



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, and Jeff Littlefield
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Don Seifert (Commissioner), Troy Carter (Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

**MINUTES:** Fred moved to accept the minutes as written, Jeff and Keith 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 asked about the report of Yellow Starthistle in Bozeman. John said they could not track down the name of the woman who reported it, so could not substantiate the report.
  - Bob asked if the Road Department is spraying. John explained that the Weed District gave them a truck and a sprayer a long time ago and now provide them with herbicide to spray guardrails and their gravel pit.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - They are still dealing with Preliminary budgets until the end of August. For Weeds, some money may have to be moved around within the budget, but funding needs should be met. They were happy to give money for efforts up at Big Sky, recognizing the growth in that area.
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - Mike attended the Gateway Youth Weed Pull, an annual educational event.
  - Mike attended the BSRAD hearings. Jen Mohler of the Big Sky Weed Committee was awarded a \$49,000 grant from them. She also received a \$6,000 grant from Moonlight.
  - John reported on the budget hearings. Some of the requested increases were not approved, although cuts to professional services are not too much of a concern because money from other parts of the budget can be tapped into for that if necessary. \$2500 to help the Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee with educational outreach was approved. Also, \$3650 received from past enforcement was put into the capital reserves account to increase that line item.
  - Mike manned a booth at the Watershed Festival; he talked to about 30 people about weeds.

- John presented the resolution for the county Weed Management Plan, which was approved by the Commissioners and sent off to the Department of Ag.
  - Mike and John and the seasonal crew attended the annual Bighorn Winter Range Spray Days down at Big Sky. They seem to be making some impact on the areas that they are treating. People from the Weed Committee, the Forest Service, and the MCC were also there to spray. They used 170 gallons of herbicide over the 2 days.
  - About 30 people showed up for the Trout Unlimited Weed Pull. They pulled at various places, including the game check station at the mouth of the canyon and Rockhaven. 860 pounds of weeds were pulled.
  - Workplan Review:
    - John and Mike have been doing site visits and have attended several HOA meetings. Mike has been helping Bear Mountain and Chestnut Ridge HOAs deal with their weeds. Two official weed complaints have been filed so far this summer.
    - It took Sean Dickens about 8 or 9 days to get their share of the county roads sprayed. Dan Marx has about a week of work left. The crew has been working at Three Forks, Clarkston, Manhattan, Neinfeldt and Skinner Roads, Nixon Gulch, Trail Creek, Jackson Creek. The Sixteen Mile area, Sedan, the East Gallatin Rec Area, and the Regional Park remain to be done. The Three Forks Airport, Beef Producers Scales and Big Sky roads have been sprayed. John has been hitting hotspots in Bozeman as well.
    - A few sprayers have needed repairs.
    - John followed up with Steve's suggestion to visit a property with whitetop out on Hamilton Road. No one was there, so he sent them some information.
    - Following up on Steve's suggestion to contact local municipalities, John contacted Three Forks to see if they could use any help with weed control. They said not now, but they would let him know in the future if anything came up. Mike visited the water treatment plant in Manhattan where there is a lot of Musk Thistle. The city is going to mow the area and the Weed District will donate some herbicide to treat it. John called Steve Klotz from the City of Belgrade and offered to help with noxious weed issues there.
  - John discussed the process for his performance review.
  - Building update: Fairgrounds is supposed to move to the Midway building around August 8, then remodeling will start in the Ag Center building after that.
- **Round table**
    - Fred reported on the north road and middle road in Bear Trap, it seems like there has been some weed control efforts there. He also provided landowner information for the game check area where the weed pull occurred, in case they wanted to follow up for more weed control. Bob also offered to follow up with the landowner.

Meeting dismissed 2:00 pm

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

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant