



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, and Fred Bell.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), and Don Seifert (Commissioner).

**MINUTES:** Fred moved to accept the minutes as written, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- John discussed the issue of Weed shop ownership. He received clarification from the Accounting office that the Weed Department owns the building. Rent due to the Fairgrounds is for the footprint of the shop and the surrounding yard.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
  - A landowner contacted John about weeds along Middle Creek ditch running through Hylite Foothills subdivision. There is a 50 foot easement along the ditch that is supposed to be maintained by DNRC. John got in touch with Craig Cambell at DNRC, and Craig worked out a weed control agreement with the landowners in the subdivision.
  - A property in Gallatin Park Subdivision was sprayed this week as a result of Enforcement.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - Don discussed how cuts to the state budget would potentially effect the County budget through cuts to essential services that are supposed to be funded by the state. The costs associated with those services would then fall to the County.
- **Coordinators Report**
  - Various city and county rights-of-way around Bozeman were sprayed in September, as well as county roads and properties in West Yellowstone. The cooler, wetter weather has hindered fall spraying a bit.
  - Most of the rental sprayers are winterized.
  - Mike reviewed the 12 complaints that are still active. Many of the landowners have contracts with private applicators to get fall spraying done, and he's waiting to hear from them after they complete that spraying. The Weed District obtained a court order to spray a property in Gallatin Park subdivision, and the property was treated last Thursday. The landowner will be charged approximately \$2400 which includes attorney fees, the costs associated with treating the property,

and a 25% penalty. If he doesn't pay in 30 days, the bill will be attached to his tax bill. The court order is good for three years if future weed control enforcement is necessary on the property.

- John discussed the Boulder Creek Subdivision which recently submitted an MOU. There has been a Weed Management Plan in place for three years for this subdivision, but the property has never been treated. John said he would not sign the MOU until there is some weed control done on the property. This is a common problem with subdivisions where weed control is not done until it is time for the MOU, even though the WMP stipulates annual maintenance. Keith asked what the implications are if the Weed District doesn't sign the MOU due to lack of weed control on the property, especially in winter when weed control can't happen to immediately satisfy the conditions. Don mentioned that in the past the Commissioners have approved final plat with the condition that there will be a letter of credit worth 150% of what weed control would cost. If the developer did not follow through with weed control in the spring, the county would take that money and do it for them.

- **Roundtable**

- John and Mike met with NPK and Dan Marx to discuss the work done along the county roads this summer. NPK will go back and do some touch up. Dan was wondering about adding something to the mix to treat kochia.
- The new Agriculture Agent started for Extension. They will be doing phone interviews for the Natural Resource Agent position in the near future.
- The meeting was adjourned and the board went on a field trip to visit various sites to discuss weed control issues. Sites visited included Boulder Creek Subdivision off Durston on Rosa Way, the Gallatin Park enforcement property, and the East Gallatin Rec Area which is county-maintained.

Meeting dismissed at 1:55 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant