



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 7, 2016

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, Fred Bell and Steve Saunders
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Don Seifert (Commissioner), and Glenn Colclough (Applicator)

MINUTES: Fred asked what the Forest Service Meeting was about? Don stated that some residents had concerns about a new trail coming in around the Johnson Canyon Area. Fred also asked about Steve talking to some ladies in the Hebgen Lake area. John stated that we told the Board that we can provide information to those ladies. Keith moved to accept the minutes, Fred 2nd – approved without dissent

After the minutes and before old business, Bob welcomed Danielle Jones (Program Assistant). Danielle started working for us on April 1, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

- **UTV** – Bob asked status of UTV? Sprayer is on the UTV. It just has to be bolted down to the bed of the UTV. Keith asked if we will deactivate the dump on the UTV. We will check to see if we can lock it down. The unit was purchased from Warne Chemical. We went with the electric pump so it will be quieter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment** – no public comment at this time.
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Fred asked what we bought from Amazon? This was the electric chain hoist and trolley for the beam in the shop. Fred would like to see the new hoist at the shop at the next meeting.
 - Don asked what the March 16th gravel pit inspection was about? We met with Ron McOwen to look at the DLM and Knife River Pits. This was for Certification for Park use. Certification is a voluntary program. Jackie Flikkema is the person we deal with for Knife River. The National Park Service also has someone come down to inspect pits for Certification to use in the Park. The gravel will be certified as weed free but there may be weeds outside of the pit. Certification has several levels of certification, depending on amount of weeds and location. The most active pits in the certification program are the pits from TMC. Knife Rive has an ongoing Weed Plan but has not been active in the certification program.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Mentioned the status of the Building 4 remodel. Building 4 remodel became too expensive. Building 4 will stay the same. The plan now is to move the Fairgrounds to the Midway building

and the Ag Center will house Weeds & Extension. Both buildings will need to be remodeled. Still looking to have it all completed by the end of July.

- Steve asked about the Cell Tower at the Fairgrounds. Don stated that is still moving forward as far as he knows.
- Budget should be stable. We should be in pretty good shape.

- **Coordinator's Report**

- 2016 County Weed Management Plan – only received comments from Jeff. Hard copies were printed out for all Board members to review. Any comments will be brought to the May meeting. The Plan can be signed then if there are no changes or we can revised in May and sign at the June Board Meeting. It will then need to be possibly reviewed by the County Attorney's Office where they will draft a Resolution. The Plan will also need to be approved by the Commissioners at a Public Meeting after it has been approved by the Weed Board.
- 2016 Plan of Work – copies of the plan have been provided. The Board took a few minutes to review the plan. Fred asked about cost share cap. It was \$100 and now it is \$200. Steve asked what the objective is with regard to subdivision weed management plans? It is to get a control program in place. Bob asked what happens if the landowner does not control the noxious weeds in the right of way when they are part of the Landowner Maintenance Program? We would notify the landowner that the noxious weeds need to be controlled as part of their contract. If they don't control the noxious weeds, then we will let them know that they are violating the contract and if they don't manage the noxious weeds, the County will take over again. John mentioned that only about 5 landowners have renewed their contract which expired April 1, 2016. Signs will need to be taken down where the contracts are no longer in place. Bob mentioned calling those landowners to see if they want to remain in the program before taking the signs down. Steve asked who will do the moving when we move within the Ag Center? The Weed Dept. will move everything themselves. Bob asked what the Play Clean Go is? It is the Regional Education and Awareness campaign. Steve would like more explanation of the elements are and have a narrative for each heading. Bob asked if Belgrade helps out? They work on issues and if they need help we can provide assistance as well. Glen asked what trailheads we would focus on with Play Clean Go signs? We were thinking Sourdough, Big Sky Area, and we can ask Susan LaMont (USFS) where she sees a lot of use. Steve mentioned possibly Spanish Creek. Glenn asked about the GIS clusters for landowners? It is to target specific areas where there are certain noxious weed issues or to get a mailing list to focus on certain size parcels of land. Keith mentioned that trails are a sore subject for him because nobody maintains these trails when they are built.
- 2016 Seasonal Crew vs. Road Contract Bids – we had 2 applicants apply for the Weed Technician position. One sprayed for Jefferson County for 2 seasons and one sprayed for Liberty County for 3 seasons. The Jefferson County applicant turned in an application back in January. We only received 1 applicant from our Job Posting in March. We also have a returner coming back. We hired the returner and the applicant from Liberty County. We received 4 bids from the Three Forks/Willow Creek/Clarkston road bid proposal. They bids were from Rocky Mountain Weed & Pest, Montana Spraying Company, Dickens Weed Control and NPK Turf Services. For the 2016 season, we will be contracting out a portion of the roads to Dickens Weed Control and Dan Marx and the Weed Dept. Crew will pick up the rest of the roads.
- 2016 Herbicide Bids – bids were sent out to Ag Depot, Rocky Mountain Supply, Alligare, Helena Chemical and Crop Production Services. We only received bids from Crop Production Services and Helena Chemical. Crop Production Services bid was \$13,581.75 and Helena Chemical was \$13,638.75. Steve asked if the board was notified or did we have a discussion on the planning of these bids. Steve stated that the Board should have a conversation on the plans for the herbicides for the upcoming season. Steve mentioned that bidding by active ingredients forces the distributors to bid generic products made from Israel and China which may have more toxic inert ingredients than those products made in the USA. We might be better off using

products made in the USA that have more regulation than buying products from other countries to save a few hundred dollars. Keith moved to award the bid to Crop Production Services and Fred 2nd and all approved. Steve did not vote because his son works for one of the companies.

- **Round table**

- A few events coming up: Small Acreage Workshop with Extension and Farm Fair.
- Big Sky Weed Committee funds: possibly increase our advertising budget to help Jen Mohler and the Big Sky Weed Committee with advertising. We will ask the Commission at the budget hearings. This funding will be used for educating the Big Sky Area residents. It will also help show the Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) that Gallatin County is contributing money to focus on Big Sky. This will help the Big Sky Weed Committee obtain future funding from BSRAD. The Weed Dept. will be recognized for the funding that is provided.
- Steve talked with Erika Edmiston (Teton County) and on July 20 they will be having an educational event on July 20 from 9 til noon. It might be a good event to attend to get some ideas and information.
- Steve will attend Governors Summit on Invasive Species on one of the days and report back to us but he will not get politically involved.
- Keith mentioned that the power line in the canyon is where we are getting a lot of our weed issues. Steve mentioned getting Scott Bernhardt (NW Energy) come to talk about what they do for noxious weed control when they have projects that they are working on.

Meeting adjourned 2:51 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 5, 2016 at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Ansley
Weed Coordinator