



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 5, 2015**

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, Jeff Littlefield, Keith Mainwaring
- **Others:** Don Seifert (Commission), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Emily Lockard (Extension), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant)

Keith Mainwaring acting chairman in the absence of Steve Saunders

MINUTES: Bob Hofman moved to approve the minutes, Jeff Littlefield 2nd passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment**
 - **Emily Lockard** – Extension is coordinating a 6 wk small acreage class
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Fred Bell noted that realtor is trying to write into a buy sell agreement the cost of delayed noxious weed treatment for the property
 - Keith Mainwaring noted a call from the public about treatment of weeds with commercial grade vinegar. This is an option for non-selective weed treatment.
- **Commission Report**
 - The County is still working on the organizational structure of the county and where the Weed District will end up.
 - Budget packets will be distributed next staff meeting, it appears we will have generally the same budget.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **ATV:** We purchased a 2014 Yamaha from Blitz in Bozeman – the spray equipment is installed and it is ready to go. Fred Bell recommends we check into the cost of a winch.
 - **WinterFest Booth:** 20 – 25 people stopped by to ask questions about weed treatment. Overall the day was slower than previous years
 - **Spring Home & Garden Show:** Pretty steady flow of people. Most people that stopped were interested in learning better land management practices. There were some minimal complaints about neighbor weeds and some on the Forest Service.
 - **Big Sky Weed Committee Meeting:** Most of the meeting was spent developing a business and work plan for the Big Sky Area to be presented with the BSRAD grant application. Very little public land exists in Big Sky so this committee is important to the education process in Big Sky. Gallatin County does a cooperative spray day with Madison County and this committee.
 - **Grant Hearings:** The Weed District in conjunction with Extension presented 2 grant requests. The questions were pretty basic. We will know toward the end of March the grant awards.
 - **2015 Road Contract Discussion:** We received 4 competitive bids. NPK that was awarded the bid last year is the lowest again this year. Since NPK is the lowest responsible job, we will

award the bid to them. Fred moved we award the 2015 road spray contract with the intent that we will monitor their start time closer this year and ask for ½ of the roads to be sprayed in June to NPK, Bob 2nd – passed unanimously. Commissioner Seifert asked if we do GPS mapping of noxious weeds and if it would be valuable technology to incorporate. There are some concerns about the amount of time spent mapping data and if it would be worth the time and money. Fred recommended we add Lat/Long location using smart phones to the complaint process to insure we find the correct location. We will continue to evaluate the cost/benefit of adding more technology.

- **Round table**

- **Herbicide Bids** – Bids have been sent out. Due March 31, 1 bid has been received at this time.
- **Maintenance on Sprayers** – we have changed out all general maintenance items on the rental sprayers and will continue on to the trucks.
- **Spring Coordinator Training** is in Butte March 24-25
- **Board Training Meeting:** Marty Malone, Park County Commissioner gave some very good ideas on the structure of a community meeting. Keith and Fred both came away from the meeting with the feeling that Gallatin County is functioning well and it is important to keep good relations between the Commission, Weed Board, and Weed District.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting dismissed 2:10 pm

Next scheduled meeting: April 2, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant