



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 7, 2012**

Board members present were Jeff Littlefield (Chair), Fred Bell, Keith Mainwaring and Bob Hofman, Craig Morgan, and Commissioner Skinner. **Others** present were John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Carey Andersen (Program Assistant), Emily Lockard (Ag Agent), Crystal Beckman (Natural Resources Agent), and Scott Sievert (Sievert Construction)

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

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Shop Project – Revamped Estimates.** Scott Sievert with Sievert Construction spoke about the shop project bid. The lean to will be built using American Steel from American Buildings Company. Sievert submitted bids for both a 60' and 80' structure. If we chose to build a 60' structure, we would be able to easily add on the extra 20'. The only concern when adding on at a later date is the shipping of the materials, it can be expensive when shipping a small order. Sievert also gave a demonstration on the "Kannasterfaster", which can be used under the lean to for the loading and unloading of spray equipment. To use the "Kannasterfaster" we would need to install a 40' I-beam. There was another bid submitted but it was a wooden structure. The board agreed that they would rather have an all metal structure. Commissioner Skinner suggested that if we plan to add on in the future then it would save the county money to build the 80' structure initially instead of having to pay the extra shipping and building costs at a later date. There was discussion on using an electric winch vs the kannasterfaster. Everyone agreed that we could try the kannasterfaster first and then if we needed something different we would discuss that then. Fred Bell moved that we build the 80' lean to with Sievert Construction. Keith Mainwaring seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Public Comment/Other.** Crystal Beckman introduced the new Gallatin County Ag Extension Agent, Emily Lockard.
- 2. Monthly Report Q&A.** Jeff Littlefield had questions regarding the weed pocket guides and the MSU Extension Weed Workshop. Ansley and Jones completed the Level 1 workshop

last year and will attend the level 2 workshop this year. Commissioner Skinner had questions regarding the Shop Project Budget. Keith Mainwaring emailed Jen Mohler with the Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Committee regarding the Big Sky Publishing invoice.

3. Commissioner Report. Commissioner Skinner reported that they have started the budget process for FY'14.

4. Coordinator(s) Report.

- **Wild West WinterFest.** The Wild West WinterFest will be held on February 16th and 17th. Ansley will man the booth on Saturday and Jones on Sunday.
- **Spring Home & Garden Show.** The Spring Home and Garden Show is coming up on February 23rd and 24th, here at the fairgrounds. John Ansley and Mike Jones will both be attending the show.
- **Applicator Contracts.** Jones reported there were 9 interested applicators after the first letter was sent out. After the second letter was sent out, which included miles of road, hours of spraying, weeds, etc, there were 4 interested applicators. If we receive a bid that fits into our budget we will only need to hire 4 seasonal workers instead of six. The applicators have until February 15th to submit a bid. Commissioner Skinner wanted to make sure the applicators were bidding the liability insurance that will be required for them to spray county roads and also discussed that we including equipment costs as part of our budget for the contract.
- **Weed Management Tips.** Ansley reported that the weed management tips are almost finished. The weed management tips will be helpful for small acreage landowners who would like to know what to mix per gallon of water for each noxious weed. Jeff Littlefield suggested adding a version date to the bottom of each publication.
- **MWCA Conference.** Ansley reported on the conference. Ansley was able to discuss enforcement with other weed coordinators. Ansley asked if we have subdivisions that are not following their submitted Weed Management Plan. Commissioner Skinner suggested that we grant the subdivisions a one year extension instead of a 3 year extension. This would allow enough time for any planned weed management to be applied and also for the property to be inspected again. Ansley also discussed once the enforcement is collected on through taxes, how can we expend the revenue? Most counties use their enforcement revenue to replace herbicide and labor costs of the enforcement. A portion of the revenue goes to the County Attorney. The board and the commissioner agreed that the revenue would replace costs of the enforcement. Ansley stated that he would speak with Ed Blackman about the enforcement revenue.
- **Budget.** Ansley reported that he had received the FY'14 Timetable. Copies were given to the board members.

- **Weed Managers Meeting – Set A Date.** The board decided that sometime around Tuesday April 16th or 23rd would work the best for the Weed Managers Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Bozeman Public Library.
 - **Safety Policy.** Ansley reported that they are in the process of updating our safety policy manual. There is a safety policy currently but it needs to be brought up to date and electronic.
- 5. Round Table.** Jeff Littlefield stated that the Trust Fund Hearing is coming up in March. Ansley discussed how we will not be applying for a grant this year because we still have the Bridger Grant to expend. We will apply for a new grant next year. Ansley also discussed focusing on a small group of larger land owners. Jones discussed important Legislature that will affect noxious weed programs across the state. Jones also discussed the proposal of changing the responsibility of all aquatic invasive species to Fish Wildlife & Parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

The next meeting will be March 7, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Andersen, Program Assistant