



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 4, 2014**

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Jeff Littlefield, Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders
- **Others:** Joe Skinner (Commissioner), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Emily Lockard (Extension), Susan Lamont (FWP), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant)

MINUTES: Jeff Littlefield moved to approve the minutes, Fred Bell 2nd, passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Susan Lamont – Forest Service.** Happened to be in town and wanted to express her thanks for cooperative support. She is working on a project with Jane Mangold on Hoary Alyssum seed/treatment viability.
- **Mike Jones representing Maureen Meagher – NRCS** – very involved with the cooperative Big Horn Sheep project near Big Sky. The district ranger is supporting the enlargement of the Big Horn area, increasing grass for forage. Wanting to enhance possibly a 200 acre site.
- **Mike Jones representing Brad Bauer, Extension** – Working through a DNRC grant project on the Eurasia Water Milfoil. He has looked at 23 river access sites. Surveyed the lower Jefferson and Madison. The Jefferson has had an increase in population sites and density. There is indication EWM crossed a high water channel and is infesting the lower Madison area.
- **Emily Lockard, Extension** – Attended the Big Sky Farmers Market representing the Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee – a great educational opportunity. People stopped and conversations were started through the display. Education awareness needs to be used wherever we can get in. Much discussion about misinformed comments that end up in the paper and how to bring moderation to the discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Question about knapweed complaint on
 - Comment from Commissioner Skinner about site across from Baxter W of the Regional Park
 - Emily questioned the call from citizen with chickens in the county right of way.
 - Fred Bell questioned effectiveness of Hoary Alyssum rosettes being sprayed this time of year? Encouraged to spray while re-growth is occurring.
- **Commission Report**
 - No progress on the County Administrator – please place on agenda and invite Administrator to the next board meeting.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - Crews are finished. We will continue to do touchup spraying until a heavy frost occurs.

- A 2 year contract extension was filed with the Finance Office for Custom Ag Services (Dan Marks) on the county roads he sprayed. Per Nick in Procurement a 3% increase was added to each contract year.
- Complaint update – most have been resolved but one court order has been sought.
 - We have a court order for Meadow Creek Partner, LLC –behind Hope Lutheran Church. We were pleased with the turnaround request time from legal in obtaining the court order. We had a portion of the property mowed and will spray toward the end September.
 - Four new complaints recently came in on the Eldorado Subdivision.
 - Per Steve there is a commercial applicator having difficulty with herbicide infested compost. We need to be aware this is ongoing and the potential is great with uninformed users. Herbicide carryover is a very real concern in the small acreage/compost arena and has the potential to get very big and cause great divide in the community. Awareness is critical and consumers need to be educated to ask if the hay was treated. Keith encouraged us to take the Herbicide Carryover publication to the courthouse. Emily is in the planning stage of a compost seminar directed toward gardeners.
- BSRAD Meeting – Big Sky resort tax awarded the Gallatin/Big Sky weed Committee \$30,000 with the stipulation \$10,000 go to cost share. The committee requested to have the restrictions removed. The request was granted. Concerns were expressed by BSRAD on lack of measurable results. Education to the committee on preservation of natural resources and the negative effect of weeds needs to occur.
- EWM Meeting – Mike attended. The group is seeking money from the legislator for serious treatment. In the areas where hand pulling has occurred the infestation has increased 20%. Herbicide treatment at this point seems to be the best option with a 3 year treatment plan. It is estimated that after 5 years the infestation can be reduced by 90%. One alternate suggestion is to de-water the river. Another option is to install a screen before it travels out of the infested area.

- **Round table**

- John – Rental sprayers are slowing down. We have started winterizing.
- Trust Fund Grants –
 - We will work with Jen Mohler and GBSWC on a grant in the Big Sky Area.
 - We have contacted Peter Brown with GVLTT to work on a grant in the Story Hills area. Mike will go with Steve on a site visit to the Barnard ranch within the proposed area.
- Sept 19 is Dept of Ag pesticide disposal. Preregistration required.
- Budget is approved. We will have the money for the concrete pad under the lean-to
- Question from Keith about Hwy 287 – MDT property – Susan suggested a cooperative project in the spring.
- Emily - Commercial Applicator Training – Oct 1 - MSU ; Oct 9 – Belgrade

Meeting dismissed 2:20 pm

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

Respectfully submitted
 Mary Vanderby
 Program Assistant