



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 2nd, 2017 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, Steve Saunders, and Fred Bell.
- **Others:** Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Don Seifert (Commissioner), Jane Mangold (MSU Professor), Josh Bilbao (Extension Agriculture Agent), and Glenn Cloclough (Commercial Applicator).

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jane Mangold presented information about Ventenata, an invasive, highly competitive annual grass that has shown up in Montana in recent years. It has been documented in many counties in Montana, mostly in the western part of the state. In Gallatin County it has been documented in the Springhill area, the Four Corners area, along the Triple Tree trail, on Peet's hill, and along the right-of-way of the Frontage road between Belgrade and Bozeman. Jane discussed tips for identification, including how it differs in appearance from cheatgrass. Strategies for management were also discussed, including the effectiveness and limitations of herbicides, some potential partnerships that may help to enhance control efforts in the County (e.g. GVLTC, City of Bozeman, the manager of Triple Tree, etc.), the importance of educating the public (with signs, handouts, etc.), and the pros and cons of adding Ventenata to the state noxious weed list. There was discussion about putting together a tour next summer (end of June or beginning of July) to reach out to landowners in the Springhill area, where there may be up to 5,000 acres of Ventenata. Jane offered to participate, Steve offered to help with planning, and Josh offered to help with reaching out to landowners.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - There was discussion about the status of weed control on the Daellenbach property. Steve reported that it has been mowed.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Don mentioned that there will be trainings for board members put on by the Local Government group on campus. Steve suggested that it might be good if someone attended to represent the Board.
- **Coordinators Report**
 - Various city and county rights-of-way were sprayed in October as well as the Fairgrounds, Annette Park, and the Regional Park.
 - Mike summarized the status of complaints. Most have now been resolved, but a couple will carry over to next year for follow-up treatments. The PT Land subdivision may not receive an MOU from

the Weed District because they were notified in August that they were in violation of their WMP, but have not yet followed up with spraying.

- Mike summarized the topics that were covered at the MWCA Fall Coordinator Training, including: various talks about herbicide products; the MCC crews that specialize in weed control; Human Resources issues; sage grouse conservation; and leadership training put on by the Local Government Center.
- At the SW Area meeting, discussion included details regarding purchasing a new education trailer this fall and selling the old one, and the difficulty many counties are having with hiring seasonal crews. The 2018 Commercial Applicator training will be in Butte, with a tentative date of Feb 5-9th.
- All of the spray equipment has been winterized and the water is capped.
- Mike mentioned potentially cancelling the December board meeting. Steve suggested using the time for an educational discussion about a current weed topic. No decision was made at the time, but Board members will let Mike or Danielle know what they think and share any ideas for potential topics to discuss.
- **Roundtable**
 - Steve mentioned updating the Workplan to reflect what has been accomplished in 2017, as well as creating a new plan for 2018 that includes general goals and larger projects, with steps/strategies for how to reach those goals.
 - Board memberships will expire at the end of 2017 for Keith and Jeff. They will receive a packet in the mail from the County Commission about renewing their memberships.
 - The field tour of the regional park was cancelled due to bad weather.

Meeting dismissed at 2:55 pm

Next scheduled meeting: December 7th, 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant