



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

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

**MINUTES:** Jeff moved to accept the minutes as written, 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**
  - Keith asked for clarification about whether the undeveloped portions of a subdivision need to be included in a weed management plan. Yes, the entire property has to be included.
  - Keith asked what is dodder? It is a parasitic, viney weed.
  - Bob asked about the inquiry regarding tumbleweeds. Russian thistle and kochia were being dumped in the ditch, and Ed at the Road Department was upset about it. The Weed District has little influence regarding nuisance weeds, but sometimes they will send an informational letter.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - Commissioner Siefert was absent.
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - These areas were sprayed in October:
    - Along the road edge of Stagecoach Trail between Churchill and Woodenshoe for the Road Department (they had already winterized their sprayer). Sprayed Glyphosate.
    - The Regional Park (again).
    - Kennedy Pit. Sprayed broadleaf weeds (houndstongue, hoary alyssum, Canada and musk thistle, knapweed), then went back a couple of weeks ago to spray cheatgrass with Plateau.
    - Brackett Creek Road, in response to complaints about knapweed. There was a lot of Canada thistle, and 210 gallons were sprayed.
    - At Three Forks along Talc Road, Kidd Road, and city property behind the east pond.
  - Complaints/Enforcement:
    - Two new complaints came in for properties in Traditions subdivision. Mike has also been dealing with one in the Clover subdivision. These complaints will be addressed in the spring.
    - With the good weather, John and Mike will continue spraying; many of the herbicides say they are effective until the ground freezes. All of the rental sprayers have been winterized.

- **Building Update:** The countertops still need to be installed in the kitchen. A projector and screen will be installed in the conference room; the Weed District will pay for half the cost of the projector. Requests are already coming in for use of the conference room. MWCA will use it for some of their meetings, and the Biocontrol group will meet here in December. Groups affiliated with Extension or Weeds can use the room for free. Max capacity is about 40 people.
- The Southwest Area Meeting was held October 4<sup>th</sup> in Whitehall. They talked about getting a new, bigger education trailer. Commercial Applicator training will be February 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> in Beaverhead County. Crew training will be the first week of June in Whitehall. MWCA will make a push to increase the license plate fee in the next legislative session. Revenues would result in a \$15,000 increase in the money from the special county grant, to a total of \$22,500 a year.
- Mike attended the Ophir School Education Day, a field trip for Big Sky 2<sup>nd</sup> graders conducted with the Big Sky Weed Committee. Brad Bauer from Extension also attended. Over a 3 hour period, the kids visited various stations where they learned about weeds. Thirty-eight kids attended.
- On October 20<sup>th</sup>, John and Mike attended the MDA training in Bozeman for 6 recertification credits. Topics included MDA website resources, worker standards, montana pollinators and herbicides, controlling vertebrate pests, and protection from exposure. There was an invasive species update – they are proposing that Medusahead be added to the noxious weed list.
- Working with Mike and the BSWC, an MCC crew helped map weeds at Moose Creek Campground in the canyon to provide information before a restoration effort there. They also participated in a weed pull with Montana Watercourse and Earth Elements. Twenty people attended and pulled 740 pounds of weeds (Mostly SK, but also HT, HA, and tansy). This group may adopt this section of the river in the future.
- The Story Hills and Dry Creek grants are being closed out. For the Dry Creek grant, unapproved herbicides (LV6 and Dally) were used on some properties, and MDA would not reimburse the landowners for costs associated with spraying those herbicides. The grant process requires an Environmental Assessment that mandates that certain herbicides are used. All of the landowners were supplied with a list of approved herbicides to use, but in this case the landowner and the applicator did not communicate. Jeff asked if they are applying for any more grants this year. No landowners have approached the weed district so far, so no grants are planned. All of the money was spent for the Story Hills grant, but \$6500 was not spent from the Dry Creek grant. That unspent money will go back to the state, which does not make the grant sponsors happy. The application for the Special County Grant was submitted to the county and was approved by the Commissioners through the public meeting process. It is now on to the Dept of Agriculture.
- **Round table**
  - The new truck and the flatbed were taken to the Road Department where they will be installed. They will charge for the work. John was looking in to getting a light bar for the top of the new truck, which will cost around \$400.
  - John suggested cancelling the December board meeting because not a lot is happening in November, and there will not be much to report on. Keith moved to cancel the December meeting, Jeff seconded the motion, and all approved. Jeff asked which of the board members were up for re-election this year. Fred and Steve are up in December 2016. Jeff and Keith in 2017, Bob in 2018.
  - John suggested changing the weed district office hours to 8:00 – 4:00. Right now, they are 8:00 to 12 and 1 to 5:00. This is not very accurate because the office is not closed at noon. John is usually here before 8:00 and Mike is here after 4:00, so the public could be accommodated by appointment

outside of those official hours. There was general approval from the board members. John will check with Don to find out the process for changing the hours.

- Keith attended the county board training meeting a few weeks ago. The main takehome messages were the importance of archiving all email correspondence, and the importance of making sure there is enough opportunity for the public to comment at public board meetings.
- Jeff asked about the MWCA meeting; it is January 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Bob, Keith, Steve, Fred, Don, John, Mike, Danielle, Jennifer Mohler of BSWC, and Emily Lockard of Extension are all included in the MWCA membership through the Weed District. Jeff gets his membership through MSU.

Meeting dismissed 2:10 pm

Next scheduled meeting: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones

Program Assistant