



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 3rd, 2018 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders, Fred Bell.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Don Seifert (Commissioner), and Glenn Cloclough (private applicator).

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- The 2018 County Weed Management Plan and the draft resolution to change the county Noxious Weed List are both still waiting for the County Attorney's review.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - There was a discussion about the status of the PT Land Weed Management Plan. There has been no communication from the engineer or landowner yet regarding compliance with the plan. It was decided that Mike would file a complaint against the landowner for not treating the weeds on the property, and would cc all interested parties (e.g. City of Bozeman, engineers, etc.). If the landowners do not comply, they will not get their MOU.
 - There was a question about status of the Story Creek subdivision in Belgrade. The City of Belgrade had granted preliminary plat for the subdivision even though the WMP had not yet been approved. Jason from Belgrade Planning said it had just fallen through the cracks. Mike and Jason worked out a way to keep Jason in the loop for all WMPs in Belgrade that come into the Weed District office.
 - There was a discussion about problems associated with subdivision WMPs not being implemented every year as they should be and how to possibly remedy this. A checklist of required documentation is now provided with WMP applications, and if those documents are not received with the MOU application, the MOU will not be signed. The possibility of weed bond was discussed. Keith suggested he could inform the Belgrade planning board of the weed management plan requirements for subdivisions as they come before the board.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - It is budget season. The Weed District will not have any special budget requests this year. There was a discussion about the restructuring that will happen within the county. The current superintendant of the Road and Bridge Department will head a new Public Works Department that will include the Weed District, Fairgrounds, Parks Department, and Road and Bridge. The Weed District will still be an independent department with its own budget. This restructuring will go into effect July 1.
- **Coordinators Report**
 - The SW Area Meeting was held in Whitehall on April 17th .
 - Big Sky Weed Summit was held in Big Sky on April 20th. Discussion focused on where to spray in the Big Sky area this season.

- The Annual Weed Managers Meeting was held on April 25th at the Weed District office. Attendance was good.
- The ventenata site visit at the Triple Tree trailhead was held on April 30th. A couple of acres of ventenata were located and will be sprayed in the next week or so.
- Upcoming events include the GISA board meeting, Farm Fair, the BLM Beartrap Spray Day, the Small Acreage workshop focusing on weeds, budget input with Finance, and a planning meeting for the upcoming ventenata tour.
- **Roundtable**
 - Steve brought materials from the board training he attended in Dillon and highlighted some aspects of Board processes, including the importance of allowing for public comment and issues surrounding board liability (i.e. is there currently enabling legislation that defines the liability of the weed board?). He suggested we review the current bylaws for the Board and add a new member orientation.
 - There will be a cheatgrass symposium hosted by the Yellowstone County Conservation District, which will include various speakers and a tour to treatment sites.
 - They have been conducting Esplanade treatments on cheatgrass at Lewis and Clark Caverns.
 - The application for a Section 2 exemption to use Esplanade on pasture and rangeland is moving forward. The MDA estimated 5500 acres of ventenata statewide.

Meeting dismissed at 2:20 pm

Next scheduled meeting: June 7th, 2018, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant