Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 6, 2014

ATTENDEES:
- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders
- **Others:** Joe Skinner (Commisioner), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant)

MINUTES: Bob Hofman moved to approve the minutes as written, Fred Bell 2nd – passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

- The concrete pad is finished other than some finish work. Rain gutters are up. We will need to do some storm water drain management to divert storm water away from the concrete pad.

NEW BUSINESS:
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
  - ➤ No Questions
- **Commissioner Report**
  - ➤ No Report
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - ➤ **October spraying went well**: November 1 was the end of the spray season. We were able to clean up a lot of roads which will give us a head start in the spring.

  - ➤ **Ophir School Weed Pull**: 2nd graders up at Big Sky. Jen Mohler gave a lecture on why noxious weeds are bad and we then set them up with a GPS unit. This year we gave them Fight 5 Kits that were partially provided by grant money through MWCA. The premise of Fight 5 is there are 38 species of noxious weeds in Gallatin County and the average person cannot remember all of them, but they can remember and identify 5.

  - ➤ **SW Area Meeting**: The meeting was held in Butte some of the topics were
    - ▪ The education trailer and improvements. They are planning to purchase more educational material to leave in the trailer for all agencies to use.
    - ▪ The SW Applicator Training will be hosted in Deer Lodge
    - ▪ The legislative session this year will not have any major weed issues presented. In 2 years there is going to be a push to increase the Special County Grant to $22,500 instead of the current $7,500
    - ▪ The Western Area Weed Managers training will be in Butte

  - ➤ **MSU Extension Pesticide Training topics were**:
    - ▪ Herbicide resistance
    - ▪ Weed seed viability
    - ▪ Managing weeds in alfalfa
    - ▪ Pesticide Storage – safety from children, terrorism prevention

- Water quality can affect the performance of herbicides
- Calibration

> **Fall Coordinator Training – Big Timber**
>   - The new Dow Chemical Rep gave a talk on chemical spills
>   - MACO gave a talk on County Budgets and HR issues
>   - Pasture management
>   - Round Table on gravel pits and subdivisions
>   - Others counties do not certify gravel pits as weed free because you don't know the seed bank. They will certify the absence of plants. Dave Birch from Dept of Ag says counties can embargo gravel but check with County Attorney prior.
>   - Carbon County charges by the acre for both gravel pits and subdivisions. For subdivisions they also charge a bond of $25/infested acre for noncompliance treatment.
>   - Ravali County – when a subdivision submits a WMP and does not follow the plant, they can go directly to non-compliance. Our County Attorney says we need to go through the entire enforcement process. Ravali County also requires money be set aside within the HOA structure for weed control

> **EWM Task Force**: Celestine Duncan is heading up a task force to develop treat options. The Jefferson Slew is completely infested and sending about 17,000 lbs of fragments down the Jefferson and Boulder Rivers. Toston damn is getting worse, there is a little bit in Canyon Ferry. The potential to spread is great. There has been some genetic testing done and it has been discovered the Milfoil present is primarily hybridized between the Eurasion and Northern native. The hybridized plant tends to be bushier and more resistant to herbicide treatment and may turn out to be an even great threat. After meeting the committee has come up with 4 points
>   - Stop the flow of fragments downstream – there is the possibility of placing a self cleaning screen downstream at the cost of $300,000. This would also provide a great monitoring tool to measure the upstream treatment/non treatment affect.
>   - Adaptive management strategy– try a treatment if it works continue and if it doesn't work try something else.
>   - Appeal to the legislature for funding
>   - Quantify the downstream effects. If it does continue to populate downstream will that effect the fishing industry, and will it decrease irrigation

>   The infected slew is about 5 miles long

>   Discussion about the different treatment options and the effect of doing nothing.

> **Big Sky Weed Committee Meeting:** The meeting was primarily about the coordinators contract. Steve Saunders initiated discussion about the effectiveness of the committee. The biggest issue in Big Sky can be absent landowners. This will be a continual battle and educating the community is critical. Jen is working hard to build cooperative efforts with the larger interested parties in the Big Sky Area. The Big Horn Sheep range improvement is also a great project being worked on by the committee. Jen is applying for 3 different grants to help supplement BSRAD funding. December 15 6-8 pm Bridger Brewery is hosting a Pints for Purpose where $1 of every pint goes to the committee.

> **Grants:** We are working on 2 grants we will heavily involved in writing the grants but will run them through MSU since they will forgive the grant administrative fees.
>   - The Story Hills WMA grant

- - - We sent out about 90 postcard mailers
    - 16 responses to date
  - o The Dry Creek WMA grant
    - There are 5 landowners involved at this point

- > **Enforcement Bill:** We sent this to the Clerk and Recorder who will send the attachment to the Country Treasurer to be placed as a tax lien.

- **Round table**
  - > Steve Saunders raised the question about the cut outs on I-90 near Bear Canyon that are infested with Spotted Knapweed. Insects have been released in the area multiple years but no evidence that they are thriving. The terrain deems it almost unsprayable and aerial treatment is not an option either due to the interstate.
  - > Recommended we send MRL a map with priority hot spots in the county
  - > Industrial changes – Bayer bought Dupont herbicide department.

Meeting dismissed 2:10 pm
Next scheduled meeting: December 4, 2014, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Vanderby
Program Assistant