



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 6th , 2017 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell, and Steve Saunders.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Glenn Colclough (Commercial Applicator)

MINUTES: Fred moved to accept the minutes as written, Steve 2nd the motion, and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Weed Legislation:** HB 126 would revise the Pesticide Act and provide funding for the state Noxious Weed Coordinator; it is awaiting concurrence in the House. HB 410 would have increased some vehicle registration fees to provide additional funding for the state Noxious Weed Trust Fund. It did not pass and the bill is dead now. HB 434 would create a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Act that would establish a trust fund (managed by FWP) that could be used for projects that combat noxious weeds; the hearing for that bill will be later today. HB 444 would create funding to fight milfoil in the Jefferson slough; that bill passed and is on its way to the governor. HB 622 passed through the House and has been transmitted to the Senate Natural Resources Committee. SB 232 would create a \$10 OHV trail pass, with \$.75 going toward noxious weed management. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Natural Resources Committee on April 7th.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Glenn Colclough commented that the bills addressing noxious weeds are a positive step in the right direction.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Keith inquired about Dave Sands' request to be on the lookout for diseased field bindweed. Dave is a plant ecologist at MSU. He would like to use samples of diseased bindweed to try to replicate the disease-causing agent (bacteria, fungus, etc.) for potential biocontrol.
 - Keith asked about the call regarding planting milkweed for butterfly habitat. Milkweed is not a noxious weed, so there are no restrictions.
 - Fred asked about black medic (also called Chinese clover). It is a viney plant with yellow flowers and a burr that often grows in the lawn.
 - Fred asked if 2,4-D will control clover in the lawn, it doesn't seem to do anything when he sprays it. Escalade or Speed Zone might work better. Copyralid would work too.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Don was absent, so there was no commissioner report.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **Herbicide Bids:** Bids were received from Ag Depot, Helena Chemical, Crop Production Services, and Ag Fertilizer. Ag Fertilizer included a different type of dye (measured in quarts instead of packets) in their bid that is not comparable with the dye product priced in the bids from the other

suppliers. Packets are more expensive, but are the preferred product. Taking into account the different dye products, the low bid was Helena Chemical at \$19,645. There were not enough board members for an official vote on which supplier to choose (Steve would not vote because of potential conflict of interest). However, the decision needed to be made before the next board meeting, and county policy states that the lowest responsible bid must be chosen, so the Board agreed to go with Helena Chemical as the supplier. Liberate will be ordered separate from this bid. John will check prices with Crop Production Services and Ag Depot.

- Road Contract vs. Seasonal Spray Crew: Bids for the Three Forks, Clarkston, Sedan and Willow Creek roads were received from NPK, Rocky Mountain Weed and Pest, and Custom Services. NPK was the lowest bid at \$14,005. Five applications were received for the seasonal spray crew jobs. The Board needs to decide if we should we go with a contractor or a seasonal crew to spray those roads. The total cost estimate for hiring the seasonal crew is around \$21,000 for the summer. However, the contractor would only spray 82% of the roads that the crew would spray. So the adjusted cost estimate of the spray crew for spraying an equal number of roads as the contractor would be \$17,220. The bid from NPK is about \$3000 less than that. Fred put forth the motion to hire NPK instead of the spray crew. Steve 2nd the motion, and all approved.
- Emily Lockard, the Extension agriculture agent, recently resigned and the position will not be filled right away. Mike will help with inspections for the Noxious Weed Free Forage program if needed.
- Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance: All of the trucks have been serviced at TireRama. The Road Department will mount a cradle for installation of a new 300 gallon tank on the new truck. They also rewired the electrical for three of the spray trucks. Blitz serviced the ATV. Gallatin Rec serviced the Ranger and installed a second battery and isolator to run the pump so it won't drain the main battery. John and Mike have begun dewinterizing and calibrating the rental sprayers.
- Weed Managers Meeting: The meeting is scheduled for April 26th in the conference room. Karen Kitchen will represent the Forest Service since Susan LaMont has retired.
- **Roundtable**
 - Dan Marx is in the fourth year of his contract for spraying the northern county roads.
 - Keith asked if there is a sign on Peet's Hill about noxious weeds. John and Mike didn't think so, but could talk to GVLTA about putting something up. Melissa Bradford has sprayed the trails on Peet's Hill in the past, and Gallatin County has supplied herbicide; hopefully she will continue to do it.
 - Complaints: John will send out a notice next week for a complaint that came in last fall on a property in Willow Creek. Mike will also start sending out notices for some complaints received last fall. They will also send out postcards to people who received complaints last year, reminding them to keep up with weed control.
 - Steve suggested putting a 'weed of the week' in one of the newspapers or TV stations as a PSA; Chantelle has some already written for use. Glenn suggested reaching out to dog owners, because dogs can be vectors for spreading weeds (e.g. play-clean-go dog cleaning stations at dog parks).

Meeting dismissed 2:20 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 4th , 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Danielle Jones
Program Assistant