



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 4, 2013**

Board members present were Fred Bell, Jeff Littlefield, Bob Hofman, and Commissioner Skinner. **Others** present were John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Emily Lockard, Ag Extension Agent. Craig Morgan and Keith Mainwaring were excused from the meeting

Minutes. The Minutes had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Road Contract – Status of Contract. Fred Bell questioned the method of payment for Zach Murphy. John Ansley explained that we would pay half this fiscal year (FY'13), before June 30th and half next fiscal year (FY '14), after July 1. John and Mike plan on checking the roads that were included in the contract after application. Zach Murphy has acquired the necessary insurance, which raised the bid slightly but is still in our budget.

2. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comment/Other. Emily Lockard, Ag Extension Agent reported that they are in the hiring process of the Natural Resource position. They have started the Level 2 Master Gardening Classes. Commissioner Skinner asked if they have started advertising for the Natural Resources Position. Emily explained that they hadn't started advertising yet; they were working on the position description. They are hoping to fill the position soon as the need for the community programs are highly requested.

2. Monthly Report Q&A. Fred Bell commented on the increase of Subdivisions reviewed. He stated that they are seeing the market picking up. Discussion regarding the insurance for county contracts occurred. Jeff Littlefield asked if the county would be involved in the control of Eurasian Watermilfoil. Mike Jones talked with Celestine Duncan, who is a private consultant for the DNRC. Celestine is writing a grant with the DNRC to survey Eurasian Watermilfoil at Three Forks. They are looking to fill a position for a surveyor. Craig McClane with the Department of Agriculture also called. He would like to do an herbicide treatment in that area. Mike told Craig about the DNRC grant; hopefully Craig and Celestine can work together on the control of Eurasian Watermilfoil. John Ansley reported that the

counties involvement would be minimal but that we would like to see the herbicide treatment.

3. **Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner reported that the budget started and that there shouldn't be any issues with the weed department.
4. **Herbicide Bids.** John Ansley reported that we sent requests for herbicide bids out last month. We received three bids back. Crop Production Services and Helena Chemical seem to have the lowest bid for exactly what we need, they were within \$500 of each other. Fred Bell moved to accept the bid from Helena Chemical. Bob Hofman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion to accept the bid from Helena Chemical passed. There was discussion regarding the herbicide that will be provided for the road contract. The Weed Department will supply the herbicide because they can get it at a better price.

5. **Coordinator(s) Report.**

- **Service Truck.** John Ansley reported that we traded in the GMC Sonoma at Danhof and purchased a 2005 Chevy Silverado extended cab 4x4. The truck will be used as a service truck but could also be used as a spray truck if needed.
- **Level 2 Workshop.** John Ansley and Mike Jones attended the MSU Level 2 Workshops April 1st -3rd. The workshop included education regarding weed ecology to weed management. John passed around the workshop agenda.
- **Commercial Applicator Training in Dillon – April 11th.** Mike and John will be attending that event.
- **Carport/Lean to Status.** Mike Jones has been in contact with Sievert Construction. They did their final measurements and ordered steel for the project. They should be able to start construction soon. The paperwork went through the public meeting and everything was approved.
- **Weed Managers Meeting – April 17th, Bozeman Public Library.** Weed Managers Meeting will be held on April 17th, 9:30-11:30 at the Bozeman Public Library. Emily Lockart will try to attend the meeting. Agencies will deliver their overview on their noxious weed control for 2012, their plan for 2013, and what cooperative projects we can assist with. There are quite a few responses to the invitation saying that they would attend the meeting. The City of Bozeman has turned over the city weed enforcement to the Bozeman Police.
- **Program Assistant Applications.** The applications closed on March 25, 2013. We received 21 applications. The applications are going through the review process and we will be choosing 3 to interview. We will set up interviews for next week, if possible.
- **Seasonal Crew Update.** We have our crew for this season. Three return applicators from last season and 1 applicator that sprayed for Hill County. The crew members all have

experience, so it should be a great crew. The seasonal crew will start May 20th and they will spray through August 15th.

- 6. Round Table.** John Ansley reported that we did receive payment for an enforcement that was sprayed last year. The payment will be distributed to the correct account including payment of the county attorney services. The enforcement was added to the property owner taxes. There will be a Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee Meeting April 8, 2013. Mike Jones reported that the Weed Committee received dollars from the Cross Charitable Foundation. They are planning to use the funds on the Big Horn Winter Range Project by Big Sky. Mike and John are planning on discussing the project at the Weed Managers Meeting. Mike and Jen will be attending the Resort Tax Meeting on May 8th. The Montana Farm and Ranch Show will be on May 3rd - 5th. John and Mike will man the booth both days. Farm Fair will be May 7th – 9th. We will be there the 7th and the 9th and Jane Mangold with MSU will do the 8th. John and Mike plan on pulling out the sprayers to calibrate in preparation for the rentals. They will also start spraying the Fairgrounds, roads, and regional parks. The Bridger Grant Reports are due on April 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm, followed by an executive session for John Ansley's Review.

The next meeting will be May 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Andersen, Program Assistant