



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

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

**Others** present were Al Lien (President of the Board of the West Gallatin Canal Company), Ray Heagney (FWP FAS Manager), Cordell Pool (Stahly Engineering), Jerry Locati (Locati Architects), Kirsten Smith (Locati Architects), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the August Board meeting had been sent to the Board. Bell had some questions regarding some items of discussion at the August Board meeting. After discussion the Minutes were approved as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**None.**

**NEW BUSINESS.**

**1. Public Comment.**

- Al Lien gave a description of the location of the West Gallatin Canal and also the Farmer's Canal. The canal company members have been mowing weeds and doing some spraying but would like to get some help from the Weed District. Ansley told him the canal company could use a rental sprayer without a problem. He also gave advice on specific herbicides for use in riparian areas and stated that the canal company would be eligible for the Cost Share program. Lien noted that the canal companies have annual meetings and asked the Board if they would be interested in attending a meeting if they were notified of date and time. Lien also requested a complaint form for a piece of property off Johnson Road that has a heavy infestation of spotted knapweed on it. He gave the address to Ansley who will look up the property owner and notify them of the issue.
- Churn Creek. John brought up discussion regarding the Canada thistle infestations on the property. Some had been treated, some had been missed. Pool and Locati showed receipts for weed control dating back to 2007 and also presented a time line of weed control that had been worked up by Ron McOwen (Western Conservation Services). This year (2011) was the first year that the property had been clean enough to hay. The Board reviewed the documentation and noted the amount that had been spent on weed control up to this point. Bell moved to approve the MOU, Morgan seconded and the MOU was approved. Perry copied the document for Pool.
- Ray Heagney (FWP) introduced himself as the new fishing access site manager. The Fishing Access sites have been removed from the Parks Department and now operate

under Fisheries. Heagney stated that there was a huge problem with leafy spurge after the water went down in the spring. There was discussion regarding the Biennial Report that will need to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture. Ansley informed Heagney that the Weed District had sprayed the entrances to Cobblestone and Greycliff. Also Cherry River has been sprayed for the second year. Heagney is putting together a FAS profile for all the Fishing Access Sites in Region 3.

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

- Bell asked about the Hebgen Basin Minor subdivision. The WMP stated that there are no noxious weeds present; however Jones inspected the property and found Canada thistle. The weeds may not have been up when the engineering firm inspected the property. They are rewriting the WMP to address the issue.
- Bell asked about the order of the WMP and MOU process. The WMP is submitted when an application is made for preliminary plat and the MOU is submitted when applying for final plat.

3. **Grants.** The grants for the Hebgen Basin WMA and the Rocky Creek WMA are almost completed. We are setting up the boundaries for the Bridger Creek Watershed grant. This grant will target all noxious weeds with a focus on St Johnswort, leafy spurge, oxeye daisy and orange hawkweed.

4. **Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner reported that the FY '12 Budget has been approved and the weed budget has not changed since the last discussion.

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

- Ansley attended a core equipment meeting. We have four (4) spray trucks in the core replacement program. Ansley would like to add a truck to the fleet but cannot purchase using the core program. The truck would have to be purchased with capital funds in the Weed District budget and then a request would need to be submitted to the Commission to have the truck moved into the core equipment program.
- Yellowflag iris. Following a sighting of Yellowflag iris up Bear Canyon, Ansley had sent a friendly notification letter enclosing information on the weed to the property owner and offering assistance to remove it. When he did not receive a response he sent out a complaint notice. The property owner had been on vacation and upon returning opened the second letter first. The property owner responded in a belligerent manner and was extremely hostile towards a fellow MSU Professor whom he thought had sent in the complaint. The property owner has tried to remove the plants mechanically so Ansley conferred with the County Attorney regarding how to respond to the tirades. Deputy County Attorney Gray suggested thanking the property owner for his work to try and remove the iris and offer to assist next spring. He also recommended that Ansley inform him that the complaint was initiated by the County Weed District not the MSU professor who made the original sighting. This is the only known site of the plant in Gallatin County.
- Japanese knotweed. Following up on the report of Japanese knotweed at the Bozeman Hot Springs Ansley and Jones met with the owners and were given the go ahead to treat the plants. Ansley sprayed the plants. He also sprayed a site off Huffine Lane. A sighting of

knotweed was reported on Davis Street and when Ansley went to inspect the site the property owner was there trying to get rid of the plant. There was yet another report of the plant on Durston and Sheridan. This has not been confirmed yet.

- East Gallatin Recreation Area. Curly leaf pondweed has been found throughout the east Gallatin as far as Manhattan. The East Gallatin Recreation area weed pull participants this year were the Weed District, MSU CIPM staff and Jim Jacobs from NRCS. The project is showing some success. Common bugloss has also been identified at the site and as this weed is a big problem in Ravalli County Jones has sprayed it. Commissioner Skinner asked what the agreement is with FWP regarding the East Gallatin Recreation area. The property is leased to the City of Bozeman.
- EWM Update. Celestine Duncan has been hired as the coordinator for the Missouri Headwaters Task Force. FWP has hired Craig McLean as their AIS person. There is a Mississippi Survey crew working in the State and they have surveyed Hebgen, Cliff, Wade and Elk Lakes. They did not find EWM; however they did find curly leaf pondweed on the Grayling Arm of Hebgen Lake. They will also survey some of the river systems. Heagney asked for a copy of the survey reports. Duncan has also sent a report that during boat inspections, three (3) boats purchased out of state by Montana residents have been found to have zebra mussels attached and one had the mussels caught in EWM.
- Spray projects. Projects completed were BLM Turner, BLM Maudlow, and Mystery property on the Gallatin River. We have not been able to find an owner for the property on the river and as it contains an infestation of SK the Weed District sprays it.
- Weed Board Training hosted by the MWCA has three dates set in November. At this time we do not have an agenda.
- Enforcement Treatments. Two enforcement treatments were done in August – one up Trail Creek and one in Belgrade. There are two more that may have to be done in the next two weeks if there is no response to mailings.
- Ansley and Jones have started winterizing the rental sprayers. They will leave a few for fall spraying.
- In response to complaints about noxious weeds at the Black Bull Run development Ansley and Jones met with the golf course manager. There is a new owner for the development and they have started mowing and spot spraying.
- A fall spray at the Regional Park has been planned.
- Some of the county roads that were sprayed early will require follow-up treatment and that is planned for fall.
- A courtesy spray for the roadsides in Aspen Meadows has also been planned for the fall. This area has a large infestation of orange hawkweed.
- Next week the staff will be working with Deputy County Attorney Greenbaum to finalize the new County Weed Management Plan.

6. **Round Table/Other.**

- Bell asked if gravel pits get inspected once a year or is it voluntary. This is a voluntary program. TMC is actively going for government contracts and they are working hard to keep their pits certified.

- Mainwaring asked about the gravel pit just north of the building that the Conservation District had planned to buy in Belgrade. Ansley has talked to the owner and he is planning a fall spray.
- Bell asked if there has been any activity with utility companies after sending the weed management plan out to them. There has been no activity. Commissioner Skinner asked if we had any contact with Opticom regarding the disturbance by Wylie Creek. We have not; however, they will have had to fill out a contract with the County Road Department. Commissioner Skinner will follow up with road department.
- Bell asked if it was too late to spray CT that was going to seed. Ansley replied that as long as the plant is green he can spray. Forefront or Perspective were recommended, however Perspective has lengthy grazing restrictions.
- Mainwaring asked if the Heart of the Valley would be eligible for Cost Share. Those present said yes.
- Mainwaring asked if Ansley and Jones had inspected the gravel pit by the Heart of the Valley. Ansley said they had and there are a lot of nuisance weeds.
- Bell asked if he could still spray hoary alyssum. Ansley replied that he most probably would not kill the mature plant but any rosettes would be killed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55PM.  
The next meeting will be October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.