



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 5, 2014

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Bob Hofman, Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell
- **Others:** Commissioner Joe Skinner, John Ansley – Weed Coordinator, Mike Jones – Assistant Coordinator, Mary Vanderby – Program Assistant, Emily Lockard - Extension

MINUTES: Fred Bell moved minutes be approved as submitted, Bob Hofman 2nd, unanimous approval

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Approval of Gallatin County Weed Management Plan** – Fred Bell moved to approve the plan as submitted, Bob Hofman 2nd, unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Extension is working with MSU on Horseshoe hills grant, within the next 3 weeks expect to spray the area.
- Extension is receiving a lot of questions on Bulbous Blue Grass – it is a non-native grass that is prevalent this year. Treatment – roundup before other grasses grow, till, cultivate and tear loose
- New 4-H rep is expected to start early July.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Commissioner Report**
 - Budget meetings will be June 11 & 12
 - County Administrator starts July 1, 2014
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **Application for Board Appointment** – Steve Saunders – Retired Dow Chemical Rep. Our bylaws state the vacant position is to be filled by a producer. Discussion – very knowledgeable about chemical and weed control, it will be Commission discretion if he can be appointed within the bylaws.
 - **Budget Input** – requests entered into Eden, only asking for \$7,000 concrete pad under our lean two and \$5,000 in vehicle core over initial budget.
 - **Farm Fair** – May 6-8, MSU helped on May 7, 1100 4th graders went through program over the 3 days

- **Spray Crews** – we have 2 girls for our crew that have been doing a good job. Contractors: NPK just started, Dan Marks has been out Baseline, Tubb area.
 - **BLM Spray Day** – Mike and the crew went. About 50 people participated. All backpack work due to wilderness. Spotted Knapweed seems to be diminishing due to consistent efforts.
 - **Bighorn Winter Range Site Visit** – Through a cooperative effort with NRCS we are going to work on a revegetation project. We will some test plots on the steep slopes to see the best method. This area is used hard by the sheep and possibly elk. The area is currently only yielding 15-20% of potential forage. Photos of the area from 1930's show the encroachment of trees that used to be suppressed by forest fire. Spray days will be July 7 & 10
 - **Gateway Youth Group Weed Pull** – annual event working with age 1st grade – 5th grade
 - **Crew Training in Dillon** – taught classes on calibration and label reading
 - **Rentals** – going like crazy
 - **Complaints** – starting to pick up.
 - **Service Truck** – purchased a 2006 Chevy 2500 crew cab with topper – 29,000 miles. Traded Chevy Blazer, working with Road Dept to take our 1998 Chevy Truck. Road Dept cannot buy this until FY15. Talking with Ed to see best way to proceed with this.
 - **Upcoming events**
 - **DNRC Spray Day** – June 9th – Corner of Amsterdam & Linney
 - **TU Weed Pull** – June 14th – Meeting at Murdoch's in 4 Corners
- **Round table**
 - Commissioner Joe Skinner had some questions about vehicle replacement: core vs. weed dept capital. Will discuss the issue with Ed.

Meeting dismissed 2:10 pm

Next scheduled meeting: July 3, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant