



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

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

#### ATTENDEES:

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

**MINUTES:** Keith moved to accept the minutes as written, Steve 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- John discussed the issue of ownership of the Weed shop building, which is on the Weed Department asset list. He summarized his discussion with the Fairgrounds about the confusion regarding who owns the building. Would it be in the best interest of the Weed Department to keep ownership, or to transfer ownership to the Fairgrounds who would then maintain the building? Don suggested discussing the implications of either with Ed in Finance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
  - There were a lot of subdivision reviews conducted this month, with many new weed management plans as well as MOUs.
  - Steve discussed the status of the Daellenbach complaint. The tenant still needs to mow and spray.
- **Commissioner Report**
  - Nothing to report from the Commissioner's office.
- **Coordinators Report**
  - The Department of Labor and Industry Safety Bureau came in for a safety inspection of the shop and pesticide storage shed on August 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a list of violations to be corrected including: putting flammable liquids in a metal storage locker, adding safety features to the drill press, labeling the breaker box, putting load ratings on I-beams, keeping documentation of a yearly shop inspection and a monthly inspection of fire extinguishers and eyewash stations, and providing documentation of competency to operate ATVs. John has already made the corrections, and the case is closed.
  - John replaced the wood on the two trailers and applied herculiner to seal the wood.
  - These areas were sprayed in August: The Law and Justice center, softball complex (city of Bozeman), Sypes Canyon subdivision park (county maintained), Lerner Park (city of Bozeman), Fairgrounds, and various city and county rights-of-way.

- Complaints: There are 10 active complaints for which the landowners are supposed to spray this fall. The Weed District has received a court order to treat the property for one complaint in Gallatin Park subdivision. The court order will be valid for 3 years instead of the usual one year in case the landowner is not following the weed management plan in the future. Another complaint about a park in Fort Ellis Leisure Community subdivision has been in a dispute about ownership. The county attorney has determined that the owner on the deed is responsible. The landowner says he will turn the deed to the property over to the HOAs so they can maintain the park, but has yet to do so. The same person owns Mount Ellis Meadows Phase 2B subdivision, another complaint site which has been mowed but not yet sprayed. He has been told that he will not get the MOU for final plat if he does not follow the WMP. It has been a problem in general that subdivisions submit a WMP but then do not follow through with treatment, and still expect to get their MOU. There was a discussion about the law and how it could be changed to make the enforcement process more efficient and less tedious, possibly by working with local politicians or MWCA.
- **Roundtable**
  - Steve suggested meeting with the contractors to follow up on the quality of work and discuss any issues and concerns for future spraying. John discussed extending NPKs contract for one additional year, and then after that requesting bids for a 3 year contract. The board agreed. There was discussion about the possibility of using an herbicide that has some residual effect in the tank mix, with consideration for effectiveness and cost.
  - Jeff will be absent for the next two board meetings.
  - Jeff asked about the discussion about ventanata from the last meeting. Steve said there are between 2000-5000 acres in the Springhill area; he would like to talk to Jane Mangold about doing a tour with landowners, as she has research plots up there. Jeff suggested asking Jane to come and talk at a future board meeting about the issue and the possibility of adding ventanata to the county weed list. Steve will call Jane and try to put a tour together, and John will contact her about coming to a board meeting in the near future.
  - The meeting was adjourned and the board went on a field trip to visit various sites to discuss weed control issues. Sites visited included two areas with active complaints, Mount Ellis Meadows Phase 2B subdivision, and Arrowleaf Hills park, a county maintained subdivision park where weed control efforts from the past few years have cleaned up the park.

Meeting dismissed at 2:55 pm

Next scheduled meeting: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant