



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

October 3, 2013

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Keith Mainwaring (Acting Chair), Bob Hofman
- **Others:** Joe Skinner (Commissioner), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Emily Lockard (Gallatin County Extension), Brad Bower (Gallatin County Extension), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant)

**MINUTES:** Bob Hofman moved to approve, Fred Bell 2<sup>nd</sup> - passed unanimously

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- **Gravel Pits Source for subdivision** – Legal request has been assigned to Chris Gray
- **Account for Enforcement** – email sent to Ed Blackman requesting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Emily Lockard – introduce Brad Bower – new Natural Resources agent in Extension – will be doing forestry in Gallatin & Meagher County – has previous experience working with noxious weeds. Will be a welcome resource!

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
  - **Google Earth Pro** – Bell confirmed \$399/year for each of the licenses on John & Mikes computers
  - **Subdivisions** – Bell asked location of Oliver LP Minor – off of Enders Rd, Spanish Peaks – in Big Sky, both WMP approved
  - **Rocky Mtn Weed & Pest** – Hofman asked who this is - commercial sprayer
  - **Gallanus-** Bell asked about Gallanus property site visit and spray plan consultation – toad flax issue
  - **St Johnswort** – Bell asked about St Johnswort found in Kelley Canyon, Story Hills areas leaf distinct because pin holes visible with light, 5 petal yellow flower, turns rust red when going to seed
- **Coordinators Reports**
  - **Fall Spraying** – John & Mike sprayed Regional Park, John has been spraying county roads getting fall re-growth. Primarily booming. Booming roads with crews depends on crew experience and the roads they are spraying. Will continue spraying until weather restricts.
  - **Complaints:** The old files, everything is pretty much resolved.
    - **Subdivision Open Space** – Fort Ellis Leisure Community complaint filed on 6.84 acres park area – Park area still registered to Planned Development, notices sent but never

claimed. County Treasurer said the parks are listed on individual land owners as “plus interest in open area.” HOA is responsible for open space areas. Go to Planning and look at conditions of approval and Fred recommended looking at recorded plat and it will state what has been done on open space.

- **Complaints filed late in season:** Some conflicting advice over whether we can continue a complaint in the spring that is not resolved. Will get clarification from legal on this.

➤ **Grants**

- **Special County Grant** has been submitted and Commission granted us 50% reduction in grant administration fees
- **North Horseshoe Hills Grant Area:** Ed Brainard approached us for a grant. Went and looked at grant area and will work in conjunction with Extension to write the grant. Land owners are: Ed Brainard, Kim Briggs, Sally Ryan. Need 3 adjacent landowners for grant area. We are having GIS draw up a map. Issues are houndstongue, spotted knapweed, and a small area of leafy spurge. Looking at doing areal spray. Will minimize collateral damage to native brush and others as much as possible. Emily and Brad are looking into various agencies to house the grant because the grant does not allow for administration costs. Talking to MSU on their policies, the County can only allow 50% reduction in admin fees. MSU will do a pre-evaluation of the grant to see if it is a project they would be willing to house. This grant is being written for the people that want it, not an overall landowner outreach. Ed did call additional land owners, but did not receive any feedback.

- **RC&D closing.** Agency currently houses Big Sky Weed Committee. The committee explored many options and decided to form their own non-profit agency. Jen Mohler is pursuing this. RC&D will hopefully stay open long enough to allow an easy transition.
- **Ophir school weed pull** – 27 2<sup>nd</sup> graders with Mike, Jen and a volunteer on chilly, damp day. Gave the kids little GPS’s to map the weeds and then pull them. Lots of fun by all.
- **Property inspections** – helping people develop plans to control weeds.
- **'91 Dodge Diesel** – has some shaking issues while driving – this is the truck John uses to spray. Recommended John will have the mechanic look at the truck or take the truck to a tire shop and have it inspected.

• **Round table**

- **Jack Rabbit Lane** – Mainwaring expressed concern about new road construction on Jack Rabbit Lane - supposed to have a reseeding plan in the new construction area. Lots of Kochia present.

Meeting dismissed 2:20 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 7, 2013, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant