



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 3, 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 John Ansley (Coordinator), and Carey Andersen (Program Assistant). Michael Jones (Assistant Coordinator) was excused.

Board Members/Chair Appointment. The board members present reviewed the roster and Bob Hofman nominated Jeff Littlefield to the Chair position for 2013. Keith Mainwaring seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes. Bell had questions regarding the December meeting discussion about the road spray contracting, which will be further discussed in the Coordinator Report. Bell also had questions about the grants. The Minutes had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Shop Project – Revamped Estimates.** John Ansley reported about the bids we have received. Four bids have been submitted so far. Only one bid is within the budget for the 16x48 lean-to. John asked the contractor to submit a bid for the 16x60 lean-to; this bid was also in the budget for the shop project. We will allow companies to submit bids until January 15th. The board elected to have the 16x60 lean-to constructed to allow for extra parking of trailers and/or vehicles. Bob Hofman motioned to accept the bid submitted by the lowest bidder for the 16x60 lean-to, chosen by John Ansley. Keith Mainwaring seconded and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.** Jeff Littlefield asked if he was included on the Montana Weed Control Association membership. Andersen will check on the membership list and follow up with Jeff. Fred Bell had questions on the claims for electricity, which we have not received the invoice. Bell also asked about the claim for Big Sky Publishing, which is the newspaper advertisement for the Program Assistant position. Bell had questions about the revenue from subdivisions for 6 months last year vs 6 month for this year. This is reported to track revenue

for subdivisions. Bell questioned the email to the Conservation District about signs. The email was from Fergus County about where and how to get the Noxious Weed signs made. Keith asked about where the enforcement dollars are placed back in the budget once we collect on the enforcement. Ansley reported that they are split accordingly between the County Weed Control district and County Attorney Revenue accounts.

3. Commissioner Report. No Report. Commissioner Skinner is attending the Beef Producers Meeting.

4. Coordinator(s) Report.

- **Wild West WinterFest.** The Wild West WinterFest will be held on February 16th and 17th. Ansley reported that we usually don't man the booth for the Winter Fest however, if any of the board members would like to attend to work the Weed Control Booth to notify him and we can get them a pass.
- **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 be attending the show.
- **Applicator Contracts.** John Ansley and Mike Jones have met 3 interested parties and have spoke with 3 more over the phone. Originally, it was discussed that we ask for bids for spraying 2/3's of the county roads. John and Mike have discussed scaling the requested contract back to spraying 1/3 of the county roads with the county providing the herbicide and the mixture rates. We will provide data history for each county road that will be sprayed by the contracted company. There was discussion about the county providing the herbicide. The original letter gave companies until January 15th. After January 15th, a new letter will be sent out providing detailed information to the companies who have expressed interest. There was discussion about an estimation of budget dollars available for the contracted spraying.
- **Weed Management Tips.** John Ansley and Mike Jones are working on creating 2 page handouts (one page front and back) that summarize weed management tips. The handouts will include the weed species, impacts, pictures, methods used to manage the noxious weeds, and spray rates. This will be done for all 38 noxious weeds. The handouts will be a simplified version of the current handouts. Discussion included adding the Gallatin County Weed Control District logo and our contact information to the handouts. Jeff discussed adding the bounty information to the high priority weed handouts.
- **MWCA Conference.** The conference will be January 15th, 16th, and 17th. John Ansley, Mike Jones, and Carey Andersen will be attending the conference in Great Falls.
- **Grants.** John is working with the accounting department to make corrections on our budget numbers for certain grants and also removing grants that have already been closed out.

- **Weed Management Plan.** John made the request for legal services to review the Weed Management Plan and also Subdivision Extensions and how we follow up on non compliant Management Plans. John is waiting for the county attorney to respond.

- 5. **Round Table.** Keith asked about whether or not we run out of money in the enforcement budget. John Ansley stated that it would only be a problem if we were overrun with complaints. The enforcement fund is a revenue line item. If the property owner chooses not to pay the enforcement invoice, the charges we incur for enforcement including legal fees, are added to the owners property taxes. There was further discussion about the enforcement fees. Jeff Littlefield inquired about what hours the new Program Assistant, Carey Andersen, would be working in the office. Andersen plans on working from 8am-2pm Monday- Friday. Fred Bell asked about the Spring Weed Manager's Meeting. John Ansley reported that we have not set a date for the meeting; it is usually set at the February Weed Board meeting. The meeting usually takes place in April and we are hoping to have it at the Library again. Fred Bell requested that the lean-to request for proposal letter and information be emailed to him and he will email it on to an interested contractor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

The next meeting will be February 7, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Andersen, Program Assistant