



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 4, 2015**

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, Fred Bell, Steve Saunders
- **Others:** Don Seifert(Commissioner), John Ansley(Coordinator), Mike Jones(Assistant Coordinator), Mary Vanderby(Program Assistant), Emily Lockard(Extension), Mark Payne

MINUTES: Keith moved to accept the minutes, Bob 2nd – approved as written

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

COMMISSIONER REPORT: The new airport interchange is scheduled to open the end of June, ahead of schedule and under budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Keith asked about a call from Rene Granatier call about possible overspray damage to a hedge she has in a no spray zone. There is no evidence of what caused the damage and she did not want the shrub tested for conclusive results.
 - Steve asked about a complaint on Leonard Reed's property. John visited with him and resolved all issues.
 - Fred questioned a call for certified weed free gravel pit. The only pits currently certified are TMC's pits
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **Chemical Shed:** We have purchased material to treat the outside of the building to seal up cracks. We will do this further into the summer. Keith mentioned a company called Pencil that does log home chinking that recommended contacting Sherwin Williams for a product.
 - **Big Sky Resort Area District Q&A:** Mike attended with Jen Mohler to answer questions on grant funding for the Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee. The committee is seeking \$56,000 to fully fund the program.
 - **Bear Trap Spay Day – May 21:** Mike attended with the crew. Hike into the wilderness area with backpack sprayers about 1.5 miles and spray your way out.
 - **Ophir School/ Education Trailer – May 22:** Mike and Jen Mohler took the education trailer and did an educational training to 2nd graders at Ophir school using interactive games and props.
 - **Gateway Youth Weed Pull – May 29:** This is an annual event with Gateway School and labeled as a community service activity for the students. After many years of education the students are starting to recognize spotted knapweed, and hoary alyssum.

- **Crew Training, June 1-4:** John and the crew attended. John taught backpack calibration and label reading. Approximately 70 people attend.
- **Complaints Update:** Everyone has responded to the contact thus far and working to develop a Weed Management Plan. We expect complaints to start rolling in over the next couple months.
- **Budget FY16:** Budget input went well. We are asking for \$5300 over our start-up budget. \$700 increase in training to allow board members to attend MWCA annual conference and a \$4600 increase in capital building for the I-beam/hoist system inside the shop to move sprayers around. We did have a decrease in gas/oil budget of \$5500 since we only have 1 crew. We did request \$13,000 of Special County Grant money to purchase a side by side UTV for more efficient road and trail treatment. We could put in a 100 gallon spray tank in the box for more coverage per fill. We do have a double axel car hauler that we could transport the UTV on. Keith moved we explore a UTV purchase, Bob 2nd. Motion passed.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Bighorn Spray Day** – June 8 & 10: backpack work with multiple agencies participating. There is a restoration plan under way for the area. This is the 5th year we have been working on this project. We do try to get some media exposure.
 - **Gallatin River Weed Pull** – June 13 meet at Four Corners Murdoch's. Steve would like to see more PR exposure.
 - **Offsite Budget Meetings** – June 17 & 18 at the Library
 - **Big Sky Community Weed Pull** – June 23, gather at Community Park at 4:00 pm
- **Performance Measurement Training** – the County is trying to get away from the work load indicator evaluation. The Weed District feels the direction in the process is not clear. The goal is to bring departments that serve the public in similar ways come together to define why people want to live in Gallatin County and how independent departments contribute to whole environment of the county.
- John expressed the desire to have County Extension housed back on the Fairgrounds. The County is looking at options to make this happen. Extension now has 6 full time employees and an intern and seasonal and their current location is under sized. Many discussions will be had through the seeking/planning process.
- **Round table**
 - Steve would like to see a “Weed of the Week” published in the local news papers. We will check with Belgrade News and Three Forks Herald if they will run an Op Ed piece.
 - Theresa Shrum called Steve for an inspection. From this Steve is wondering if we could house a conatainer recyle location. The landfill and Big Sky both house these type of facilities. The pesticide recycle program has very strict rules and guidelines that is done 1 time a year.
 - Steve will work for Bayer Environmental Sciences in an advisory capacity 90 days per year. Steve desires full disclosure and will explore the County's position of conflict of interest.
 - Keith talked about spraying Kochia with Forefront at the animal shelter and had great success. Steve said it was probably the 2,4D that was the effective component. Also mentioned he has not yet seen Hoary Alyssum on Frank road.

Meeting dismissed 2:40 pm

Next scheduled meeting: July 2, 2015, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant