



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 03, 2011**

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the February Board Meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. County Weed Management Plan.** Ansley informed the Board that the Weed Management Plan update was almost finished. The enforcement section was sent to the County Attorney and we are waiting for a response.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Monthly Report Q&A.

- Bell asked about the call from the Department of Agriculture regarding traces of aminopyralid being found in a well in the Hyalite area. Ansley informed him that the Department of Ag asked if the Weed District had sprayed aminopyralid in that area or knew of any private landowner that had. We had not and did not find any aminopyralid applications in our Cost Share and Rental records for that area.
- Bell asked about the jointed goatgrass in the grain at the MRL train derailment near Belgrade. There is a security guard at the site and the grain will be hauled off; any left will be buried on site. The Weed District will monitor the site and spray this summer.

- 2. Legislative Updates.** Jones reported that Kington (MWCA Executive Director) had sent out emails late this morning with updates on the current Bills. HB 166 (general Weed Act revisions) and HB 133 (noncompliance revisions) have not yet been scheduled for hearing in the senate. The Stockgrowers and the Ag groups are no longer in opposition to HB 166 (general revisions to the Weed Act). HB 375 (reduce vehicle fee percentage to Trust Fund) has been scheduled for executive hearings twice and has been cancelled both times. There is potential legislation being discussed regarding putting one agency (FWP) in statute to oversee the aquatic nuisance species program and also to appropriate excess trust revenues and general fund for this purpose.

- 3. Commissioner Report.** Hofman asked Commissioner Skinner if there had been any budget decisions regarding the deputy payoff. Commissioner Skinner replied that options are still being discussed. Hofman stated that he hoped the current staffing levels for the Weed District would remain the same.

4. Coordinator(s) Report.

- Ansley reported that he had been on vacation.
- The Weed District had an unmanned booth at the Wild West WinterFest.

- The Spring Home and Garden Show booth was busy. Jones worked on Saturday and Ansley worked on Sunday. The booth was well situated next to an ATV sports booth so there was a lot of traffic.
- The inspection of fixed assets by the County Auditor and Accounting Departments went well.
- MPDES Webinar – Jones reported that there are a lot of problems with this DEQ program. There is a lot of overlap with FIFRA. The current requirements have some conflicting statements that need to be addressed. The Weed District submitted comments to the DEQ. The Weed District will not necessarily need to get the permit. A bi-partisan House Bill has been submitted in Washington DC to exempt farmers, local governments and other pesticide users from the need to obtain double permits for spraying chemicals over water. Jones and Ansley are keeping on top of this.
- GVLТ and City of Bozeman representatives met with staff to discuss trail maintenance. The Weed District will provide the use of one of the rental sprayers and donate some herbicide to the project.
- Grant Hearings took place in Helena on March 1st. Jones gave the Hebgen Basin presentation and Ansley gave the Rocky Creek Expanded presentation. Passmore gave a presentation for the Clarkston area grant and Carlstrom presented for the Mule Creek grant. We will hear in April if we have been awarded the grants and at what level of funding. Bell asked if Bozeman Hill was part of the Rocky Creek grant. Ansley informed him that it is.
- Ansley announced that the Board will be receiving invitations to the Headwaters Eurasian Water milfoil task force meeting in the next few days. The meeting will be in Three Forks on March 10th. The Broadwater County Weed Coordinator is taking the lead for this meeting which will include Broadwater County, Jefferson County, Gallatin County and other stakeholders in the health and vitality of the State water systems (e.g. FWP, DNRC Trout Unlimited etc...).
- The Spring Coordinator training will be in Helena on March 22nd and 23rd.
- Ansley is preparing requests for chemical quotes and will have them ready to go out soon.

5. Public Comment/Other.

- Passmore reported that she is getting presentations ready for HOA meetings. She also announced the Conservation District Banquet on March 10th.
- Bell told Passmore that the Realtor's Farm and Ranch group meets on the first Wednesday of every month and gave her contact information so that she can get on the agenda.

6. Round Table.

- Ansley told Passmore that he and Jones would like to meet with Passmore and Mohler to develop some strategies for the upcoming season.
- Ansley told the Board that he had met with the Finance Director and would be planning to cut about \$8-10,000 from the herbicide budget for FY'12.
- Commissioner Skinner brought up the fact that Ansley will most likely need to budget more funding for fuel for FY'12.
- Mainwaring asked if there was any difference in the gas bill for the Shop after the insulation had been installed. There has been a marked drop. Bell will get actual figures and Perry has the charges on the monthly budget sheets. Will present at the April Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.55PM. The next meeting will be on April 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary