



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

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

**MINUTES:** Keith moved to accept the minutes as written, Steve 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, Discussion Included:**
  - Steve got two herbicide treatment plots out for the Ventenata tour next summer.
  - Regarding the Daellenbach complaint, the owner found someone else to farm the property so hopefully it will be put back into production.
  - Steve mentioned that there were a lot of subdivision weed management plans and was wondering how much time was being spent on site visits. It varies based on size of subdivision, access, and land use, i.e. whether in agriculture, riparian, etc. The WMP covers weed control from Preliminary Plat up to Final Plat, with an MOU signed for weed control after that point.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - There was a discussion about some of the changes that will be happening to the Eden accounting system.
- **Coordinators Report**
  - Equipment update: The heater on one of the service trucks was repaired for ~\$300. The 2002 spray truck had the hose replaced on the washer fluid tank for ~\$120.
  - A major shop cleanup is planned for this winter with the goal of organizing everything and getting rid of the old equipment that is not being used anymore. The Weed District owns three trailers, including one trailer for hauling the Polaris Ranger and two ATV trailers. Only one ATV trailer is needed, so John will look into options for getting rid of one of them, preferably transferring it to another department that might need it.
  - Ventenata update:
    - The Weed District, City of Bozeman, managers from Triple Tree subdivision, representatives from GVLТ, Josh the Agriculture Agent from Extension, and Jane Mangold from MSU met that morning to discuss the issue of Ventenata. The invasive grass has been observed growing in areas along trails in Triple Tree and on Peet's Hill. Discussion included how to identify the grass

and why we should care about its' spread. The group decided to meet again in March to discuss specific management plans which may include components of education (e.g. signs at trailheads), containment, and suppression. Keith suggested Don write an op-ed in the Chronicle to help raise awareness.

- The Weed District will partner with Steve and other groups for a Ventenata tour on June 26, 2018 in the Springhill area. The event will last 3-4 hours and include dinner. Anyone in the community interested in participating is invited to attend. The tour will include visiting various patches (4-5 sites) and discussing the invasive nature of the grass, as well as looking at herbicide plots to discuss management options. There will be a strong effort to get the word out, with Extension, GVL, and the Weed District all sending invitations out to their contact lists, and postcards will likely be sent out to landowners in the Springhill area. Mike will also put together a save-the-date card for Steve to handout to locals, which could also be posted at stores around town. There was also a discussion about the potential consequences of adding Ventenata to the county or state Noxious Weed lists, and opportunities for funding EDRR efforts.
- 2017 Workplan review: Mike reviewed accomplishments from the plan that occurred in 2017. This included spraying thousands of managed acres of county property (road right of-ways, the Fairgrounds, county parks, etc.), cooperative projects and spray days with other entities and organizations (e.g. MDT, Big Sky Weed Committee (now called the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance), BLM, NRCS, GVL, Bozeman, etc.), public outreach efforts (cost share, rental sprayers, site visits, educational events), complaints, subdivision reviews and gravel pit inspections, and maintenance of equipment. There was a discussion about how revenues from rental sprayers are currently used, and if these funds could be available to the Weed District for other programs such as cost share. Right now, they are deposited into a revenue account that is distributed back to the county budget. There was also discussion about how to advertise some of the programs the Weed District has to offer, such as putting up flyers about the rental sprayer program at local stores that sell weed control supplies, to maximize the impact of these programs.
- Board membership: Board membership expires for Keith and Jeff at the end of December, 2017. It is a three year term. Jeff is not sure if he will reapply, he will continue to think about it. Keith has already submitted his application to renew his membership.
- **Roundtable**
  - There is someone interested in talking to the board at the next meeting about potentially adding burdock to the county weed list.
  - MWCA annual conference will be held January 9-11 in Great Falls.
  - The board decided to cancel the scheduled January 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
  - Steve discussed his attendance at the Washakie County, WY board meeting, and shared some of the similarities and differences that were interesting.

Meeting dismissed at 2:35 pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant