



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 3, 2016

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, Jeff Littlefield and Steve Saunders
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Don Seifert (Commissioner), Glenn Colclough (Applicator) and Jennifer Mohler (Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee)

MINUTES: Jeff moved to accept the minutes, Steve 2nd – approved without dissent

OLD BUSINESS

- **UTV Update** – It has been purchased. Picked it up last week in Butte. Sold the 2012 ATV to the Fairgrounds for \$3,000. We need to purchase a sprayer for the UTV now. A Resolution has gone through one public meeting regarding the \$3,000 from the ATV to be moved into expenditures.
- **Program Assistant** – Interviewed 4 candidates on Monday. John, Mike, Emily and Janae (both Extension) and Susan (HR) were on the interview panel. Offered the position to Danielle Jones and she will start April 1, 2016. She has verbally accepted and signed the acceptance letter. We are waiting on background check from HR.
- **I-Beam Update** – hoist and trolley are now on the beam, everything is working and ready to go. Capacity is 1,000 pounds.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment** – no public comment
- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Steve asked about Bridger Lakes MOU. Mike stated that Bob Heidecker is going to keep it in crops – small grains.
 - Bob asked where Dykstra Gravel Pit is located? It is along E. Hulbert Road. Mike stated that it has a lot of noxious weeds.
 - Keith mentioned that Animal Shelter had called and asked about goats to use to graze the weeds, especially the cheatgrass.
 - Steve mentioned that a couple of gentlemen came into the office – one that was picking up complaint forms and the other that brought in a sample of a diseased tree branch (referred him to Extension)
 - Bob asked if we learned anything on Japanese knotweed. Mike had an email discussion from a student at Michigan State University. The student is working on a possible ordinance for the City of Lansing, Michigan.
 - Steve stated that he saw that there has been a lot of contact with the No Spray landowners. We sent out a reminder letter that contracts will expire April 1, 2016. The contracts are good for 3 years and this is the end of the 3rd year. Several have renewed their contracts.
 - Steve saw that we had a call from McOwen. He called to ask a few questions about the road bids. McOwen did not turn in a bid.

- **Commissioner Report**
 - Don stated that we are starting the budget process.

- **Coordinator's Report**
 - SW Area Commercial/Private Applicator Training – Steve was a speaker. It was a good training and about 45 – 50 people attended. Good location and facility but the acoustics are not that good.
 - Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee – Jen Mohler shared what they did in 2015. She wanted to thank all of us for helping the Committee. She passed out a summary of 2015. Jen stated that the Board has changed and there are now members from the Big Sky area which is very helpful. Jen shared that funding is difficult and the main funder is Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD). Don asked if we had money for outreach? We do not have a line item for outreach. Don asked about farmers market and Jen stated that they attend the farmers market every week. Jen mentioned all of the educational events that the Weed Committee puts on. Steve mentioned that Jen should look at a report from Peter Rice on degrading fisheries resulting from sediment load and spotted knapweed. Jen mentioned the fear of noxious weeds from power lines coming up the canyon. Steve and Don mentioned some contacts from North Western Energy that do right of way work.
 - 2016 County Weed Management Plan – was brought in front of the Board at the last meeting. Bring the revisions to our attention and we will revise and bring the final draft to the April Weed Board Meeting so the Board can approve it and then we can put it in front of the Commissioners for approval.
 - 2016 Plan of Work – do we need to make any changes at this time? Steve asked to do an actual review at the April Board Meeting.
 - 2016 Road Contract Bids – 4 were submitted. Bob and Jeff opened the bids. NPK, Double D Inc., Dickens Weed Control and Rocky Mountain Weed & Pest submitted bids. Dickens Weed Control bid \$16,252.80, NPK bid \$16,784, Double D Inc. bid \$18,029 and Rocky Mountain Weed & Pest bid \$18,100. The bid is for the roads mainly south of Bozeman and Belgrade and around the 4 Corners area. The Weed Board and Commissioner Seifert likes for us to use local applicators since they are paying taxes in Gallatin County. We will check to see if we can go local since the two low bids are close; therefore, we will check with the County Administrator and the Board will approve either the lowest bid or the 2nd lowest bid (local) depending on what policy states.

- **Round table**
 - John mentioned extending the contract for Double D Inc. on the North Roads spraying contract. John also mentioned hiring crew for the remaining roads vs. putting out bids for a portion of these roads. We will post the job announcement as well as send out a bid packet to applicators.
 - Annual Weed Manager's Meeting is scheduled for April 27 from 9:30am – 11:30am.
 - Steve asked Don what happened at the Forest Service Meeting? Don said a plan is in the works.
 - Steve mentioned helping some ladies in Grayling Arm area when we are down that way.
 - Jeff mentioned the Invasive Species Council meeting that will be coming up in April.

Meeting adjourned 3:05 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,
 John Ansley
 Weed Coordinator