



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 7, 2011**

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

Others present were John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator/Foreman) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

Minutes. The Minutes of the June meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented. Bell asked about the administration fee for the grants. Ansley informed him that the Commissioners had approved a 50% cut in the fees; however they had voted against giving us a line item to cover the fees. The fees for the Weed District Grants and the Extension grants will have to come out of the Special County Grant and will amount to approximately \$2500.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comment. None

2. Monthly Report Q&A.

- Bell noted that the subdivision review fees were matching last years. He asked if these fees stayed in the Weed Budget, they do.
- Bell had a question regarding the grazing withdrawal period after spraying. Ansley stated that this was dependent upon the herbicide used and the label gives grazing restrictions.
- Bell brought up the Dyer's woad at the Tinsley House. The plant had been brought in as a dye plant; however the Department of Agriculture required that it be removed.
- Bell asked about a complaint issue on a piece of property on Magenta Road. Ansley informed him that the property owner is working with Western Conservation.
- Bell asked about the burning of common tansy in the Arrowleaf Hills Park. Jones told him that they were burning off the debris layer from mowing and last years herbicide treatment. The Weed District will spray the area again as this is a county park.
- Hofman asked about the Rental Calendar that was set up by IT. This was done so that all three (3) staff members could book out rentals and keep track of which sprayers are out.
- Mainwaring asked about the Tordon that was returned. The company had made a mistake and sent a lot more than had been ordered.

3. Budget. The initial process is over. There is still the question regarding the \$10,000 that was taken out of our Capital; however Ansley will watch for the funds to be reinstated.

4. Grants. The fees are going to have to come out of the Special County Grant. The Hebgen Basin Grant has been used up. We have received a lot of applications for the Rocky Creek

Grant. There was discussion regarding the new grant reporting process at the Courthouse. It has become difficult to meet deadlines with granting entities.

5. **Cost Share Cap.** Ansley pointed out to the Board that there is approximately half of the Cost Share Budget allocation left and asked if the cap could be raised. Fred Bell moved to raise the cap for Cost Share from \$75 to \$100. Keith Mainwaring seconded and the motion carried.

6. **Coordinator(s) Report.**

- Cooperative Projects. Ansley reported that he and Jones have completed a number of the cooperative projects set up at the Weed Managers Meeting. They have sprayed the hospital property where GVLTA plans to build a trail; they participated in the Trout Unlimited Weed Pull/River Clean-up; they have sprayed the City landfill and the Logan landfill; Bozeman Ponds area; East Gallatin Recreation Area; about 2/3rds of the Madison Dike and attempted to work at the Cherry River area but all three trucks sent down there got stuck. The Cherry River area was walked and seemed solid however there was a crust and the ground was really soft underneath. There have been problems on some county roads for the same reason. About 450 gallons of product was sprayed out on the Cherry River area by the crews using ATV's.
- Ansley and Jones sprayed a buffer zone along the perimeter of the Huffine property that borders the neighboring subdivisions. Wells rented a sprayer and did some spraying also.
- Auditors Sale. This event was a disappointment as we only received \$200 for the trailer and both water tanks. Bell asked what we had priced the items at. We had priced the trailer at \$350, the new water tank at \$100 and the old tank at \$50.
- Landowner Maintenance. The County Administrators office had received a call from a very upset landowner with an organic garden stating that our crews were spraying in front of their property. The landowner was contacted and they came to the office and signed a Landowner Maintenance contract. They now have the Weed District official signs.
- Computers. The Weed District had ordered a new computer to replace a 7 year old computer in October 2010. Due to the limited staffing in the IT Department and the extra work incurred by the new Detention Center the computer has been sitting in IT for 9 months. Ansley was concerned about the warranty. Mainwaring stated that he will talk to Commissioner Steve White about the problem.
- Truck Issues. The fuse box mount in the 1999 GMC melted. Ansley purchased the new part but when the Fairgrounds mechanic looked at it the truck also needs a new wiring harness. This will be a major repair so it has been fitted with an external fuse to get through the spray season. The 1998 Chevy had a belt break. A window has come off the tracks in the extended cab Chevy. As soon as the final budget is approved Ansley will request authorization to purchase a new spray truck. The funds are in the Capital budget.
- Two (2) of the Honda engines on the rental sprayers would not start. Bell recommended that Ansley take them to Belgrade Sales and Service. Bell also suggested that it could be a fuel filter problem.

- County Fair. The Weed District will have an unmanned booth at the Gallatin County Fair. Mainwaring asked where the booth would be and offered to man it for a day.
- Ansley noted a list of upcoming projects: finish the Madison Dike, Cherry River, Big Horn Sheep project, orange hawkweed with USFS, Bozeman Hill project with MDT, Curly leaf pondweed weed pull with MSU to name a few.
- Complaints. Ansley has a project that may test the court order process coming up. He is ready to send the non-compliance letter to a property owner near the Cameron Bridge Estates. There is another complaint property where the owner has three (3) addresses. Mail has been sent to all three addresses and has been sent back as undeliverable. The taxes on the property are current so Ansley will check with the Courthouse on the address.
- Jones stated that he had met with a relative of a complaint property owner in the West Yellowstone area yesterday and they will be on board with their weed control.
- There have been a few subdivision Weed Management Plans coming in.

7. Round Table/Other.

Mainwaring mentioned that last year he had attended an irrigation group meeting and brought up the fact that there was a bad spotted knapweed infestation at the headgate by Cameron Bridge. He noticed that this year it has been cleaned up.

Bell stated that he has been spraying in the Hebgen Basin area and that the areas where he has been spraying have cleaned up nicely.

The Board then discussed Ansley's evaluation with him.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.40PM. The next meeting will be on August 4th, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary