



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
December 01, 2011**

Board members present were Craig Morgan (Chair), Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, Keith Mainwaring, Jeff Littlefield and Commissioner Joe Skinner.

Others present were Michelle Dammen (Extension Small Acreage Specialist), John Ansley (Coordinator), Michael Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

Minutes. The Minutes of the November meeting had been mailed to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Road Department Encroachment Permit Update.** Ansley sent a Request for Legal Services form to the County Attorney's office to set up discussion on this. We will hopefully have representation from them at the January or February Board meeting.
- 2. Subdivision Preliminary Plat Extensions.** The staff has worked out the cost of doing field inspections in order to set up fees for the extensions on weed management plans. Commissioner Skinner has discussed this with Planning and suggested that Ansley meet with Planning and the County Attorney to discuss options.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Public Comment/Other.** Michelle Dammen reported that the State and Federal reports for the grants that Extension is running through the Weed District Budget are done. There was not as much activity in the Greater Clarkston area as they had hoped. Dammen also reported that the Conservation District will be meeting on December 8th and 9th to decide which direction they want to go with the small acreage position. The current contract with Extension closes on December 31st and the Conservation District has decided not to renew the contract.
- 2. Monthly Report Q&A.**
 - Hofman asked about the building maintenance costs noted on the Budget Sheet. The costs are actually the rent for the office space for the year.
 - Bell asked about the late applications for grant cost share. As the grants work on a first come first served basis some applicants end up on a waiting list. Many earlier applications had overestimated their costs which enabled us to cover all applications received before the grants closed.
 - Bell asked about the Hebgen Basin Minor WMP. The original plan stated that there are no noxious weeds on the property. Jones inspected the property and found Canada thistle. The Plan needs to be rewritten to address this and has not been resubmitted.

- There was discussion regarding the new City water treatment plant on Sourdough Canyon Road.
- 3. Grants Update – Bridger WMA.** The reports for the 2011 Hebgen Basin WMA and Rocky Creek WMA have been completed and sent to the Department of Agriculture and to the County Grants Department. The 2010 Hebgen Basin and Rocky Creek WMA grants have been closed out. Final reports have been submitted.
The Bridger WMA Grant application has been completed and submitted to the County Grants Department and the Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Trust Fund. A mailing list for the project area has been compiled with over 470 landowners. So far we have received letters of support from five (5) groups and 27 individual landowners. We have been working with the Bridger Owners Assn and the Bridger to Bangtail Coalition and they have assisted with contacts.
- 4. Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner reported that he had a discussion with Deputy County Attorney Gray regarding the issues brought up at the November meeting. These topics will be discussed further when Ansley meets with the attorney.
- 5. Coordinator(s) Report.**
 - Big Sky Weed Committee. Jones reported that he and Mainwaring had attended a meeting with the Big Sky Weed Committee. A request was made that one of the coordinators be on the Executive Board. Jones will be our representative. The past years achievements were reviewed; the Big Horn Sheep range spray day was a success; Mohler has done a lot of property inspections; the Ophir School weed pull was a success and they have done \$4200 of Cost Share.
 - Big Sky Owners Association Meeting. Jones had been asked to attend and give guidance on the enforcement issue. The golf course is a problem in that area. The Owners Association has a web site and there is a lot of information on noxious weeds on it. The group wants to develop a model for subdivisions and the Big Sky Owners Association will be the model.
 - Biennial Reports. We have worked with FWP on theirs but have not seen reports from other agencies yet.
 - MDT. Ansley reported that Mark Peterson has retired and Steve Felix brought his replacement Bill Pierce to the office to introduce him. There was also discussion regarding the annual weed managers meeting.
 - The thank you post cards are almost ready for the printer. We will also need to get more grant announcement post cards made.
 - The staff is currently working on the County Weed Management Plan.
 - Gallatin County will host the 2012 SW Area commercial applicator training in March at the Headwaters Livestock Pavilion.
 - Ansley is preparing a large order for parts from Warne Chemical. We also need a couple of pumps and motors for sprayers. He and Jones will be doing some maintenance work on the sprayers over the winter.
 - We have not had any word from Fowler regarding the search for a new spray truck.
 - Bell asked Ansley if commercial applicators need ongoing education in order to maintain their licenses. Ansley told him they do unless they want to retest.

- Commissioner Skinner reminded Ansley of the city round table meetings coming up. Ansley and Jones will both attend in January as long as it does not conflict with the MWCA Annual Conference. Commissioner Skinner will notify him as soon as the date and venue are available.

6. Board Members. Board terms for Littlefield and Mainwaring expire on December 31st. Mainwaring will reapply, Littlefield is not sure as he has been travelling a lot and missed quite a few meetings.

7. Round Table.

- Littlefield asked about the Weed Managers Meeting. There will be one spring meeting in April.
- Mainwaring asked about the cable company working on Jackrabbit, Huffine and Thorpe. Jackrabbit and Huffine are State roads and MDT has an encroachment permit in place.
- Commissioner Skinner stated that the county attorney's office is also looking at the county encroachment permit.
- Littlefield announced that the MWCA meeting will be in Great Falls on January 10, 11 and 12th in case any Board members would like to go.
- Perry announced that the Board and Commissioner Trainings that MWCA has been hosting have had very good feedback. The one in Missoula was cancelled due to weather but will be rescheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.00PM. The next meeting will be on January 5th 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.