



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2015**

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Bob Hofman, Fred Bell
- **Others:** Don Seifert - Commissioner, Maureen Meagher – NRCS, John Ansley – Coordinator, Mike Jones – Assistant Coordinator, Mary Vanderby – Program Assistant

MINUTES: Fred Bell acted as Chairman of meeting. Bob Hofman moved to approve minutes, Fred 2nd - passed

OLD BUSINESS:

- NPK contract has been signed and is being routed through the county process.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Maureen Meagher – NRCS – Big Horn Sheep Re-vegetation project: The partners signed on to work on the group project are: NRCS, Gallatin Weed District, Forest Service, FWS, FWP, and Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee. 16 plots will be marked out and replanted with Big Horn Sheep habitat in mind. This has the potential to be a much larger project so the group will enter into it with the intent of an EA application. Maureen will establish a plan of work to coordinate the different agencies. Tentative dates are: April 14 stake out plots, spray with Roundup in the next 30 days, seed May 5, Gallatin Big Sky Weed will provide fencing for some of the plots to monitor effects of grazing. First evaluation July 14. NRCS plant materials will provide the species. Don recommended communicating with the Lone Peak Lookout to encourage community buy in. The ultimate is to get the Big Horn Sheep off of the roads so hopefully the community will support the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Bob Hofman noted the Village at Amsterdam subdivision is under construction once again
 - Fred Bell noted that we received ½ of the Meadow Creek Enforcement and distributed the money between the County Attorney and our Enforcement Reserve Cash Account.
 - Fred Bell questions what the Grant Funds can be used for. Grant approved payments are – up to the percentage of funding per the commitment from the landowner - ½ of commercial labor (if used) and ½ of the cost of approved herbicide. This Story Hills grant also has available a grazing component that will allow the committed land owner to be reimbursed for ½ the cost.
 - Fred Bell questioned the location of Rabel Subdivision.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **ATV Winch Cost** – The cost would be winch: \$360 + mount: \$110 + labor \$150 = \$620 total. John recommended this would not be necessary, a winch has not been needed in the past.
 - **Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants:**
 - **The Dry Creek Grant:** Requested \$12,901 received \$10,000

- **Story Hills:** Requested \$39,999 received \$20,000
- **Big Sky Weed Committee:** Applied for educational grant – fully funded \$6,950
- **Spring Coordinator Training:** Butte March 24-25;
 - Putting together a realtor training that is internet based with 5 moduals: Noxious Weed 101, Plant Anatomy and Weed ID, Weed ID, Understanding Weed Law, and Understanding Weed Management. Will be eligible for continuing Ed credits
 - Changes to Montana Noxious Weed List – will take affect after this weed season. Additions to the list are: Common Reed, Phragmites, and 2 true water weeds: Brazilian Water Weed and Parrot Feather Water Milfoil. Hoary Alyssum moving from 2A to 2B because it is so wide spread.
 - Mike enjoyed the climate change presentation. If models keep going the way they are, weeds seem to have more invasive potential because they thrive with increased CO₂
 - Crew Hiring: We have one returning crew member – Madison Ruff. The other position will be posted and close on April 15
 - Herbicide Quotes: We received 3 bids and recommend we go with the low bid. We sought bids from all known herbicide dealers.
 - Alligare came in with the low bid and product will be ordered.
 - The surfactant we prefer to use will be ordered from Crop Production because they are the only known dealer for Liberate.
 - Education Trailer Contract – we will contact Steve Saunders to come in to sign as the Board Chairman. We contract with Beaver Head County for use of the Education Trailer saying that we carry insurance that will cover the trailer.
 - Spray Equipment Maintenance – most of the maintenance is completed. We have been getting several calls for rentals but plan to hold those until the threat of freezing at night has diminished.
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Big Sky Weed Summit will be held April 14 and is being sponsored by Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee
 - Level 3 Weed Training- being offered through MSU by Jane Mangold. Both Mike and John plan to participate.
 - Conflict Resolution Training – April 23
 - Personality Behavioral Types Training – April 21
 - SW Area Meeting – April 21, Whitehall
 - Annual Weed Managers Meeting – April 23rd. Maureen would like to present at the meeting.
 - Farm Fair – May 5-7 – Shantell Frame with the State Education Campaign and Jen Mohler are willing to help with the project
- **Round table**
 - Bob Hofman asked a question about the reason we are over budget in Contracted Services. It was requested that we expense our contract sprayers through Profession Services.

Meeting dismissed 2:25 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 7, 2015, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
 Mary Vanderby
 Program Assistant