



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 7, 2016

ATTENDEES:

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

MINUTES: Bob moved to accept the minutes, Fred 2nd – approved without dissent

2016 Board Appointment Chair – Steve moved to appoint Bob Hofman as Chair for 2016. Fred accepted and Keith 2nd all approved

OLD BUSINESS

- **Enforcement** – McCrone is satisfied with the issue. Bank of America will be paying the invoice. Date invoice is due is January 22, 2016. We are working with County Attorney's Office on this issue.
- **Program Assistant** – Weed District and Extension met with Commissioners, Finance and County Administrator regarding the position to make it a shared full-time position and the Commissioners approved it. Have position description close to being finalized and will be posted January 8 through February 10. We are working with Susan in HR. Should be filled by early April. Don mentioned possibly posting on Craigslist. We will check with HR to see if this is something we can do.
- **I-Beam update** – nothing has happened so far but hopefully soon. We will touch base with the contractor. April 1st is when the contract ends. This is just for installing the I-Beam to the existing structure. Weed District will purchase the hoist and trolley on the internet.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment** – no public comment
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Fred mentioned that the Faith Development has a lot of lots and wanted to know the location of the subdivision. Located north of old rental car place near Dollar Drive. This was approved by the Commission for another 5 years. This used to be complaint site in the past but has been cleaned up and is looking better.
 - Fred mentioned that McAndrew had received a report of spotted knapweed up Windy Pass and Portal Creek from hunters. Fred stated that this is Forest Service and they are the ones to be contacted.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - Approved Assistant position with Weeds and Extension. Reappointed Bob Hofman to the Weed Board. Steph Kamerman is the new Assistant in the Commission Office. Budget season is going

to start soon. Steve asked if everything looks good for the Weed Budget and if there are any concerns? Don stated that it looks like the county is in pretty good shape, but this is merely a prediction and is an Ed Blackman question.

- **Coordinators Reports**

- **MDA 5th Year Reporting:** All Applicators and Dealers have to submit how much herbicide was applied or sold in the year 2015 to Montana Department of Agriculture.
- **UTV Quotes:** We emailed and called around to 7 or 8 different dealers for quotes on a 2016 Polaris Ranger 6X6 with a 4500lb Warn Winch installed. Only received 4 quotes: Riverside Marine in Miles City was \$13,075; Helena Cycle Center was \$12,342; Gallatin Recreation was \$13,010; and Redline Sports in Butte was \$11,849.99. We would like to go with the quote from Redline Sports. Don mentioned contacting Pure Bliss Cycles out of Conrad. Don is disclosing that he knows the owner. They can have some pretty good deals. We will check with them and get a quote. Fred asked if the 6X6 is a single seat and how many people it would hold? It is a single seat that would hold 2 people but we would probably only have 1 spraying with it. We will contact Warne Chemical about a 100 gallon UTV low profile sprayer. This sprayer will cost around \$2,500. We will replace the 2012 Yamaha Grizzly 450 ATV with this unit. We sent out an email blast to the County to see if another Department was interested in the ATV for \$3,600 but only heard back from 911 but they asked if there were ramps and a trailer included. There are a few minor cosmetic issues with the ATV but it runs great. It is easier to transfer the ATV to another Department rather than try to sell to the public. Glenn asked if the ATV is equipped with spray gear and it is not. Glenn also asked where we would be doing the maintenance on the 6X6. We will have the shared mechanic work on it except for the 1st service. The 1st service will be done by the Dealer. Glenn asked what the intentions are for the use of the 6X6? We will use it on the Regional Park, other County Parks, Trails, Enforcement and spraying county roads.
- **County Weed Management Plan:** We updated the plan in 2014 and needs to be updated every 2 years. Should only be some minimal changes needed. The Board will need to review and approve it and then it will be put in front of the Commissioners for approval. Once it has been approved by the Commissioners then it needs to be sent to the Montana Department of Agriculture. It has to go through this process in order for Counties to receive funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture. Jeff asked when it needs to be done? We did it in June 2014 but let's try to get it finalized in the spring instead of summer. The County Weed Management Plan is about a 30 page document. Steve would like to see the changes made from the 2014 Plan to the 2016 Plan.
- **2016 Plan of Work:** Mike, John and Steve met to go over the 2016 Plan of Work. Steve wants a little more clarification. We will revise and update the 2016 Plan of Work for the February Board Meeting. Don stated that this goes well with the County's Performance Measures. Steve and Don stated that this will be good to review this at the end of the year to see how we did. Jeff asked what format would we like this Plan in for checking off things that we have accomplished? Probably a spreadsheet would work well.

- **Round table**

- Keith mentioned the Town Pump property near the old saw mill in Belgrade was mowed last year and they are planning on spraying in the spring.
- John mentioned that we will be adding a few roads for the road contracts that will be going out to bid soon. We will bring the bids to the March Board Meeting to make a decision. We will contact our crew from last year to see if they are interested in returning to spray this year. Keith asked what the age limit is? Summer Spray Techs need to be 18 years old.
- Jeff has a couple of questions on the MWCA SW Area Meeting agenda. Is there an agenda? Also, who is included on the MWCA Group Membership? There are 10 total on the group membership.
- Fred stated that he got an email saying that his membership has been renewed.
- Mike stated that he will be attending the Annual Conference but John will not be attending
- Don stated that he attended Beef Producer's Meeting and Jane Mangold gave a talk on Ventenata. John mentioned that he hasn't been able to spray the Beef Producer's Scale because it has been locked but Emily with Extension has given us the combo to get in.
- Steve mentioned talking with the City of Belgrade to address noxious weeds. Steve also mentioned about inviting AgTerra to speak at a Board Meeting if the Board is interested.
- Keith asked if there is another Weed Board Training scheduled in the future? We don't think there is. Keith heard negativity from people at the last one regarding other county's Boards and Commissioners. Keith stated that this Board and Commission gets along and works together. We have Commissioners and a Board that are supportive.

Meeting dismissed 2:29 pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 4, 2016, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Ansley

Weed Coordinator