



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
December 06, 2012**

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

**Minutes.** October. As there was not a quorum present at the November meeting approval of the October Minutes had been tabled. The October Minutes had been sent to the Board and they were approved as submitted. Bell had a question regarding the Shop Project in the November Minutes. He asked what the Budget limit was on the lean to addition and Ansley informed him that we had \$21,912 saved in the Budget for that. Further discussion will be in Old Business. The Board approved the November Minutes as submitted.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Shop Project – Revamped Estimates.** Jones explained to the Board that we are trying to get a lean to built off the west side of the Shop with a sliding hoist system to lift the large sprayers off the docks. He contacted seven (7) contractors and received three (3) estimates back. All the estimates were well over our Budget limit so Jones and Ansley revamped the size of the lean to and made it shorter and smaller. Jones then re-contacted the contractors who originally submitted estimates on the project and the estimates were still over our limit. We have been given some other contacts and the Board felt that we should hold off on a decision until we get more estimates back to see if this project will even be feasible in this Budget year.
2. **Enforcement.** Ansley reported that the property owners of the three (3) on the ground enforcement projects were invoiced and none of the bills have been paid. The Invoices have been sent to the Clerk and Records Office to initiate the process to add the costs as a special tax on the property as required by State Law. We have a new Revenue string for enforcement payments to better keep track of them. We are waiting to hear from the County Attorney's Office regarding enforcement actions on subdivisions. If a developer is not following the terms of the Weed Management Plan we would like to go to non-compliance instead of the regular three (3) letter process.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** Crystal Beckman (Extension Agent), informed the Board that they have hired a new Agricultural Extension Agent. The new Agent has a possible start date of January 7<sup>th</sup>. Jones asked what the focus of the new Agent will be. Beckman replied that she will work where needed.
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - Bell asked where the development is that is noted on the north side of Hebgen Lake.
  - Beckman asked if we were squared away on Carlstrom's grants that were run through the Weed District Budget. We have filed reports with the Grants Department and at this time it appears that all is settled.
3. **Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner is at a meeting in Helena.
4. **Coordinator(s) Report.**
  - **Dyer's Woad Conference Call.** The Dyer's woad task force held a meeting in Helena and Ansley was able to participate via conference call. There are no plants in Gallatin County that we are aware of. The Museum of the Rockies had planted some at the Tinsley House as dye plants but these plants have been removed.
  - **NW Trust Fund Grant Reports.** The reports for the Mule Creek, Greater Clarkston and Bridger WMA grants have all been submitted to the Department of Agriculture and the County Grants Department.
  - **Position Applications/Interviews.** There were 39 applications submitted. Four (4) candidates were interviewed and the position has been offered to Carey Andersen.
  - **Computer Replacement.** The computer at the front desk needs to be replaced as well as the Laptop. After discussion with IT, it was decided that the front desk computer would be replaced and when the need for a laptop arises we will borrow one from IT. The new desktop was ordered and will be set up in January.
  - **Truck Replacement.** We are looking for a new spray truck and this one will be paid for through the core fund program. We also have funds saved for a new run around vehicle. Initially the idea was to buy a half ton truck but after researching prices Ansley feels that a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton would be better as we would be able to put a rental sprayer in the back and use it as a spray truck if needed. Ansley asked for the Board's opinion and the consensus was that the  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton would be the better way to go.
  - **Home Show.** The Spring Home and Garden Show is coming up on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. It is the weekend following the Wild West WinterFest.
  - **MWCA Voting Packet.** Ansley noted that all members of the MWCA have received voting packets and asked the Board to vote.

- **Applicator Contracts.** At the October Board meeting Commissioner Skinner suggested that the staff look into the feasibility of contracting some of the County Road spraying out to Commercial Applicators. Acreages and miles have been calculated and the staff is developing a letter to send to the Commercial Applicators. If this looks like a viable option the Weed District Budget would need to be adjusted. The Commissioners will need to be kept in the loop if there is a possibility of this being effective. There was discussion regarding timing, funding etc. Bell asked that correspondence be sent to him for review.
  - **January Meeting.** Ansley noted that the January Board meeting clashes with the Beef Producer's educational luncheon. He asked the Board if they wanted to cancel or move the January meeting. The Board decided to stay with the regular meeting time.
- 5. Round Table.** Bell reiterated that we need to keep the Commissioners in the loop regarding the Commercial Applicators. Littlefield stated that he would like to see the letter before it is sent. Beckman asked if one (1) applicator would be contracted for all the roads or would the work be spread around. That option has not been discussed at this point.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20PM.

The next meeting will be January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary