



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
July 5, 2012**

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

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the June Meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Subdivision Extension Review Fees.** Ansley reported that it has taken a month to get the Resolution Draft back from the County Attorney's office but it is ready to be presented to the Commission at a Public meeting.
2. **Budget Update.** Littlefield asked Ansley if he had a figure for the savings that we have for FY'12. Ansley had put these figures together and Littlefield reviewed them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Public Comment/Other.** Mohler (Big Sky Weed Committee Coordinator) has input on some of our events but will comment during specific discussion.
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - Bell commented that he was pleased that TMC was still working with the gravel pit certification program. He would like to acknowledge their efforts in some way. A suggestion was made to add them to our Commercial Applicator List in the area where we have herbicide, fertilizer and pasture seed suppliers listed.
  - Bell asked where the Schellinger gravel pit is located. The Pit is in the Three Forks area and has some serious weed issues.
  - Bell asked about Lien's questions to Ansley. Lien had questions regarding black medic and was also following up on a complaint that he had made last year.
  - Bell asked about the complaint filed regarding the North Star subdivision. Ansley informed him that the complaint was in the commercial subdivision.
3. **Commissioner Report.** None.
4. **Coordinator(s) Report.**
  - Grant Activity. There has been a lot of interest in the Bridger Canyon WMA grant. The MDA has put restrictions on herbicide rates, weed infestation sizes, weeds treated, and reimbursements will be based on reports. This will require a lot of monitoring.
  - Trout Unlimited Weed Pull. Ansley, Jones and Mohler reported that on a cold damp Saturday there were 24 volunteers representing Trout Unlimited, Gallatin Watershed Council, Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D, Big Sky Weed Committee, and the Gallatin County Weed District. All volunteers received great prizes that had been donated by Simms. A number of

sites that have been worked on over the last couple of years are looking remarkably better than they were. Some new sites were attacked this year. Both Big Sky Papers have reported on the Weed Pull giving the project some very good publicity.

- Cooperative Projects. A large number of cooperative projects have been completed; East Gallatin Recreation area; City of Bozeman Stockpile area including trails; Story Mill Trail; Sourdough Trail; a portion of the Gallagator Trail from the Library for about 1/3 mile; two (2) days on the Big Horn Sheep winter range; City Landfill; GVLТ Trail area near the Hospital; DNRC property above Arrowleaf Hills subdivision; and the MRL derailment site west of Belgrade. The Big Horn Sheep winter range project was a cooperative project involving the Big Sky Weed Committee, Gallatin County Weed District, USFS and MDT.
- County Spraying Update. The crews are moving through the County Roads fast which will allow them to return to areas where weeds may not have been up when first addressed. Hofman asked about Amsterdam Road as this has been a "hot" spot for many years. Ansley has sprayed out there. Ansley has also sprayed around the Law and Justice Center.
- We received a complaint about spotted knapweed around the Three Forks Airport. Ansley followed up and sprayed the area.
- Morgan asked about the Bremer Creek area. Ansley replied that we will be in that area soon.
- Enforcement Update. We have had several reports of noxious weeds on city and county properties. Since going to the new formal Complaint Forms we have not had as many complaints as usual. There are a couple of complaints that we are following through and Ansley is wondering about timing with court orders. The Executive Director of the Montana Weed Control Association attended a Regional Summit involving weed professionals from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. It was reported that in Washington when a complaint comes in, the Weed District inspects the property, documents and verifies the complaint, maps GPS points of weed infestations and then turns the complaint over to the Sheriff's Department. The Idaho Department of Agriculture is looking at the feasibility of this practice.
- Ansley informed the Board that he is on the committee to rewrite HB133.
- Rentals. During the 2012 budget process the estimate for revenue from the rentals was \$600. Currently the rental revenue stands at \$1,040. The program is very time consuming as it takes about 20 – 30 minutes per person to send out a sprayer.
- There have been some sprayer repairs. Sprayer pumps had to be replaced on a couple of ATV sprayers.
- One truck developed a leak and spread about 10 gallons of herbicide mix along Thorpe Road. The crew handled the situation well and got everything contained. Ansley has ordered five (5) more spill kits.
- Upcoming events include: Cherry River spray day, Arrowleaf Hill's subdivision park, Curly leaf pondweed weed pull.
- Jones reported on the curly leaf pondweed survey of Hebgen Lake. The weed was found to be in fairly low density, scattered infestations at depths ranging from 10 to 15 feet. It was found in a big area near the Holiday RV Park. A suggestion was made that the group surveys other boat ramps around the lake.
- The Weed District has been working on Pete's Hill and Burke Park. Although this is City of Bozeman property we receive numerous complaints on the area every year.

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

Mainwaring asked if we ever take Commercial Applicators off the list that we hand out. He has received a complaint against one of the applicators on our list. The Board discussed this

and decided to make note of the complaint and if we receive another the Board will write a letter to the applicator to state that their name is being removed from the list and why. Bell asked to file a formal complaint regarding Canada thistle and spotted knapweed on a property south of Oak between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35PM.

The next meeting will be August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. Littlefield stated that he will not be to attend the August meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary