



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 07, 2012**

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the May meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Subdivision Extension Review Fees.** The County Attorney's office is putting a resolution together requesting that the Weed District has the authority to charge review fees for subdivision extensions. This will be presented at a Public Meeting. Commissioner Skinner suggested that Board members attend that meeting. The Staff will let the Board know when the topic is on the Agenda.
2. **Budget Update.** Ansley attended a meeting with Commissioners, HR and the Finance Department. He passed around a spreadsheet of the end of year budget projection of what our savings should be. The spreadsheet also shows the Weed Department requests for FY'13. Ansley announced that Personnel budget is being targeted again and asked the Board if they want to maintain the 3 FTE's that we currently have. The Board members present agreed that they would like to see the present staffing levels continue. The overall budget is about the same as last year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None.
2. **Monthly Report Q & A.**
 - Bell had questions regarding the BLM Spray Day. Jones reported that there were a number of Agencies and volunteers working together in the Bear Trap area. Horse pack sprayers were used as well as back pack sprayers. This is an annual event and Jones felt it was a good cooperative project.
 - Bell asked about the County Weed Management Plan. It was presented at a Public meeting and approved by the Commissioners. The Plan has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture and will also be posted on the web.
 - Bell asked about the Commercial Applicator enquiring about the complaint process. The process was changed in the last Legislative session and Ansley explained the new process to the Applicator.
 - Bell asked about the research that Jones has been doing regarding gravel pit fees. Jones reported that 16 counties responded to his questions and of those 6 charge fees for gravel pit

inspections. Commissioner Skinner recommended that Ansley and Jones contact those counties that charge for gravel pit inspections and ask them what their approach is regarding charging fees and what is their county attorney's interpretation of the law. Ansley has contacted the Department of Agriculture regarding a program to set up gravel pit inspections in the same manner as Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage. He was told that this would take legislative action.

- There was discussion regarding the Integrated Weed Control offer of 50% off insects for Gallatin County Residents.
 - There was discussion regarding the Cherry River cooperative project with FWP. This project has been operating for three (3) years and is looking a lot better.
 - The Road Department had called regarding wearing masks when spraying. The labels for the herbicides that we use and supply to the Road Department do not require respirators.
 - Mainwaring brought up the Althea Dairy organic status. The owner will be trying new organic herbicides this year.
 - Mainwaring asked about the property inspection for a resident who had sick dogs that may have eaten toxic plants. Jones inspected the property and found both poison hemlock and Houndstongue – both would be toxic if eaten.
- 3. Special County Grant.** This year the Special County Grant application was submitted to the State electronically.
- 4. Weed Management Plan.** The new Gallatin County Weed Management Plan was approved by the Commissioners and has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture. The Plan will be posted to the web page soon.
- 5. Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner reported that the Budget will be set about the same as last year.
- 6. Coordinator(s) Report.**
- Ansley reported that the Farm Fair was a success. The roof leaked above the display table and we lost some weed id booklets and the roll up displays suffered minor damage. The MSU Plant Specialists and Extension Specialists worked the booth on Wednesday while Ansley and Jones worked Tuesday and Thursday.
 - The Gateway weed pull was sponsored by the Gateway Youth group and was successful.
 - Ansley questioned Littlefield regarding the cyphocleonus releases on Bozeman Pass. Last August he and Jones had gone up to check on the progress and did not find any insects. Littlefield suggested that the Pass may be a bad site for the insects and he would like to go up with Ansley and Jones when next they check. The coordinators would like to get flea beetles for spurge in the Madison area. Jones asked if there were still collections taking place at Pine Butte. Littlefield will check into this.
 - Crew Update. We have hired six (6) crew members and they all have experience spraying. They attended the SW Area crew training in Butte which included ATV safety and CPR and First Aid. The crew works well together and some members have good mechanical skills. The new truck is at the Shop waiting for the sprayer to be attached and then will be a functional part of the fleet.

- Jones attended the EWM meeting in Whitehall. The Headwaters Task Force has applied for and received a grant for \$13,000. The source of the EWM has been identified as the Jefferson Slough. The Broadwater and Jefferson Conservation Districts are surveying the area in coordination with FWP. Americorp will be providing assistance with surveying and pulling.
- Ansley reported that the Regional Park has been sprayed. A fall spray may be needed in some areas. Commissioner Skinner asked if before and after pictures had been taken. This was not done at the Regional Park.
- Ansley reported that he had given a presentation at a Master Gardener's meeting.
- Ansley reported that the '98 Chevy has been overheating and the Fairgrounds mechanic will check it out.
- Ansley and Jones will participate in the Trout Unlimited Weed Pull on June 9th.
- The Big Horn Sheep winter range cooperative project has been scheduled for June 26th and June 28th.
- The DNRC cooperative project on property above the Arrowleaf Hills subdivision park has been set for June 27th.
- We will be working on trails at the East Gallatin Recreation area in cooperation with the City of Bozeman and GVLT..
- The Bridger WMA grant contract is on the Public Meeting for June 12th.

7. Round Table.

- Littlefield had a question regarding the daisies in the planter in front of the Ag Center. These had been sent to the MSU Analytical Lab for positive identification and are Shasta Daisies.
- Mainwaring had a question regarding the Prescott subdivision west of Belgrade. Originally submitted in 2007 there have been changes in ownership.
- A question came up about the fibre optic project in the Belgrade area. Ansley has checked with the County Road Department and they have an encroachment permit agreement with them.
- A large patch of whitetop was reported at the Black's Ford sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50PM. The next meeting will be on 07/05/2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary