



**Gallatin County Weed Board**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**February 5, 2015**

**ATTENDEES:**

- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, Jeff Littlefield, Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders
- **Others:** Don Seifert (Commission), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant)

Introduction of County Commissioner, Don Seifert, new board liaison. Don brings to the board an extensive background in agriculture with an understanding of noxious weeds.

**MINUTES:** Bob Hofman moves the minutes be approved, Fred 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**BOARD CHAIRMAN ELECTION:** Bob Hofman nominated Steve Saunders to be board chairman, Fred Bell 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous vote. Steve Saunders will be chairman for the 2015 year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
  - Fred comments on the number of subdivision applications
  - Question on the heating bill for the shop. There are usually a couple of months in the winter when the heating bill is high. We will schedule a shop tour with the board in the spring when the rental sprayers are set up.
  - Servicing all of our vehicles to be ready for the spray season, new shocks installed on the spray vehicles
  - Fred questions the call on night shade growing in the stream, impeding water flow. Night shade is not a noxious weed so the HOA/ City parks department will need to resolve the issue.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - Question to Don from Keith on the "Secure Rural Schools PILT" funding and if that will affect our budget. The hope is this funding will be placed on another bill and the funding will still be available.
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - **ATV** – John checked with several dealerships for a Yamaha 550 with power steering. The board prefers we purchase local if the price is comparable. Blitz Motorsport is the place we will purchase the ATV once we have approval from the County Administrator. We did sell our other ATV to the fairgrounds. John will go in front of the commission to request a budget increase with the money we received for the old ATV.
  - **MWCA Annual Conference** –highlights
    - MSU developed an app to help identify grasses in the range
    - Jeff Mosely gave a presentation on reaching new landowners. We would like to develop a direct mailing program directed toward small acreage people encouraging good stewardship and the programs we have to offer. It may be possible to get a list from the county treasurer. Steve recommended checking with the post office and a change of address list.

- There is great promise for a suppressive bacterial to combat cheat grass and medusahead. It is sprayed on in the fall and limits seed development in the spring. It will hopefully be available commercially in the coming year. Ann Kennedy is the researcher in charge.
    - Steve Saunders attended a board member training that was very informative. From this session Broadwater County is sponsoring a Board Member Training focusing on the rolls a board should play. The training is scheduled for February 20, 10:00am – 3:00pm at the Headwater Livestock café.
  - **Grants update:** Both grants we submitted needed minor revisions but are ready now. March 3 is the day we present the grants to the trust fund. Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee will present their request March 4.
  - **2015 road Contracts:** Dan Marks will continue with the roads he treated last year. We sent out a request for bid to all known commercial applicators in the area for 1/3 of the roads. We intend to hire one crew of 2 that will treat 1/3 of county roads and work on cooperative projects. We will review the bids at the March board meeting.
  - **Cost Share Program:** As the cost share program stands currently we will reimburse 50% the cost of herbicide only up to \$100. We would like to increase the total payout and allow the cost of labor included in the payout. Fred Bell moves to change the cost share program to reimburse 50% the cost of approved weed management including labor up to \$200 invoice must be submitted. Jeff Littlefield 2<sup>nd</sup> - passed unanimously.
  - **WinterFest Booth – Feb 14:** Mike will man the booth part of the day
  - **Spring Home & Garden Show:** Feb 28 – Mar 1: Mike and John will man the booth each a day.
  - **2015 Annual Weed Manager’s Meeting:** April 23, 9:30-11:30- the purpose of this meeting is to encourage cooperative projects between the different agencies that are responsible for weed control within the county.
- **Round table**
    - **Work Plan Draft:** given to the board for review and discussion at a later board meeting. The goal of this plan is to keep the board better informed and give them a standard by which to measure the success of the weed program.
    - **Discussion about John’s evaluation:** There is still some confusion about the evaluation process and the board’s involvement and the County Administrators involvement.
    - **Herbicide Bid Requests:** We are looking at Tordon, 2-4D, and Tellar. Should we allow post paten products to be included in the bid? The board perspective was to allow. We will list the herbicide by the active ingredient to indicate it does not need to be a specific trade name.

Meeting dismissed 3:00 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 5, 2015; 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant