



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 05, 2012**

Board members present were Keith Mainwaring (Acting Chair), Bob Hofman and Jeff Littlefield. Craig Morgan and Commissioner Skinner were excused. **Others** present were Michelle Dammen (CD Education Specialist), Ray Heagney (FWP), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary).

Board Members/Chair Appointment. Jeff Littlefield and Keith Mainwaring have been reappointed to the Board. The Board members present reviewed the roster and Bob Hofman nominated Fred Bell to the Chair position for 2012. Jeff Littlefield seconded and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **WMP Extension Fees.** Ansley reported that he had met with Sean O’Callaghan (County Planning) to discuss the review fees currently set for subdivision review. There was a lot of discussion with the Board regarding setting a fee for extension reviews – some topics discussed were whether to charge mileage, a per/acre fee, differentiating between major and minor subdivisions, or a flat fee. The true cost worked from Blackman’s (Finance Director) numbers is higher than the current review fees for new developments. The Board felt that Ansley should ask for a fee of \$175. This fee request would need to be approved by the Commissioners and pass through a Public Meeting. Ansley will discuss the Board’s request with Commissioner Skinner and O’Callaghan.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.** Mainwaring asked if we had found out about the \$5313 cash carry over yet. We are still waiting to hear from Finance.
3. **CD/Extension Small Acreage Specialist.** Michelle Dammen reported that her position as Small Acreage Specialist that was funded by the Conservation District and run through the Extension office was officially terminated as of December 31st. She is currently working for the Conservation District as an education specialist. She will also be managing the small acreage program. Dammen reported that the Conservation District is doing some restructuring regarding their personnel and running their own programs rather than funding other agency programs. As Dammen is no longer a county employee she returned the Weed District truck that she has been using for inspections.
4. **Commissioner Report.** None.
5. **Coordinator(s) Report.**
 - Ansley reported that the Staff will be attending the Montana Weed Control Association Annual Conference in Great Falls next week. Agendas were passed out to the Board.
 - The KBOZ Home Show slated for the 28th & 29th of January has been cancelled.

- Wild West WinterFest. We will have a booth at the Wild West WinterFest. We are also planning to have a booth at the Wagner Flower and Garden Show in early April and at the new Montana Farm and Ranch Show at the end of April.
- Review Fees for Gravel Pits. Ansley reported that to this date gravel pits have not been charged review fees as subdivisions. He would like to treat gravel pits as a minor subdivision as the time spent to review them is the same as a subdivision. There was discussion regarding the difference between an inspection for a new gravel pit and the certification process. The WMP is valid for three (3) years and is mandatory. Certifications are issued for one (1) year and this is a voluntary program. The consensus of the Board was to add gravel pits to the subdivision process with a review fee of \$150 and follow up inspections for certification of \$100 per pit. Ansley will present this to the Commissioners.
- County Weed Management Plan. The staff met with Deputy County Attorney Greenbaum, and made some changes to the County Weed Management Plan. The State Department of Agriculture is creating a compliance letter template for all counties to use in order to have consistency in the enforcement process and to make sure that the changes in the law are addressed. Until that document is received the County Weed Management Plan cannot be completed.
- Enforcement. Due to the changes in the State Law we can no longer enter a person's property to inspect for noxious weeds and/or treat noxious weeds without a court order. We are working with the County Attorney's office to get a petition for court orders to speed up the process.
- Municipality Agreement. A draft document has been put together and is with the County Attorney for review. Ansley will present it to the city managers at the Round Table meeting.
- Warne Chemical has a winter sale going on so Ansley and Jones have ordered some supplies and these will be delivered at the Conference next week which will save us shipping costs.

6. Round Table.

- Heagney gave an update on the Fishing Access seasonal positions. He is hoping to be able to utilize FTE hours from a Helena staff reduction to hire two (2) seasonal weed positions for FAS sites. He is also hoping to get the full time position that was started in 2011 again. Heagney asked if the Board would provide a letter of support as we get closer to the hiring season.
- Ansley reported that Fowler (County Road Department) has not found a suitable truck for us yet but he is looking. Mainwaring brought up that there was a truck listed in the Friday issue of the Chronicle that might be suitable.
- Jones showed the Board one of the new GPS units and gave a short demonstration on the capabilities of the unit.
- Mainwaring asked about the leafy spurge on the "M". This is Forest Service property and a comment was made that maybe we could bring treatment up at the Weed Manager's meeting as a cooperative project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.15PM.

The next meeting will be on February 2nd at 1:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary.