



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 5th , 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), Don Seifert (Commissioner), Glenn Colclough (Commercial Applicator)

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2017 Board Appointment/Chair**
 - The Commissioners reappointed Steve and Fred to the Board.
 - Bob presented a motion for the appointment of Jeff as President of the Board for 2017 and Fred 2nd the motion. All approved and the motion passed.
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Jeff asked for clarification about the process for subdivisions to obtain an MOU with the Weed District. John explained that subdivisions need to have an approved Weed Management Plan in order to get preliminary plat, and then an MOU needs to be in place in order to get final plat.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Don reiterated that the Commissioners reappointed Steve and Fred to the Board. There were no other applicants.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - 2016 Year End Report: The Board provided comments on the report. Bob thanked John and Mike for the work they do. Jeff suggested that it may be useful to consolidate some of the information into summaries that can be compared from year to year. John will add discussion of the report to the 'Old Business' part of the agenda for the next board meeting. Bob asked about the amount of work they are doing on the Fairgrounds. John said it is due to a lot of bare ground control and the control of nuisance weeds in addition to noxious weeds. The Weed District does weed control on Fairgrounds property in trade for leasing the weed shop building.
 - Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee Update: Mike reported on the Board meeting that was held on December 13th. Jen gave an overview of the Annual Report. GBSWC was awarded several grants, including a 'Pints for Purpose' night at Bridger Brewing on January 2nd, a RAC grant for \$5,000 for weed mapping in the canyon, \$6,000 from Moonlight Foundation for 'Play, Clean, Go' educational signs along trails in Big Sky, and a grant from the Yellowstone Club to raise awareness of aquatic

invasives. There were also \$1500 in private donations. Jen really appreciates the \$2500 from the county. Don asked if that money was a one-time budget item, or ongoing? John said that the idea was that it would be ongoing. Jen plans on coming to the March meeting to give the Board an update. She has done a lot of outreach with the Big Sky Owners Association and other HOAs to raise awareness about weed issues. She now has 3 people from Big Sky on her Board.

- Road Contracts: Dan Marx is contracted until 2021. The Bozeman/Belgrade/Four Corners roads will go out for bid in about 2 weeks. John would like to do a 2 year contract, with the stipulation that if the first year doesn't go well, the second year of the contract can be cancelled. Additionally, they will prepare another bid to send out in February for the Three Forks, Manhattan, Clarkston, and Sedan roads, in case they are not able to hire a seasonal crew to spray those areas. They will do a job posting for a seasonal crew at the same time, and if there aren't any qualified applicants, will go with the contract option instead. John and Mike will spray about 15 of the outlying roads.
- Weed Legislation: There is a draft bill that would increase the vehicle registration fee, increasing funding for the Special County Grant. If it passed, Gallatin County's portion of the grant would increase from \$7,500 to \$20,500 annually. House Bill 126 was drafted by MDA. It would amend pesticide fees and provide stable funding for the state Noxious Weed Coordinator. Draft bill LC 597 would require a fishing access fee, with a portion of the proceeds going to the control of noxious weeds at fishing access sites. Draft bill LC 1229 would reduce vehicle registration fees for seniors, potentially reducing the noxious weed trust fund dollars by \$29,000.
- 2017 Workplan: John asked if there were any questions. It is very similar to the 2016 Workplan, with a few additions. John will bring it to the next meeting as well to allow input from Steve.
- **Round table**
 - The Montana Weed Control Association Annual Conference will be held next week in Great Falls. Danielle, John, Mike, and Jen Mohler will attend.
 - John asked Don about the process for changing the Weed District office hours. They are currently 8-12 and 1-5. This is not accurate as the office is not closed at noon, and they would like to change the hours to something like 7:30 – 4, similar to the Road Department. Don thinks it will require a Resolution, and suggested John get in touch with Erin Arnold at the County Attorneys office.
 - Keith inquired about the process for the Animal Shelter to use the cost share for weed control. The cost share application is available online, and preapproval is required. The entire cost share budget was spent last year, with a few people turned away at the end.

Meeting dismissed 1:50 pm

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

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant