



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
October 06, 2011**

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

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

**Minutes.** Bell had questions regarding follow-up on some items in the September Minutes. There was discussion regarding the curly leaf pondweed found during the survey of Hebgen Lake, the orange hawkweed infestation in Aspen Meadows and the Opticom disturbance in the Wylie Creek area. Following discussion Bell moved to approve the Minutes as discussed, Mainwaring seconded and the minutes stand approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ansley reported that in response to Al Lien's complaint of spotted knapweed on property bordering the West Gallatin Canal he had contacted the property owner and he is working on the problem.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Public Comment.** None.

2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**

- Bell asked some questions regarding the Hebgen Basin WMA Grant. He asked how much the grant was for and had we set a cap on cost share allotments. The grant was for \$20,549 and we did not put a cap on the cost share.
- Bell asked about the Hebgen Basin subdivision. The Weed Management Plan has not been resubmitted at this point.
- Bell had questions regarding some of the enforcement properties that we have been working on.
- Bell asked about the location of the West Yellowstone Canal that Ansley and Jones had sprayed. It is just out of town.
- Mainwaring had a question about the complaint on property near the Riverside Country Club. The owner had purchased the property without realizing that it was on both sides of the river. He has worked on one side of the property but had not touched the other. He will mow this fall and spray in the spring.
- Bell asked if Ansley had heard anything as a follow-up on the disturbance that Opticom has created near Wylie Creek. Commissioner Skinner had checked with Provance (Road Dept. Superintendent) regarding utility company development sites. Bell suggested looking at the Road Department contract to see if weed control is addressed.

3. **Grants.** Ansley reported that the end of year reports for the Hebgen Basin and Rocky Creek Grants are being prepared. The 2010 Grants terminate on October 30<sup>th</sup> and the 2011 Grants will most likely close out also as the funds are expended. Ansley and Jones have done 55 cyphocleonus releases on the Rocky Creek WMA for spotted knapweed control on hard to reach areas.

The new grant proposal for the Bridger Canyon Weed Management Area is under way and we will be asking for approximately \$40,000. The boundaries are set and the proposal will cover approximately 46,000 acres.

4. **Commissioner Report.** None.

5. **Coordinator(s) Report.**

- **Spray Projects.** Ansley and Jones have been conducting fall spraying on many sites. County Roads retreated so far are; Penwell Bridge, Reese Creek, Hamilton, Williams Bridge, Old Yellowstone Trail, Sappington, Amsterdam, Skinner, Menard, Horseshoe Cottonwood, Nixon Gulch, Denny Creek and Grayling Arm. The Regional Park was retreated. So far this year we have spent 31.25 hours treating 65 acres and have put out 3780 gallons of product on the Regional Park. A fall treatment has also been done on the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Skinner asked about Carpenter Road. Ansley will check that next week.
- **Trade Shows.** There will be three (3) trade shows coming up in the Spring. Ansley asked the Board if they had a preference as we only have the budget to attend one. The Board gave Ansley the discretion to choose whichever he felt gets the best coverage.
- **Aquatic Survey Report.** Jones has received results from Duncan (Headwaters EWM Task Force) regarding the EWM and curly leaf pondweed summer survey. Hebgen Lake has CLP in the Grayling Arm. CLP is also present in the East Gallatin River and the Jefferson. The most upstream infestation of EWM was found in the Jefferson slough. FW&P is planning a weed pull in the area. Ace Diving from Idaho was hired to do another dredging at the Toston Dam. There was another weed pull at the Cottonwood Channel where it was noted that last year's weed pull significantly reduced the EWM population.
- **Municipalities.** Ansley reported that he is planning to meet with representatives from all five (5) municipalities in the county this winter in order to get weed management plans drawn up. Commissioner Skinner stated that the commissioners have a round table with city managers every three (3) months and asked Ansley if he would like to attend one. Ansley would like to attend the winter meeting.
- **Ophir Weed Pull.** Jones reported that he had taken the lead on this program this year and it went very well.
- **Enforcements.** We performed two (2) enforcement weed treatments in September. The County Attorney is hesitant to work through the court order process for us. Bell felt that we should continue to pursue that avenue. The new Weed Law came into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup> and he recommended reviewing the changes to see if it states that the Weed District shall or may obtain a court order before entering property to treat weeds.
- **Weed Management Plan Extensions/Property Inspections.** We have had a number of developers apply for extensions on weed management plans. Ansley and Jones inspect these properties to make sure the WMP has been followed. Sometimes the Plan needs to

be rewritten. They asked if the Board felt there should be a charge for this. Commissioner Skinner stated that the Planning Department charges a fee for plat extension and he will discuss this with the Planning Director to see if the Weed District's expenses could be included.

- Spray Truck/Service Truck. Ansley requested permission from the Board to have Fowler (County Road Department) to look for a newer spray truck and service vehicle for us. We currently have two (2) older service vehicles and they both have minor mechanical problems. Also the truck that is on loan to Extension is burning oil. A service vehicle purchase would replace one of the older vehicles. The purchase of a newer spray truck would be an addition to the fleet not a replacement. The Board suggested that Ansley check with Blackman regarding the availability of funds and then start looking.
- Ansley announced some upcoming events: Fall Coordinator Training, SW Area Meeting, County Staff meeting, work on the Bridger Canyon WMA grant application, spray more roads, winterize equipment and work on grant reports.

**6. Round Table/Other.**

- Mainwaring reported that the leafy spurge area on Frank Road is looking clean.
- Commissioner Skinner asked if we had sent out thank you letters to people doing a good job with their property. Ansley replied that we used to send letters and a calendar. Ansley will look into developing a thank you card.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10PM.

The next meeting will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry