



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

February 2nd, 2017 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Bob Hofman, Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell, and Jeff Littlefield.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant)

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2016 Year End Report: Steve was not present for discussion, so the item was tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Fred asked about the Valley Meadow subdivision. They submitted the MOU for this subdivision but did not include any proof that weed control was done, so the MOU has not yet been approved. Bob asked about the Hoekema subdivision off of Amsterdam Road. That subdivision was very clean.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Don was absent from the meeting, so there was no Commissioner Report.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - MWCA Annual Conference: John, Mike and Danielle attended the conference. John congratulated Jeff for receiving the Barb Mullen Lifetime Achievement Award. Talks at the conference included discussion about the promising effects of Esplanade for long-term cheatgrass control, and the impacts of various herbicides on seed production and viability of hoary alyssum. The herbicide trials seemed to suggest that the methyl metsulfuron (i.e. Escort) component had the greatest impact on production and viability of hoary alyssum seeds.
 - 2017 Road Contracts: The Road Bid packet for the Bozeman/Belgrade/Four Corners roads (81 roads total) was sent out last week. Bids are due March 1st, so bids will be discussed at the next board meeting and a contractor can be chosen then. Another Road Bid packet will also be sent out which includes a significant portion of the roads that would be sprayed by the crew, just in case a crew cannot be hired due to a lack of qualified applicants. The 2 seasonals hired last year will probably not return this year. The job posting for seasonal crew members will go out at the end of February or early March. Interviews would be conducted in the first couple of weeks of April. At the April board meeting they can decide whether to go with a crew or a contractor for those roads.
 - Weed Legislation: There was a hearing for House Bill 126, which provides funding for the State Weed Coordinator, but there has not been a vote or second hearing yet. The bill that would increase

the vehicle registration fee by 1% and increase funding for the Special County Grant is still being drafted. If it passed, Gallatin County's portion of the grant would increase from \$7,500 to \$20,500 annually.

- 2017 Herbicide Bids: John distributed a draft letter for the board members to review. When listing the herbicides in the bid, they can be referred to by either chemical name or trade name. If they are referred to by chemical name, dealers can include post-patent (i.e. generic) products in their bid, but if herbicides are listed by trade name, only those specific products can be included in the bid. Alligare carries only post-patent products, so would not be able to put a bid in if herbicides were listed by trade name. The bid letter will be sent to Alligare, CPS, Helena Chemical, Ag Depot and Rocky Mountain Supply. Besides Alligare, the other companies probably carry both post-patent and trade name products. For example, the state bid price for Escort is \$2.62/oz while the price for Patriot (post-patent equivalent) is \$2.26/oz. The Weed District purchases 1200 ounces, so that would be a cost-savings of \$430 for that product. Liberate, a drift reduction, penetrating, and sticker spreader surfactant, is not listed in the bid. It will be purchased from Crop Production for the state rate of \$20/gallon. The board agreed to go with the chemical names in the bid.
- SW Area Commercial & Private Applicator Training: This training will be held February 8th in Dillon. Mike and John are planning to attend. Lots of different categories and credits will be offered. Fred asked how many credits are needed each year? It is a three year cycle, and 12 credits are needed in each category during that cycle. There are many opportunities (MDA trainings, online courses, etc.) to get those credits. The SW Area puts together the agenda for this training using suggestions from members and then submits it to MDA for credits.
- 2017 Annual Weed Manager's Meeting: This meeting will probably be scheduled for the third week in April; a 'Save the Date' notice will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. The meeting will be held in the conference room this year instead of at the library. A few weed managers have retired this year, including Jim Jacobs of NRCS and Susan Lamont of the Forest Service. Their replacements will be sent invitations to the meeting.
- 2017 Workplan: Steve was not present so the item was not discussed.
- **Roundtable**
 - John gave an update on the discussion about changing the Weed District office hours. A resolution was drafted for discussion at the Commission office meeting on Monday morning.
 - Keith mentioned that he heard that California was going to outlaw Roundup/glyphosate. John and Mike had not heard anything about it. There are already a lot of chemicals that are not labeled for use in California and New York.

Meeting dismissed 1:50 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 2nd, 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant