



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
May 05, 2011**

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

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the April meeting had been mailed to the Board and were approved as presented. Bell had a question regarding the reference to HB 621 possibly compromising the Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Jones explained that the bill has since been revised and that is no longer an issue. Bell also asked about the comment regarding reseeding being added to the Cost Share. The Board had decided against this at the last meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Resolution.** The Weed District needs a new Resolution ratifying and reforming the District in order to receive funds from State grants. Deputy County Attorney Greenbaum has been working with the staff on this and the draft was presented to the Board for review. As Littlefield was unable to attend the Board meeting he had emailed some concerns. He asked that we confirm that the Resolution conforms to the Bylaws. Ansley and Perry checked and it does. Littlefield was also concerned that Section 9 was not clear regarding the Commission's stand on Boards when there are not enough board members. Commissioner Skinner cleared that up by stating that if Board members resign and there are no new candidates then the Commission would have to step in to make up the Board until replacements could be put in place. Commissioner Skinner then asked if this Resolution is new or if it changes the old resolution. The old resolution (405) has not been found in the archives or public meeting minutes of the time that it was created so this is a new resolution. Bell moved the Board approve the Resolution for submittal to the Commissioners. Mainwaring seconded and the Resolution was approved by the Board and will be submitted to the Commission for presentation at a Public Meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Public Comment.** None
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - **Bell** asked if the Hebgen Basin grant was still on track. It is; however there is a new Grants Policy in place and we now need to go through the grant department for all our grants. There is a 7.87% administration fee attached to this. The NWTF does not allow administration fees to be paid from their grants so the Weed District will have to set up a grant administration fee line item in the regular budget. As we will be running 5 grants

through our budget this year Ansley has written a letter to the Commissioners requesting that the fee be cut by the maximum allowable amount of 50%. Two of the grants are Extension grants and they will be asked to pay the administration fees on their grants.

- **Bell** asked about the Department of Ag questioning the herbicide choice on the Kirkwood Marina application in 2010. Jones had called the applicator and he was also spraying for hoary alyssum but had not noted it on his invoice.
  - **Bell** asked about Saunders question re subdivision weed management plans. Ansley replied that Saunders is planning to subdivide part of his property.
  - **Bell** stated that Passmore did a very good presentation at the Realtor's meeting. One Realtor had a question regarding the size of herbicide containers. He would like to find smaller containers. Ansley stated that some herbicides do come in smaller containers.
  - **Bell** had a question regarding cost share for the Clarkston Grant. Ansley explained that the grants cover ½ the cost of herbicide if the property owner sprays his/her own property and ½ the total cost of control if they hire a commercial applicator.
  - **Bell** asked about the call from McOwen regarding the Bruce Industrial Park. McOwen has opened doors for the Weed District with the Lot Owner's Association President. Ansley has made contact and the Association will work with us.
  - **Morgan** asked about the letter regarding cutting the Grant Administration fee that was presented for the Board to approve. Commissioner Skinner read the letter and suggested rewriting the letter to address a couple of the items on the new grant policy to validate the request for cutting the fee in half. Ansley will do this.
  - **Mainwaring** asked about the status of the Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D. Commissioner Skinner is on the Board and stated that they intend to finish out our grants and will continue at least for another year.
  - **Mainwaring** asked about the complaint on the Seventh Day Adventist property at Ft Ellis. Ansley has contacted the property manager and he will meet with the complainant to see where the problem areas are and then take care of them. This was settled amicably.
3. **Weed Management Plan/Forms.** As part of the preparation of the new County Weed Management Plan the staff has reviewed the subdivision plan and enforcement forms with Deputy County Attorney Greenbaum. The forms are now shorter and much easier to read.
- The Subdivision Weed Management and Revegetation Plan was the first to be addressed. The new Plan addresses the issue where developers are requesting extensions on Preliminary Plat. The Weed Management Plan is now effective from the date it is approved until the time the development is complete. Fred Bell moved to approve the Subdivision Weed Management and Revegetation Plan as submitted; Keith Mainwaring seconded and the Plan was approved. Ansley asked Commissioner Skinner about the Vista Verde Development that went before the Commission yesterday at the Public Meeting. Commissioner Skinner stated that they had approved the extension contingent upon the Weed Management Plan being extended. Ansley will write a letter to the developer approving the extension on the condition that the WMP continues to be followed.
  - The Enforcement and Complaint Policy was addressed next. Commissioner Skinner asked if the new document was consistent with the changes in the weed law. It was written with the changes to the law in mind. The Weed Law Bill is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. Bell felt the change requiring a court order to enter

property was a positive change. Mainwaring moved to accept the Complaint Policy contingent upon the Governor signing off on the Bill. Fred Bell seconded and the Policy was approved.

