



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 6th, 2016 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Weed District bought a 2015 Chevy Silverado 1-ton with 9000 miles on it from Ressler for \$34,995; \$30,000 was used from core funds and \$5000 from reserves. A flatbed will eventually be installed. For the old truck, the mechanic gave a cost estimate of \$4500 to replace the engine. The Road Department took the old truck for free because they will put >\$3000 into fixing it.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Bob was glad to see that John and Mike had met with the Road Department to talk about weeds. There was good turnout and they seemed pretty interested.
 - Jeff asked about the MWCA claims. They were for purchasing playing cards and calendars.
 - Steve asked if John and Mike are going to Baker next week for the weed meeting; they are not.
 - Fred asked about the Alberda complaint. It was regarding a lot on Professional Drive with knapweed. Alberda cleaned it up.
 - Steve asked about the Richards complaint. The property is out by the Fort Ellis Leisure Community, off of Canary Lane. There were 3 complaints on Richards' properties, and the weeds were treated. Richards owns the park in the subdivision, but says he is going to transfer that property to the HOA, although that hasn't happened yet.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - There have been 2-3 outreach meetings every day to educate interested organizations about the Law and Justice Center project. It is a \$68.3 million project. The county is responsible for 48%, and the city is responsible for 21%. The county will float the bond and the city will float a mill levy to pay their portion of the bond. Both of these have to pass for the project to go forward. The average county resident will pay approximately \$23 and city resident \$44 for every \$100,000 taxable value.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - Spray Update for September:

- West Yellowstone again, including county roads, airport, and transfer station
 - Road Department gravel pit
 - Logan quarry, went back with ATV
 - Brackett Creek where there was a complaint, will try to go back again to tackle regrowth
 - Fairgrounds, will do more this fall
 - Gateway South road west of Gallatin Gateway at a site with complaint of SK
 - Will try to get out to the Logan Landfill and Regional Park mid to late next week
 - Will go back to the Road Department pit to treat cheatgrass, when other grasses go dormant
 - The Road Department requested a glyphosate treatment along Stagecoach Trail, from Churchill to Wooden Shoe and back. There are grasses coming up through the pavement
- Complaints/Enforcement:
- Complaints are still coming in; most have been resolved, but a few still need to follow through.
 - 6 rental sprayers have been winterized, 4 are still available. When the low temps get to be in the 20's they will winterize the rest and put them away.
 - John and Mike met with the Commissioners regarding how to deal with complaints filed on properties in subdivisions that have active HOAs with covenants for dealing with weed complaints. It was decided that the best course of action would be to have the HOAs send out a notice at the same time that the official enforcement letter goes out.
 - For complaints where the noxious weed infestation is really small, is there some discretion regarding when official enforcement action is warranted? Can an educational letter be sent instead? A recent example is a complaint filed on property in Painted Hills subdivision with a very small patch of CT in the lawn. The board agreed that there should be some discretion, and suggested that a judge would probably not give a court order for instances where the weed infestation is small. The HOA should deal with the landowner in those cases. Don suggested getting in touch with the county compliance officer to get direction on how to move forward with using discretion.
- Building update: Extension is moved in, but remodeling is still underway. Cabinets will arrive soon, painting is almost done, doors will be in on October 11th. The work should hopefully be done by the end of October. There will be an open house when it is all done, maybe mid-November.
- The Big Sky Weed Committee Meeting was an update of what Jen Mohler did over the summer. She was awarded \$49,000 from the resort tax, compared with \$35,000 last year. She is doing a cost share program, has had several weed pulls, and has applied for a RAC grant to do weed mapping in the canyon. She has been doing some mapping recently, mostly near Big Sky, to look for new invaders. They found St. Johnswort in the canyon, which was previously unknown there. She received \$6000 from the Moonlight Foundation to put up signs. She did a native plant tour fundraiser which raised \$500. Julie Cunningham from FWP gave a talk in Big Sky about bighorn sheep, in conjunction with the weed control they have done down there for the past 5 years. Jen is also working with the Forest Service and NW Energy to incorporate their mapping data.
- Workplan Questions: Steve asked about the outreach effort to Horseshoe Hills residents affected by the fire. Information was sent out last spring telling residents about cost share, rental sprayers, and other available assistance, with no replies. Steve suggested that the developer up there might be a good contact for more outreach. Steve asked about the outreach to municipalities. John had sent an email to the City of Belgrade offering to help with spraying if they had specific locations, but there was no response. Steve mentioned an area on the North end of Huffine by the school that has a lot of SK. People park there, and he suggested it might be good to encourage the city to do some weed

control there to limit seed spread. Mike had sprayed around the recycling bins in Belgrade where there was a lot of SK, and went to Manhattan to give the town advice and help calibrate their sprayer. Steve asked about the hoary alyssum Lysine plots with Jane at MSU. The results from work this summer are not known. MSU will sample soil this week, and will go out next spring to look at residual and regrowth. Based on what John and Mike saw, the Lysine treatment was not that effective due to dry conditions and the fact that the plants were so big. Steve suggested that it would be good to have a year-end summary that itemized elements and gave a concise update of what has been done on the Work Plan.

- **Round table**

- Steve has observed that there is a lot of ventanata up north, possibly a couple thousand acres. He was wondering about opportunities for getting a grant to map the distribution. Ventanata is not on the noxious weed list, so would not be eligible for a Trust Fund grant. Mike said that Emily and Jane and are working on herbicide trials with ventanata.
- Fred asked if 2-4D will control Kochia? John and Steve suggested Fluroxypyr instead. It is best to spray when it is small.

Meeting dismissed 2:15 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 3, 2016, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant