



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 1st , 2017 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - The expense paid to the Road Department was for the installation of the flatbed and wiring of lights for the new truck.
 - Rattlebox weed grows in grass hay. It can be a big problem because it can become a monoculture and is difficult to control. A caller had noticed some in Ravalli County around Stevensville and was wondering if it was poisonous to bison.
 - The number of subdivision reviews that come into the Weed District seems to be remaining relatively steady over the past few years. The inspection fee for reviews is \$150 for a minor and \$300 for a major subdivision.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Commissioner Siefert was absent, so there was no Commissioner report.
- **Coordinators Report**
 - Farm Fair was May 9th – 11th . John, Mike, Danielle, and Jen Mohler attended two days, MSU folks attended one day.
 - Budget Presentation with Commission was May 9th. The Weed Department is requesting \$186 over the startup budget for FY18, and John attended a meeting with commissioners regarding this request. The FY18 budget is not very different from the FY17 budget; most of the changes are because money will be moved between line items.
 - Budget input with the Finance Department was May 10th. John distributed copies of the FY18 startup budget with department requests for review, and answered questions from board members.
 - Gateway Youth Group Weed Pull was May 19th. Mike and Jen Mohler attended this annual educational event.
 - Spray Update: Sappington Road, Annette Park, Gardener Park, and Logan Park were all recently sprayed. All spray equipment is working well. The blower on the 2005 Chevy truck was repaired at Farr Auto. They also replaced the battery in the 2002 Chevy spray truck and did some other

maintenance. Steve asked about the revenue that comes from rental sprayers; this money goes into a revenue account that goes into the general county budget.

➤ Upcoming events:

- Trout Unlimited/Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee weed pull will be on June 10th, meeting at Simms at 9am. Usually 20-30 people attend.
- Offsite budget meetings at Public Library will be June 14th and 15th.
- Bighorn Sheep winter range spray days will be June 26th and 29th. The Weed District, Big Sky Weed Committee, Forest Service, and MCC crew will attend.
- Big Sky weed pull will be June 27th. Usually 15-20 people attend.

• **Roundtable**

- Steve asked about the weed contact at the Forest Service; it is Karen Kitchen, out of the Bozeman District Office.
- Steve discussed the possibility of the Weed District offering additional training and education that would build awareness with landowners and professionals about noxious weeds. This could include information about current weed control methods, and available resources and services regarding noxious weed control. John mentioned that the Weed District will likely host the SW Area commercial applicator training next year. Extension is now putting out a newsletter with a section written by the Weed District, and the Conservation District has a newsletter with a weed post. Mike is also distributing weed articles to newspapers now. Steve suggested adding to the work plan a meeting every year, as well as distributing to media outlets a weed of the week during the growing season. Since there is a new demographic in the county, it would be good to reach out to different user groups (e.g. hikers, weed awareness signs at trailheads). The Board should take a stance on education. Steve will talk to Becky about putting together a media package that could be easily distributed. The challenge will be to find the right media outlet to reach people.

Meeting dismissed at 2:00 pm

Next scheduled meeting: July 6th, 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant