



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

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

**MINUTES:** Steve inquired about when Fairgrounds is moving to the Midway Building. John said around the 15<sup>th</sup>. Jeff moved to accept the minutes as written, Fred 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**
  - Fred asked about the complaints along Elk Lane and Love Lane. John said Elk Lane is not a county road, but the weeds were bad and he sprayed it. Love Lane is maintained by the county, but that complaint was about mowing, which is the responsibility of the road department.
  - Steve asked about First Time Minor and Bootstrap Ranch Subdivisions. First Time Minor is a 7 acre piece on Thompson Creek with a lot of thistle. Bootstrap Ranch is north of the white church on Dry Creek Road and will be divided into 5 lots. Steve asked how the Weed District follows up with the Weed Management Plans submitted by developers. Mike explained that they require proof that the weed control measures had been instituted and do a site inspection before they will issue an MOU for the subdivision.
  - Steve commented that he is impressed with the work Dan Marx has done. John said he thought Sean Dickens did a pretty good job too.
  - Keith asked about the complaint on Weaver Lane. Mike said the owner is going to spray it.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - The estimates for the county show about a 5% increase in newly taxable property this year.
  - In November, the county will go out for \$68.3 million bond for the Law and Justice building project.
  - Final budgets should be done August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - **Spray Update:**
    - Both contractors are done spraying. The crew has sprayed all remaining roads, and will hit certain spots again.

- July 6<sup>th</sup> the county roads, canal, old airport and transfer station at West Yellowstone were sprayed.
- July 12<sup>th</sup> John and Mike sprayed East Gallatin Rec Area.
- July 13<sup>th</sup> the Regional Park was sprayed, except for the dog park and the area between the trail and ponds. Those areas will need to be closed if they are going to be sprayed.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> Mike sprayed the Cooper Pit, one of the county's old gravel pits.
- July 20<sup>th</sup> John, Mike and the crew sprayed 16 Mile Road from the county line to the mouth of the canyon, as well as Miller Road. The crew finished a few days later from Maudlow up.
- July 25<sup>th</sup> John sprayed Arrowleaf Hills Subdivision Park, which is county maintained.
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Mammoth Mountain Shadows SD Park and Hyalite Heights Park were sprayed.
- The City of Three Forks said they need help with an area past the airport at the old yard on the south side of the highway. John went out there on July 27<sup>th</sup> and sprayed knapweed, dalmation toadflax, spurge, whitetop, hoary alyssum, thistle, houndstongue, etc.
- July 28<sup>th</sup> the Holsworth Pit off of Forswall and Walker was sprayed.
- John also sprayed the Rest Home.
- At the hoary alyssum plots along the Frontage Road they observed a lot of ventanata, a winter annual grass that can be very invasive. Emily Lockard has also found it in pastures in the Springhill area.
- Gravel Pits: Mike inspected the TMC pits, including the main pit, river gravel pit, Cameron springs, Story and Morgan. In addition to spraying, they have also been reseeding along the berms. All the pits passed; the Morgan pit got an A rating meaning no noxious weeds were present. Kenyon Noble has started the process for getting their pits certified.
- Complaints and Enforcement:
  - 7 formal complaints have been filed so far. However, there have been a lot of additional inquiries about filling out the form. John explained the process for responding to the formal complaints; the whole process can take 40-50 days.
  - Responding to a complaint, John went out and did some spraying along the ROW at the intersection of Axtell Gateway and Cottontail. There were also 2 formal complaints filed against landowners along Axtell Gateway Road. John went to inspect them, and while he was there he noticed thistle, houndstongue, knapweed, and hoary alyssum along the ROW of Axtell Gateway, which is a No Spray road. He notified Peggy Lehman that she was not complying with the No Spray agreement and gave her until August 15<sup>th</sup> to clean up the road. The board decided that if the Lehman's do not comply by the 15<sup>th</sup>, it would be best for the Weed District to take back maintenance of Axtell Gateway Road, but allow them to maintain just the roadside adjacent to their property as a No Spray area. To accommodate the Lehman's and address their concerns, John and Mike would notify them before they spray the road in the future, and exclude 2,4-D from the tank mix. Steve and Don both agreed to meet with them at their property if necessary and discuss their concerns and possible solutions for compliance as well. They decided that John would not move forward with the formal complaints until the roadway is cleaned up. Fred suggested keeping a well-documented log of all their communications.
- Workplan Review: John suggested that if the county would mow the Regional Park first, it would make spraying more effective. Don mentioned that they had budgeted a little more money for maintenance of the Park.
- Building update: Extension will probably move into the Ag Center in October.
- The 1998 Chevy truck broke down. Initial repair estimates are \$1500-\$2000. It seems to make more sense to invest in a new truck. This is a Core truck that is due to be replaced by the county, but it was

not requested in the FY17 budget. John was wondering if it is still possible to spend the money this year. Don said that he would mention it to Ed.

- **Round table**

- Steve went to a conference in Colorado about annual grass control. The bottom line was that Esplanade has come out with treatments involving control and reseeding that could result in a huge increase in forage productivity due to colonization by perennials. This could be a good tool for controlling cheatgrass and other annual grasses. He is also going next week to the TransBoundary tour and is giving some presentations. He will share the results from that tour in the future.
- John and Mike found purple loosestrife on Wheeden Lane, which is rare to this area. John had pulled a plant in the same area a few years ago.
- Fred had a question about treating Kochia. Vista (Fluroxypyr) was recommended. He asked about rates for 24-D, and 1-2 oz. was recommended. He mentioned that MDT had been doing a good job controlling knapweed along the interstate by Missoula.

Meeting dismissed 2:55 pm

Next scheduled meeting: September 1, 2016, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Danielle Jones  
Program Assistant