



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
November 01, 2012**

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

**Littlefield** called the meeting to order. As there was not a quorum present approval of the Minutes was tabled until the next meeting. Ansley presented a recording device and asked those present if he could record the meeting. Permission was granted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Subdivision Extensions.** Ansley reported that he and Jones had met with the Commissioners and the Planning Director to discuss subdivision preliminary plat extensions. An agreement was made to set extensions at three (3) years with a possibility of five (5) years if there are extenuating circumstances. The Manhattan and Belgrade Planning Departments will be notified of the decision.
2. **Shop Project.** Jones has contacted seven (7) construction companies and has three (3) estimates back. All three are well over our budget limit. Jones and Ansley will revamp the specs for the building and will contact the companies again to see if they can come within our budget restraints.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - Littlefield asked about some of the cost share claims on the report. The larger amounts were part of the Extension Service grants in Mule Creek and Greater Clarkston areas. Littlefield asked if there was any activity on the hawkweed in the grant area. There has been one application for grant cost share in the hawkweed area.
  - Littlefield asked about the size of the orange hawkweed infestations in the Bridger WMA. The Coordinators felt that the hawkweed is scattered over about 20 to 50 acres.
  - Littlefield made note of the income from the Rentals and asked if this covers the maintenance costs. The Revenue becomes a part of our regular budget; however Ansley felt that it does cover the maintenance expenses. Mainwaring felt that the Rental program was a good outreach to the community.
  - Littlefield asked about the status of the Grants. Carlstrom's grants have been closed out and our Bridger WMA grant will roll over into the Spring.
3. **Commissioner Report.** None.

#### **4. Coordinator(s) Report.**

- SW Area Meeting. Ansley reported that the SW Area Coordinator meeting was on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Vigilante Saddle Club Facility in Butte. This was followed by a pot luck member meeting. Discussion with other County Coordinators brought out that Gallatin County is doing more enforcement than most. There were some Resolutions presented and voted on by the membership and these will be forwarded to the MWCA Lobbyist to present to the Legislature next year.
- Fall Coordinator Training. This was a good meeting and included a tour in the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. There is a lot of spotted knapweed and houndstongue along the trails. Enforcement was discussed with other coordinators. There was also a good group discussion with an HR Specialist regarding seasonal hiring.
- Enforcement. Three (3) on the ground enforcement treatments have been completed this year. One issue that came up is that the Notice of Non Compliance requires that the landowner be given an estimate of weed treatment costs. At the time these were sent out we did not know what the legal fees would be and those fees have increased the bills considerably. Mainwaring brought up discussion regarding making the enforcement process public with a general information article in the Belgrade News and other local papers in the Spring. Jones had discussed this with the County Attorney's office and was told that a general article outlining the procedure would be acceptable; however not to use any names.
- Spray Updates. Jones has sprayed Love Lane, part of Valley Center Road and Cottonwood Road. After the recent moisture he has noticed hoary alyssum and Canada thistle re-growth.
- Winterizing. Ansley and Jones have been winterizing vehicles. Mainwaring asked what the procedure is and then asked if antifreeze would be cheaper bought in bulk. Littlefield mentioned that MSU has done that and he will see what he can find out regarding vendors and cost.
- Job Posting. The posting for the Program Assistant went out on October 14<sup>th</sup> and closes November 16<sup>th</sup>. We have 13 applications so far. Ansley asked if either of the Board members would like to be on the interview committee. Littlefield volunteered.
- Applicator Estimates. In response to McOwen's suggestion at the last Board meeting we are working on a bid request to send out to Commercial Applicators.

#### **5. Round Table.**

- Mainwaring reported that the Fiber Optics company has reseeded the areas around Cameron Bridge Road and Belgrade where they created the disturbance.
- Ansley announced that Provance (Road Department Superintendent) has retired. Fowler will be acting Director. This may slow down our search for the new trucks. We may have to wait to have Fowler research the new truck purchases.
- Ansley would like to replace a desk top computer and the lap top computer using Special County Grant Funds. He has contacted IT and the Finance Office and needs an O.K. from the Board to move forward. Littlefield and Mainwaring both approved. The staff will email or call the rest of the Board to get their input.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50PM.

The next meeting will be December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.