- The Complaint Form was reviewed by those present. Previously when a complaint was filed the Weed District sent out a packet of information with a letter requesting a property inspection. This process was costly. We now send out a post card to notify the landowner that there is a problem followed by a notice of Complaint and Request for Inspection of Land. After review Fred Bell moved to approve the Complaint Form; Keith Mainwaring seconded and the Form was approved as presented.
- The Notice of Complaint and Request for Inspection of Land was reviewed. Fred Bell moved to approve the form; Keith Mainwaring seconded and the form was approved.
- Compliance Weed Management Plan. Morgan asked what the purpose of this document was. The document is a way to get a property owner to state in writing what they plan to do for control measures. It is also a tool to get the landowner and Weed District staff to communicate the necessary steps towards weed control on a person's property. Keith Mainwaring moved to accept the document as written; Fred Bell seconded and the document was approved.

**4. Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner told the Board that the Commission was rethinking putting the Weed budget into the General Fund as after reading the Montana County Weed Act they are not sure if this can be legally done. He asked Ansley if he was going to meet with the Commission to discuss the proposed start up budget. Ansley asked the Board if anyone would be able to attend and if so he will schedule the appointment and let them know.

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

- Mike Jones had an educational booth at Wagner's Nursery Spring Flower Show. It was very well attended and he felt the booth was well worth while.
- Ansley and Jones attended the SW Area meeting in Butte. There was discussion on the Legislation in Helena regarding the Weed Law. Beaverhead County will be hosting the crew training in Dillon and our crews will attend.
- The seasonal crew has been hired – we have three (3) returnees, two (2) who have sprayed for Beaverhead County and one inexperienced crew member.
- Mike Jones and Commissioner Skinner attended the Headwaters EWM Task Force meeting in Whitehall. There was a presentation given in the morning by Heidi Sedivy who has been working with EWM in the Noxon/Cabinet Gorge area. Both Jones and Commissioner Skinner felt it was a very frustrating meeting. There is a lot of tension between FWP and MDA. In the afternoon Lacy Decker (BLM Butte) was given charge of the Headwaters Task Force with assistance from Amber Burch (Beaverhead County Weed District). Commissioner Skinner felt that the problem was that no-one is in charge. He stated that if the State is in non-compliance then the Weed District would need to proceed as with any non-compliance action.
- Jones gave a brief Legislative update. HB 166 has been signed by the Governor and is now law. HB 133 was sent to the Governor for signature on April 26<sup>th</sup> but so far no action has taken place. HB 621 divides aquatic nuisance species responsibilities between FWP, MDA and DNRC.
- Weed Managers Meeting. Tentative dates were set for the main projects.

- The Road Department is going to take the 1990 Ford to spray their guard rails and we will provide the herbicide.
- The Grant contracts are being processed through the new grant policy program. They need to go on the consent agenda. Extension will be running 2 grants through our budget. The Resolution will run through a public meeting on the Regular Agenda. Ansley is concerned about the Administration fee as we are not currently budgeted for this.
- Commissioner Skinner asked what would happen if the Weed District sent a notice of non-compliance to the State for EWM. Ansley stated that the Department of Agriculture's Attorney had told the weed districts that it would be a waste of time. Commissioner Skinner suggested that all the weed districts get together and work on this.

**6. Round Table/Other.**

- Ansley told the Board that the Farm Fair takes place next week. The rentals are calibrated and ready to go. The trucks will be calibrated next week.
- Jones stated that he and the City of Bozeman maintenance people had met with Steve Saunders (DOW Agro) and checked the Galligator trail. The weeds are already coming up.
- Mainwaring mentioned an article that he had read in a magazine regarding Milestone being found in compost.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40PM. The next meeting will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.