Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 3, 2015

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

MINUTES: Jeff Littlefield moved to approve the minutes, Bob Hofman 2nd – approved without dissent

NEW BUSINESS:
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
    - ➢ Keith asked what the answer was to a phone call from engineering firm wondering if mowing is enough to fulfill WMP requirements for MOU submission when plan calls for chemical treatment. If noxious weeds are present they must follow the plan as it was written.
    - ➢ Fred asked question about Canada Thistle – they have a patch of CT that they cut the tops off and bagged the heads. Will CT reproduce from seed only or regenerate from the root? CT has a strong root system and will regenerate from the root.
- **Commission Report**
    - ➢ Plans are progressing to remodel Building #4 on the fairgrounds and relocate County Extension and County Weed District there. Discussion is occurring where to relocate the polling place that currently uses Building 4.
    - ➢ The County is planning a storage facility near the Law & Justice Center
    - ➢ Budgets are approved

- **Coordinators Reports**
    - ➢ **Spray update:** Crew finished, John and Mike will finish up the last few projects. John just got an updated list of County gravel pits we are to maintain. These gravel pits are on private land, used by the County and have been reclaimed. There are 8 subdivision park areas that the County maintains, we will treat for weeds. There is a Japanese Knotweed plant on the corner of Durston and Sheridan that we will go remove, haul the material away and spray the roots.
    - ➢ **Complaint Update**: We have one complaint – McCrone property with lots of St Johnswort that we will seek Court Order to treat. We will plan to treat this fall. Legal requests now need to first go through County Administrator Jim Doar before being passed along to the County Attorney. Other complaints are being resolved by cooperation with the land owner.
    - ➢ **AIS Survey with Extension:** Brad Bauer of Extension has a grant to monitor Aquatic Invasive Species from the headwater of the Missouri. Sampling was sent to Schutter diagnostic and it was confirmed as Eurasia Watermilfoil and Curley leaf. Survey is currently being used only for monitoring. Aquatic plants are very difficult to treat in the flowing water.

- ➢ **BSRAD Meeting:** Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee made a plea to BSRAD to remove budget restrictions. Request was approved. GBSWC works primarily as an education outreach committee
- ➢ We will start getting quotes for the I-Beam and hoist system in the shop
- ➢ **John –** When John worked at MSU there was a project working with amino acids sprinkling the powder on the crown of a plant. John decided to take Lysine(amino acid) put in suspension. Works on weeds, does not harm the turf grass. This would be an organic form of treatment. More research needs to be done on how the plant is being affected. John has been in contact with MSU.

- • **Round table**
  - ➢ **Steve –** Do we have a system where we review/audit our contracted sprayers to make sure we are getting a good return for our contract. Timing is the biggest issue, it is difficult to be everywhere at the optimal time. Some of the roads are going to be sprayed later in the season. We do receive their application records showing area, date and weed species found. We do not have GPS monitoring. Steve spent time in Oregon as a private consultant working on a Medusahead project. That is a terrible invasive grass. The contracted applicators used a tracking device called AgMaps that gives unbelievable record keeping capability. Is this a technology that could be used with our spay crews to improve recordkeeping and provide a review/audit for our personal crews and contract crews.

Meeting dismissed 2:43 pm
Next scheduled meeting: October 1, 2015, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Vanderby
Program Assistant