



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 02, 2012**

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Subdivision Extension Review Fees.** The Resolution to allow the Weed District to charge fees for Subdivision Extension Reviews was presented to the Commissioners at a Public meeting and was approved.
2. **Budget Update.** Ansley stated that he has met with the Commissioners and at the moment the Budget has been set up for 2 ½ FTE's. The Commissioners are leaning towards allowing for 2 ¾ FTE's with the Fairgrounds Bookkeeper doing the Weed Department claims. The decision will be finalized by the end of August.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - Bell commented on the number of WMP Extension applications that we have processed and felt that the decision on the fees will help.
  - There was a question regarding cattail control. The benefits of the plant were discussed.
  - Bell asked about the budworm questions. This is spruce budworm and not in our field.
  - Bell commented about the complaint of Russian thistle brought into a subdivision by gravel. This situation reflects directly back to our gravel pit requirements.
  - Bell asked about the status on the North Star Commercial subdivision complaint. The original complainant does not want to re-file against all the individual property owners. Jones went through the subdivision today and reported that it has serious infestations of spotted knapweed. Bell stated that the property owners association should be brought on board and he will find out who the contact person is.
  - Bell commented on the truck break downs. One truck had problems with a rear tire on the way to West Yellowstone so the crew returned to Bozeman. A tire on truck 6-1445 had to be replaced. They put a rental sprayer in the back of the ½ Ton Chevy and sprayed close to base. The crew called in during the afternoon as the ½ ton truck had stopped running. Perry called a towing company to get them back to the shop.
  - Hofman remarked that it was nice to read that the crews had been complimented on the way they performed one of the cooperative projects.

**3. Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner referred back to the earlier conversation regarding Personnel.

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

- Grant Activity. There have been a number of small applications but no big landowners and none of the property owners in the Aspen Meadows subdivision where the orange hawkweed is found. Commissioner Skinner suggested contacting people again, especially the large property owners.
- Cooperative Spray Project Update. Cherry River has been sprayed (FWP) and is looking much better; East Gallatin Recreation Site (City of Bozeman) has been sprayed and the cooperative curly leaf pondweed weed pull with MSU has taken place; trail sites on Hospital property have been sprayed in cooperation with GVL; Pete's Hill has also been sprayed for the City of Bozeman; the softball complex on Highland Blvd has been sprayed; the City of Bozeman Snowfill Trail next to the landfill has been sprayed in response to a complaint.
- County spraying update. All the County Traces have been done once. The crews are now going back over "hot" spots and the county gravel pits. The county has eight (8) gravel pits. West Yellowstone traces have been sprayed.
- Enforcement Update. Complaints are steadily coming in. Notifications are going out and Ansley submitted a request for a court order on one property near the Bridger Creek Golf Course last week. The legal process has been slow so far. Commissioner Skinner stated that if Ansley doesn't hear back next week to let him know as he realizes that this is a time sensitive issue.
- The Rentals have slowed down considerably; however we have doubled our usage of the sprayers which is a good sign.
- The crews will be done on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Drouillard Survey. Jones worked with an AmeriCorp volunteer and two (2) crew members to survey the Drouillard FAS area. There is a lot of EWM there and the habitat is diverse. There is a major hand pull operation going on in the Jefferson Slough (the source of the EWM problem) this week. Before starting the Drouillard weed pull we will wait to hear from Jefferson County regarding their weed pull results.
- Ansley reported that the Arrowleaf Hills subdivision Park was a common tansy patch when he first sprayed it in 2010. This year Ansley and Jones went out with ATV's and sprayed most of it. Ansley has about 1 acre to go. The Park is looking considerably better than it was.
- Jones reported that he and Littlefield went to Choteau to collect flea beetles for leafy spurge to release in the Madison River area. They brought back about 36,000 insects and Jones released them on the Greycliff Ranch.

The next meeting will be on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry (Secretary)