



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 6, 2015**

**ATTENDEES:**

- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, Jeff Littlefield, Keith Mainwaring
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Emily Lockard (Extension Ag Agent), Chris Mahoney (NRCS), Marty Wells, (Montana Conservation Corp – invasive strike team) Zach Mead, (Montana Conservation Corp – invasive strike team)

**MINUTES:** Bob Hofman moved to approve minutes, Jeff Littlefield 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved without dissent

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Keith questioned Fred Bell about a property purchased in the winter and the spring exposed quite an infestation of noxious weeds. Would the seller be responsible for treatment of noxious weeds. There is a “seller’s property disclosure” which requires the seller to disclose any adverse material facts. If the weeds are listed, then it is disclosed. If the seller did not list the noxious weeds, the buyer could take action through court action. Fred will email the forms over that list the disclosure information. Discussion about the effect on property value followed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Marty Wells & Zach Mead have been traveling MT and ND treating noxious weeds. They served in Gallatin County for 3 weeks – Forest Service type treatment. Kirk’s hill was one of their assignments, a lot of cut roadside work. Knife River – a Native American cultural location in North Dakota - treated a lot of leafy spurge and thistle. Off to the Tetons next week
- Emily Lockard – The Extension Office has been given money to go toward a building to bring them back to the fairgrounds. It is being explored to remodel an existing fairgrounds building and combine office locations of Extension and Weed. The final decision will need to be commission approved. The building would then be rented from the fairgrounds.
- Chris Mahoney – NRCS – this agency does a lot of herbaceous weed control on range land, pasture land, provide cost share. NRCS has an additional program RCPP – grant awarded to GVL \$4.5 million. Part of the money went to easement and part of the money goes to projects on the ground. Streams that are listed as impaired have access to some of these moneys. The CD board of directors determine the local priorities of the local programs directed by the NRCS. Godfrey Creek and Camp Creek drainages have been determined priority for water quality. NRCS assists agricultural produces to become more efficient and conservation minded while being economically viable.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**

- Fred asked question about call on Kochia and Fox Tail call we received from Hebgen Lake Estates. Subdivision needs to develop a weed management plan. Both species like a salty soil
- Fred asked about call from NPK spraying right of way on N Pine Butte Rd- Rd is a county rd, private land owner wanted to hay the ROW and was very upset to have road sprayed.
- Fred asked about call from citizen about thistle at the W end of Oak that needs to be cut down. Property is private property and not county responsibility.
- Fred asked about call from Diebel – complaint sight is being treated by Huyser. Property is on Amsterdam road near where Royal comes into Amsterdam. S side of road.
- Fred asked about call from citizen about single spotted knapweed plant located in Snowfill Dog Walk Trail – Trygg(seasonal worker) pulled the plant
- Fred asked what an turf ornamental endorsement... this license is needed to spray turf areas such as fairgrounds and city parks
- Jeff asked about a phone call from a citizen with a dog with liver cancer. She was wondering if we had any information about a correlation between canine liver cancer and exposure to ragwort. There is none that we know of.
- The number of calls from people who have neighbors with weeds has been staggering

- **Coordinators Reports**

- **Spray update:** behind on some spraying – primarily parks areas - due to the time involved with number of complaints we have received.
- **Complaint update:** we have received many with the potential for more because forms have been sent.
- **Property inspections:** There have been quite a few requested. These are good educational opportunities.
- **Big Sky Spray Day:** Cooperative project in the Big Sky area with our crew, Madison County, and Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee. This is an annual project.
- **Frog Rock - Bozeman Pass–** We received a call from Susan LaMont, FS saying she saw a large amount of bio-control activity in the area. Very encouraging report. Gallatin Weed District had released 52 releases several years ago and didn't know if the population had established

- **Round table**

- Budget should be finalized next week, we should know in Sept that everything is approved. After that point we can get bids on the I-beam and get it installed. We will look for the ATV side-by-side through the winter.
- Keith brought up the issue with Hoary Alyssum and road side spray timing. Questioned if there is a need for a second treatment into August.
- Keith brought up Highway 93 on the way to White Sulpher Springs had a terrible infestation on spotted knapweed.

Meeting dismissed 2:00 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 7, 2013, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant