael Jones was welcomed aboard as the new Assistant Coordinator/Foreman. His start date will be Monday 10th May.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Assistant Coordinator/Foreman.** See above.
2. **Permitting for Utility Companies.** In April the Board had asked Ansley to see if Planning had a permitting process for utility companies. Ansley found that they do not. Littlefield had looked over the current proposed utility agreement and emailed comments to Ansley. Commissioner Skinner asked when the contract would be used. The idea is to have a weed management plan in place similar to the subdivision program. The consensus of the Board members present was to keep the contract simple and try to line it up with other counties in order to have continuity with the program. Skinner suggested that he and Ansley set up an appointment to meet with Deputy County Attorney Greenbaum to get the document finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** Mainwaring informed the Board that Fred Tubb had passed away. He felt that the Board should send a card to the family. Fred Tubb was a great supporter of the Weed District for a long time as a representative of the Farm Bureau.
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
 - ~ Bell asked about the GYCC USFS Agreement. The Forest Service Rep had requested written notification that the agreement was closed.
 - ~ Bell had a question regarding the Verizon Cell Tower development in Gateway. The cell tower process runs a parallel to the subdivision process and requires both a WMP and an MOU.
 - ~ Bell asked about the Jackrabbit Business Park. This is a 32 lot major commercial development on the north east corner of Jackrabbit Lane and Baxter Lane.
 - ~ There was discussion regarding the request from Lake County for a copy of our gravel pit WMP. Lake County requested WMPs from other counties in order to set up a plan for their county.
 - ~ Bell and Mainwaring brought up the article in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle regarding herbicide residue showing up in commercial mulch. There followed discussion regarding where the problem had shown up.
3. **Chair Report.** Mainwaring passed and asked Commissioner Skinner if he had anything to report. Commissioner Skinner had nothing new.

4. **Coordinator Report.**

- ~ Ansley has signed up for a presentation time for the Budget. He is pushing for 3 FTE's. There was a lot of discussion regarding the manner in which to present the request. Commissioner Skinner stated that the county was not going to add staff for FY'11 and asked if Ansley felt he could fund 3 FTE's without requesting extra funds. Ansley said he could. The Board felt that they were not asking for extra personnel, just trying to maintain what they had. There followed some budget discussion. Commissioner Skinner recommended that Board members go to Budget meetings with Ansley. Ansley had some questions regarding cash carryover and Commissioner Skinner recommended that he contact Blackman (Finance Director).
- ~ Ansley brought up discussion regarding Improvements Agreements. Language is written in the County Subdivision Regulations, however the Weed District is not set up at this time to monitor these. Ansley will check into the system with Planning as this would give the Weed District the resources to follow-up on subdivisions that do final plat in the winter or within a short period of time from filing preliminary plat. The Weed District staff will need to monitor these, requiring more staff time.
- ~ Ansley has received bids for the security fence around the shop from Precision Fence, Eagle Fence, Bozeman Fence and Big Sky Fence. The Board reviewed the bids. Fred Bell moved to award the fencing contract to Big Sky Fence with their bid of \$8,392. Craig Morgan seconded and the motion carried.
- ~ Lighting retrofits. Ansley reported that Haubrich Electric has already signed the contract and it has been sent to the Clerk & Records office. Haubrich Electric will also dispose of the old fixtures. Commissioner Skinner asked if this was stimulus funds. Ansley replied that it was not.
- ~ Herbicides. Ansley sent out requests for herbicide quotes to four (4) companies. He passed the quotes around for the Board to review. Based on the prices on the quote forms Craig Morgan moved to purchase the bulk of the herbicide for 2010 from Crop Production Services. Fred Bell seconded and the motion carried. Ansley will place the order.
- ~ Ansley asked Commissioner Skinner about roads in the Lazy Acres subdivision in West Yellowstone. The topic was part of a Public meeting where the county had abandoned the roads and the residents were requesting that the county rescind the decision. Skinner stated that the roads were dedicated to the county but not maintained by the county.
- ~ Ansley passed around the post cards that he had printed for the three (3) grant areas. We have had a good response to the mailing.
- ~ A commercial applicator had called the office requesting the mailing list that we had put together for the property owners in the grant areas. The county attorney stated that the applicator needed to put his request for the list and his reasons for wanting it in writing. The Weed Office would then submit the request to the County Attorney for review of law.
- ~ In April Fred Bell and John Ansley did a presentation at the Realtor Training. Bell had positive feed back from attendees and felt that Ansley did well with his presentation.
- ~ On April 17th Ansley had an educational booth at the Back Country Horse Clinic and on the same day Mainwaring had a booth at the Rocky Mountain Supply Customer appreciation days.
- ~ Ansley has had four (4) trucks aligned and serviced for the upcoming season. There are two (2) more to go but they need other work first. The 1990 automatic Chevy needs a new transmission as well as some other work. The cost of repairs exceeds the value of the truck. The truck will also be evaluated by Dave Fowler for disposal. The four (4) trucks that have been prepared for disposal are the 1984 Ford Ranger; the 1984 Chevy; the 1990 Nissan and the 1990 Chevy ¾ ton.

- ~ Two more loads of steel have been taken to Pacific Steel and Recycling.
- ~ The Farm Fair takes place next week and Ansley & Jones will have a booth there.
- ~ On the 19th May Ansley will be doing his budget presentation in the morning and then he and Jones will assist with the Gallatin Gateway Trail weed pull in the afternoon.
- ~ The crews will start on May 24th.
- ~ Ansley asked the Board what they would like him to do with the old rental sprayers if he cannot get them working. The Board told him to check with the County Auditor.

Bell wanted to make sure that Ansley asks for some funding for the cost share program when he does the budget presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.25PM.

The next meeting will be on June 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.