



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 7, 2013**

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Road Contract Estimates.** General discussion regarding the Road Contracts. We will interview 3 contractors that have submitted bids to the Gallatin County Weed District starting at 1:30pm today during this meeting. The board reviewed the questions and contract that were provided to the contractors to review in preparation for the interview.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Public Comment/Other.** Emily Lockard, Ag Extension Agent reported that Crystal Beckman has accepted a position in Missoula. Emily will be absorbing some of Crystal's duties until another extension agent is hired. Carey Andersen has also accepted a full time position with another company.

**2. Monthly Report Q&A.** Fred Bell had questions regarding the MWCA Publications that were purchased. The publications included Weed ID Booklet, TIPS Booklets, and Why Should I Care? Brochures. All are educational handouts that we provide for the public. Fred asked about the communication with Spirit Hills, which was a commercial applicator needing information. Fred inquired about the Weed District receiving payment for subdivision extensions filed. Lucas Cain is the intern for Gallatin Valley Land Trust. Mr. Cain was visiting local agency offices to discuss how we can all interact together. He is working with Peter Brown to develop a source book for conservation easement land owners. Fred asked the outcome of the Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Committee meeting. Mike Jones reported that Jen Mohler is working on securing more funds for the Committee. Most of their funding comes from the resort tax. Fred Bell asked about the Dow Publications that were delivered by Steve Saunders. Steve delivered three different publications, a weed id booklet, herbicide residue, and Invasive Plant Management. Jim Ghekiere is the coordinator

for Liberty and Toole Counties. Jim is putting on a Spring Coordinator Training and called us for the Montana Rail Link contact information. Jim also spoke with Mike about the hazard communication plan which is a plan that includes information such as how to handle a spill. Mike reported that we are updating our safety plan. John Taillie with FWP met with Ansley and Jones regarding the Buffalo Jump and Headwaters weed management plan.

**3. Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Skinner reported that they had started the budget process.

**4. Road Contract Proposal Summaries.** Tim Butler (Rugged Mountain Weed Spraying), Zach Murphy (Rocky Mountain Weed & Pest), and Kyle & John (NPK Turf Services) presented their individual proposals for the road contracts. The board asked a number of questions regarding how each contractor would execute their proposal. The board discussed the each proposal in depth. Craig Morgan motioned to offer the road contract to Zach Murphy. Keith Mainwaring seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion to offer the road contract to Zach Murphy passed.

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

- **Wild West WinterFest.** The Wild West WinterFest was on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Carey Andersen manned the booth both Saturday and Sunday.
- **Spring Home & Garden Show.** The Spring Home and Garden Show was up February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, here at the fairgrounds. Mike Jones manned the booth on Saturday & John Ansley manned the booth Sunday
- **Weed Management Tips.** Weed management tips are complete. The ten most common are listed on the website.
- **Carport/Lean to Status.** The paperwork for the county on the lean has been submitted and added to the public meeting agenda. Approval for the project is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> and we hope to see construction start in April.
- **Weed Managers Meeting.** Weed Managers Meeting will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30 at the Bozeman Public Library. Agencies will deliver their overview on their noxious weed control for 2012, their plan for 2013, and what cooperative projects we can assist with.
- **MSU Level 2 Weed Workshop.** John Ansley and Mike Jones will be attending April 1-3. The workshop includes education regarding weed ecology to weed management
- **Enforcement.** John Ansley spoke with Chris Gray about adding CC: Chris Gray, Gallatin County Attorney to the enforcement letter in hope that it will increase effectiveness of the first enforcement letter. Chris Gray stated that this would be fine.

**6. Round Table.** Keith Mainwaring suggested possibly advertising the Weed Managers Meeting. The board discussed the overall goal for the meeting and decided that it was more of a planning meeting for the agencies to discuss the cooperative plans for the next year. Fred Bell mentioned John Ansley's performance appraisal that will be discussed in an executive session at the next board meeting on April 4, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.  
The next meeting will be April 4, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Andersen, Program Assistant