



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders, Fred Bell, and Jeff Littlefield
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant)

**MINUTES:** Fred moved to accept the minutes as written, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
  - Jeff inquired about where some of the items on the revenue budget sheet come from. Keith inquired about how the enforcement and inspection fees are included in the initial budget. John explained that the future subdivision revenue amounts are estimated for the budget. The enforcement money goes into the capital account. The extra money is generally not carried over for use in future years.
  - Fred inquired about the property inspection up in Little Bear subdivision. There have been a lot of inquiries this year for property inspections, particularly with homeowners associations. They have given numerous talks about noxious weeds at HOA meetings, including John talking at a meeting for Bear Creek and Mike talking at a meeting for Chestnut Ridge. Mike will go back to Chestnut Ridge on June 8<sup>th</sup> for property inspections.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - Don was not in attendance, so there was nothing to report from the Commissioner.
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - Mike attended the Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Jen Mohler got some small grants for Pint Nights; the next one is June 26<sup>th</sup> at Bozeman Brewing Company. For the Gallatin Valley Give Big event, Jen raised \$870. There was some discussion about selling memberships for the Committee. Jen is hosting an upcoming native plant tour as a fundraiser.
  - Farm Fair was May 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. John, Mike, Jen Mohler, and Chantelle, as well as Jane Mangold, Noel, and Stacy Davis from MSU, all helped man the booth. They set up a station and gave 15 minute talks to groups of 4<sup>th</sup> graders all day, providing information about noxious weeds.

- John attended a Bear Creek property HOA meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> to provide information about the Weed District and noxious weeds. About 15 people attended.
- Mike attended the Big Sky Weed Summit on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Jane Mangold gave a talk about weed control, and Mike gave a talk about what the Weed Committee does. About 15 people attended.
- John attended a budget presentation with the Commissioners on May 17<sup>th</sup> where he went through justification for his budget requests. He will attend public budget meetings at the library on June 9<sup>th</sup> where the Commissioners will review all the requested items and make decisions.
- Mike and the two crew members attended the Bear Trap Spray Day. Steve asked how much of the infestation Mike thought they had treated; Mike said he thought it was a significant amount.
- Crew training occurred on May 31<sup>st</sup> in Whitehall.
- Upcoming events:
  - Gateway Youth Weed Pull
  - Watershed Festival on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Mike will man a booth with information about aquatic weeds. Steve suggested providing information about the influence of spotted knapweed on watersheds.
  - Gallatin River Cleanup Day with Trout Unlimited on June 25<sup>th</sup>. They will pull weeds and clean up garbage along the river.
  - Mike will attend the Big Sky Resort Area District hearings where Jen will ask for funding.
  - Bighorn winter range spray days will be June 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Sean Dickens will start spraying for the County next Tuesday, and plans on getting all the spraying done in a week. Dan Marx has already begun spraying.
- Lucas Cane from GVLТ said that Melissa Bradford will be mowing and spraying Peets Hill. The Weed District will provide some herbicide to do that spraying.
- John and Mike will be working with Jane Mangold to do some experimental treatment plots with hoary alyssum. Does anyone know of any hoary alyssum in the county? A site along the Frontage Road near Belgrade and one in front of the Airport terminal were mentioned.
- John had a meeting with Chris Gray regarding the drafting of the resolution for the County Weed Management Plan. If there had been no changes to the statute since the last resolution was drafted 2 years ago, then only the dates would have to be changed. It would then be placed on the public meeting agenda, and the Commission could then approve it.
- There has been a lot of activity with the rental sprayers, subdivision reviews, property inspections, and spraying. They have sprayed the Law and Justice Center, most of the Fairgrounds, as well as some hotspots around Bozeman with whitetop, leafy spurge, etc. Steve emphasized trying to target whitetop to avoid outbreaks like he sees in other parts of Montana.
- Steve mentioned revisiting the idea of submitting ‘Weed of the Week’ articles to the newspapers. Local businesses may provide sponsorship. He said he would talk with Becky at MWCA to see if she might be willing to help with this by sending articles to the Montana Newspaper Association.

- **Round table**

- Fred asked if whitetop occurs at Hebgen; John wasn’t sure. Fred said that hoary alyssum was already flowering down there. At Steve’s request, Fred agreed to meet with some residents of another subdivision near Hebgen Lake that are looking for weed control advice.
- Steve requested that John or Mike visit a spot on Hamilton Road that has whitetop. Steve would also contact one of the landowners in the area to see if they could help.

- Keith inquired about spraying on E Cameron Bridge Road. John said that Ron McOwen will be spraying for BLM. John sprayed along the ROW. Bill Brownell from the Road Department will spray along S Alaska, John sprayed both sides of the road down to the interstate. Keith also inquired about an area on private land with whitetop near the animal shelter.
- Steve asked about possible additions to the 2016 Proposed Projects on the Work Plan. One project that he would like to see added is to contact people in Manhattan, Three Forks, and Belgrade to schedule meetings for discussing their weed control efforts and for talking about opportunities for collaboration. Fred and Keith agreed that collaboration would be a good idea.

Meeting dismissed 2:33 pm

Next scheduled meeting: July 7, 2016, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant