



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 2, 2014**

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Bob Hofman, Fred Bell, Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders
- **Others:** Jim Doar (County Administrator), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant), Brad Bauer (Extension Natural Resource Manager)

Introduction of County Administrator: Welcome to Jim Doar. Jim gave a brief description of his job responsibilities within the county.

MINUTES: Bob Hofman moved to approve the minutes as written, Fred Bell 2nd – passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Concrete Pad under the Lien-to:** Bid was awarded to Lone Wolf Concrete at \$5,148.65. It was recommended we put gutter to protect the concrete. Gus The Gutter Man will do gutter for \$700. There is some concern with storm water management and control of drainage. The natural slope of our lot needs some work. There was some discussion about the possibility of putting in a French drain.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Brad Bauer-has had a busy season

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Fred Bell- questions about Sales Place weed inventory.
- **Commissioner Report** – Jim Doar reporting: The goal of the commissioners is to transfer control of personnel from county boards to the County Administrator and leave the boards in charge of strategic planning for the department. There is some question about the setup of the Weed District due to state statute so not final decision has been made regarding the setup of the Weed District. John questions who he would be answering to – Jim Doar stated it would be the County Administrator for personnel issues, the board for strategic planning. John passed around a copy of the state statute outlining the duties of the board.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **Spray update** – We sprayed several gravel pits, the fairgrounds, the ethanol plant, West Yellowstone county property, Law and Justice Center, and many re-sprayed county. Keith reported on weed infestation in construction area along S Alaska
 - **Complaints** – We did get a court order for non-compliance to treat Meadow Creek Partners: 25.22 acres cost \$6,318.95. The owner has until Oct 31, 2014 to make payment. If no response we will place a tax lien on the property through the Clerk and Recorder.
 - **Barnard Ranch Tour** – Located in the Story Hills. Quite a lot of LS, SK, SW. Made good contacts with Tim Kerns from the ranch. We are now investigating a grant in that area. We have talked to Peter Brown from GVL T and he is talking to other land owners in the area to get them involved. Extension has agreed to administrate the grant through MSU since they can forgive

grant administrative fees. Our office will write the grant once we have a defined area and can request the appropriate EA reports from the various agencies. MSU has an area that we could use as an in-kind contribution for spraying. We will talk with Clay to see if we should work on a cooperative project to work together on weed control in this area going to the Park County side of Bozeman Pass

- **Bruce Grupe** – A commercial sprayer came into the office to see about a grant area in the N Dry Creek area. He will be in charge of contacting and getting letters of support for 3 adjacent land owners and the Weed District will write the grant.
 - **County Grant Fees** – We have been working with MSU Extension to run grants through because they can get the grant fees waved since Weed Trust fund grants do not allow for administrative costs from grant funds. MSU has been gracious enough to let us run grants through them with the hope of long term reward. If we were to run the grant through the county the fees would most likely be 50% reduced so 3.78% plus an increase in liability insurance. As a department we have no idea how to budget for the administrative costs associated with the grants. If we do not run the grant through MSU Extension, we feel it will greatly limit our ability to seek grant funds.
 - **MDA Training:** This upcoming year is a reporting year for Dept of Ag. Everything that we spray this coming year needs to be reported to the Dept of Ag. There were 4 different speakers and credits were earned for applicator licenses.
 - **MDT – Mike Miller** – MDT requested that we get more involved with spraying MDT property on a contract basis. Would Gallatin County be willing to take over more of the weed control responsibilities. There was some concern expressed about the safety of MDT roads and our crews. MDT has equipment for the higher traffic roads. Steve asked if it could be a revenue generator for our department. We would need to contract out most of the work so it would only net administrative costs for budgetary value. The board feels if we could increase cooperative projects that would be a good direction to proceed at this time. The board encouraged us not to be the middle man between MDT and a contract sprayer.
 - **Upcoming Events and trainings** – Ophir school weed pull – work with 2nd graders; South West Area Meeting in Butte; Fall Coordinator training – Mike will attend; Regional Park spraying
- **Round table**
 - Follow-up on Pete's Hill article – we did not receive a single call on the issue and hope this will continue to be a non issue.
 - Steve Saunders asked our response to Cananda Thistle – as a county we do spray.

Meeting dismissed 2:15 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 6, 2014, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant