



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

February 4, 2016

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, Jeff Littlefield and Steve Saunders (Telephone Conference)
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Don Seifert (Commissioner), Glenn Colclough (Applicator)

**MINUTES:** Keith moved to accept the minutes, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> – approved without dissent

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **UTV Update** – John checked with Pure Bliss out of Conrad and the price was \$12,607. Redline Sports is still the best price at \$11,849.99. John drove to Butte to see how much the 2012 Yamaha Grizzly 450 ATV was worth on a trade. Redline Sports would give \$2,300 for the ATV, but we want to get no less than \$3,000. We will try to get the ATV in the Auditor's Surplus sale. Also, the Fairgrounds is possibly interested in the ATV. We are in the process of having the contract routed through the Commission.
- **Program Assistant** – Position closes on February 10. We have received 6 applications so far. Looks like there might be several qualified applications. We will get together with Extension and screen through the applications.
- **I-Beam Update** – was installed on February 1. The hoist and trolley were purchased on Amazon but should arrive on February 10 and we will mount the hoist and trolley at that time.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment** – no public comment
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
  - No questions or comments
- **Commissioner Report**
  - Don stated that it looks like we will be buying the Weed District a UTV as it is on the consent agenda for the February 9 Public Meeting.
- **Coordinator's Report**
  - Mike attended MWCA Annual Conference. Mike attended EWM hybrid talk. Hybrids are bigger, bushier and resistant to 2,4-D. Mike attended Jen Mohler's pasture management class that talked about rotating pastures where you take half and leave half and he said she did a really good job. Another talked was about plant response to weed control. What happens to a field after you spray say a knapweed infested area? And how can you model to predict what will happen later? Upshot was treating 2 times was better than once but cheat grass increases.

Another talk was on phragmites. The only known invasive location is in the Havre area. Mike stated that the conference was well worth going.

- The 2016 Road Contract packets have been sent out to all known Commercial Applicators in the area. This contract includes 81 roads instead of 72 like last year. Bids are due March 1 and we will bring these to the March Board Meeting for review.
- We need to sell the ATV. John talked with Dennis (Fairgrounds) and they may be interested in purchasing the ATV. We don't want to sell it for less than \$3,000. It is a good machine with a lot of life left.
- Draft revision of the 2016 County Weed Management Plan was sent out to all for review. We would like to have the final version done by the April Board Meeting. If the Board has any changes they would like, we can make those changes. Possibly have the final version at the March Board Meeting. Jeff asked who reviews the plan? Dave Burch (MDA) looks to see if all required sections are completed.
- An Excel and Word version of the 2016 Plan of Work has been handed out to all Board Members for review. We will email Steve both for review. We will bring to the March Board Meeting to finalize the format. Bob asked what the roads in red mean? These are the roads where there are known potato fields. We do not spray these roads, but if the public complains about noxious weeds along these roads, we will contact the potato farmers and ask that they spray or we will. The Weed District has stayed away from potato areas in the past.

- **Round table**

- Herbicide quote requests will be sent out this month to dealers but won't be due until the end of March and we will bring the quotes to the April Board Meeting.
- Last year's spray crew will be contacted to see if they are interested in spraying again this summer.
- Upcoming events – Big Sky Weed Committee meeting is February 9 and the SW Area Applicator Training is February 18 at the Headwaters Livestock Pavilion.
- A sketch of the Building 4 remodel was passed around for the Board to see.
- Jeff asked about the data loggers for sprayers. Mike stated that we received an informational email from Ag Terra but it was not specific to the Gallatin County Weed District.
- Steve mentioned that a road had been sprayed in Flathead County and then a farmer pulled his plow through the roadside and into the field. The applicator was cited for drift which is concerning because it takes a lot of scientific problem solving to see exactly what happened. Steve will keep us posted as this goes forward.

Meeting dismissed 1:52 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 3, 2016, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Ansley

Weed Coordinator