



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 4, 2010**

Board members present were Keith Mainwaring (Chair), Bob Hofman, Fred Bell and Commissioner Joe Skinner. Craig Morgan and Jeff Littlefield were excused. **Others** present were Ron Carlstrom (County Ag. Extension Agent), Michelle Passmore (Small Acreage Resource Technician), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Other or Public Comment. None.

2. Monthly Report Q&A.

- Bell asked about the 2011 Farm Fair. Ansley explained that the Chamber wanted to make it into a three (3) day event but at that time of year (mid-May) it is difficult for the Coordinators to find the time. In 2011 Mangold (MSU Extension) and staff members from MSU Center for Invasive Species will man the booth for one (1) day which will free up the coordinators for crew training etc.
- Complaints kept coming in through October – mainly Canada thistle issues.
- Bell asked about the herbicide donated by Crop Protection Services for trial plots. Western Conservation is doing some leafy spurge test plots in the Bridger Canyon area and Ansley and Jones have done test plots on the Greycliff Ranch near Three Forks.
- Mainwaring asked about the complaint process. The actions seem to go so far and stop. This sparked conversation on the enforcement policy. Ansley informed those present that there are changes being proposed to the weed law for presentation to the legislature. Commissioner Skinner asked about the process for changing the weed law. He stated that the Commission will be meeting with Legislators and it would be good for the Commission to be able to present the Boards perspective on the weed law revisions. Carlstrom brought up the fact that there are so many variables (e.g. property size, location, infestation size etc.) that it is difficult to have a weed law where "one size fits all". There was extensive discussion regarding weed infestations on state, federal, county and private lands. Ansley and Jones are getting good results through an educational approach.
- Commissioner Skinner asked Ansley if the Weed District rolling stock was on the core equipment replacement list. Ansley informed him that only the spray trucks were eligible and that they were on the list.

3. Chair Report. Mainwaring reported that there had been some confusion regarding Ansley's Evaluation but it will be straightened out following the meeting.

Mainwaring also asked Commissioner Skinner about the literature display racks in the Courthouse lobby. Some of the pamphlets that we have been displaying are out of print and the newer brochures do not fit in the current slots. The Office will research the purchase of a new display rack.

4. Coordinator(s) Report.

- ❖ As a response to complaints of noxious weeds along trail systems, Ansley contacted the City of Bozeman and GVLТ regarding a cooperative program for trail maintenance. They are interested and would like to have a meeting in January or February to discuss options.
- ❖ Ansley and Jones are rewriting the Hebgen Basin and Rocky Creek WMA grants. The Rocky Creek grant area has been expanded.
- ❖ Ansley reported that Celestine Duncan (Weed Management Services – Helena) had floated the Jefferson River from Williams Bridge to Drouillard and has found two (2) more Eurasian water milfoil infestations one a side channel that is about 60% infested. Ansley and Jones have also found another infestation upstream from Drouillard. Next week at the SW Area Coordinators Fall meeting Ansley will try to get surveys going in Madison and Jefferson Counties. As there are infestations above Harrison Lake the upstream source should be found and treated before there is a lot of time and money spent on treating infestations downstream. There was discussion regarding control measures and expense. Some areas would be appropriate for herbicide use, others would not. Commissioner Skinner remarked that this is an issue that the Legislators need to know about as it affects the whole state. If nothing is done about the infestations recreation, irrigation, dams, fisheries and wildlife habitat, could all be seriously impacted. DNRC paid for a commercial suction dredge company from Idaho to work at the Toston Dam and approximately 1200 – 1300lbs of the weed was removed. Ansley, Jones and Spoon (FW&P) hand pulled 158lbs out of a slough near the Drouillard Fishing access.
- ❖ Jones attended the Invasive Species Conference in Helena. There were a lot of good presentations on invasive species including pathogens, insects, weeds etc. On the way back to Bozeman he stopped and assisted Spoon (FW&P) with a dredge operation at the Cottonwood Channel near Townsend.
- ❖ Ansley listed the upcoming Trade Shows and asked the Board which they felt were the important ones to attend. We have funds for two (2) shows. The Board elected to go with the KBOZ Home Show and the Spring Home and Garden Show. The Wild West WinterFest does not cost us anything for a booth.
- ❖ Ansley asked the Board if they felt that it was necessary to continue with the Weed Summit. Commissioner Skinner felt that we have better relationships with other agencies now than when we started and felt it was important to maintain those relationships by continuing with the cooperative projects. Meeting with agency representatives to set up cooperative programs should suffice. Ansley remarked that we did a large cooperative project with MDT on Hwy 287 in the Hebgen basin this summer will continue to work with MDOT and possibly do a cooperative project on the Bozeman Pass in 2011; we are currently working with FW&P both on the water milfoil issue and Cherry River; we will be working with the City of Bozeman and GVLТ on the trail maintenance program. Bell suggested developing a newsletter to inform people about successes to keep the momentum going. Commissioner Skinner suggested having summits on specific topics e.g. the Eurasian water milfoil problem. He also suggested advertising the summits in order to get the public educated and involved.
- ❖ Ansley and Jones were able to spray up to the end of October and since then have been winterizing equipment.

- ❖ The SW Area Fall Coordinator's meeting is in Butte next week. Ansley is the Chair of the group.
- ❖ Carlstrom and Passmore will be meeting with Ansley and Jones after the Board meeting to discuss grants.

5. Round Table.

- **Commissioner Skinner** asked about the status of the Small Acreage position. Carlstrom stated that he has proposed to the Conservation District Board that the position be full time year round. The Conservation District would pay salary and fringe, and the Extension Service would provide secretarial time, and office space with Carlstrom as the supervisor. Carlstrom asked the Board if they would consider continuing to supply the vehicle, maintenance and fuel. The Board felt that the position is beneficial to the Weed District and agreed to continue providing the vehicle.
- **Carlstrom** informed the Board that he is writing two (2) NWTF Grants and asked for support from the Board. One grant is for an infestation of 1000 acres of sulfur cinquefoil at the northern end of the county and would be named the Mule Creek Grant. The other will be for small acreages in the Clarkston area, Bob Hofman moved to sponsor the grants, Fred Bell seconded and the motion carried.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 2.25PM.
The next meeting will be on December 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary