



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 3, 2014

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Jeff Littlefield, Bob Hofman, Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell
- **Others:** Joe Skinner (Commissioner), John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Brad Bauer (Extension), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant)

MINUTES:

- February minutes – Bob Hofman moved to approve, Fred Bell 2nd - approved unanimously
- March minutes – discussion about realtor brochures – Fred Bell will take to MLS meeting, Fred Bell moved to approve, Jeff Littlefield 2nd - approved unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

- Road spraying contracts are moving along, will be routed to Finance Dept this month. After approval will do budget transfer from Temp Wages to Contracted Services. NPK's area is primarily S of I-90, Dan Marks will spray N of I-90. Our crew will have mainly low traffic areas. We will have fewer people available for co-operative spray projects but feel that through volunteer efforts this will not negatively affect our efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Brad Bauer – Offering a 6 week small acreage class in cooperation with Jen Mohler from GBSWC. Still working on an aquatic DNRC grant for invasive species.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A** – No comment
- **Commission Report** – Working on budget. Will interview 5 people for the vacant Administrator position then
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **Season Crew** – We have hired one person who sprayed with Beaverhead County. We have interviews set up to hire one more. Will work May 19 – Aug 15.
 - **Spring Coordinator Training:**
 - 11 weeds have been petitioned to add to the State Noxious Weed List. Determined by Dept of Ag.
 - Transition from MSDS to SDS to simplify ease of reading the information
 - Jane Mangold talked about seed longevity for noxious weeds.
 - Talk about the difference between native plants and similar noxious weeds.
 - **Sprayer Platform Safety** - Kevin Babcock from 1st West Insurance came to evaluate the sprayer platforms on our trucks for our crew safety. Kevin felt our man baskets were safe to use but advised on higher traffic roads to have crew spray from inside the cab. Brad Bauer noted that when crews are in the cab together there can be carbon monoxide issues with the slow speed and

windows down and crews are more likely to fall asleep with both in the cab driving the slow speeds down the road.

- **Bozeman Pass:** We had a formal complaint filed by a gentleman from Jordon, Garfield Co. Complained about the Spotted Knapweed located on the pass. We have talked with Jane Mangold from MSU who feels this is an impossible task due to rock cliff like terrain, lack of access and different land owners. We talked also with a helicopter spray company who said the area could be sprayed but would require I-90 to be closed while it was being sprayer. An impossible task. Gallatin Co Weed District has released bio-control and had this as a grant area. Discussion about further bio-control – does not seem to be a good area due to lack of an established population from the previous releases. Will go back and see if there is any success with the bio-control. Fred Bell recommended a practical approach is to monitor the surrounding areas and try to keep it a contained population. Work on being the coordinating agency between public and private land owners.
 - **Herbicide Bids:** Three bids were submitted. All 3 bids were very close. The question was raised whether we go with the lowest or do we give a local business preference. The difference is \$433.80. A call was made to the County Attorney and he said this falls under the procurement policy which states the lowest bidder is to be awarded the contract. Moved by Bob Hofman to award the contract to the low bidder, 2nd Fred Bell – approved unanimously. Crop Production Services will be informed they are the low bidder.
 - **Big Sky Weed Summit:** April 14. The large land owners are meeting to see if there can be a cooperative effort in fighting weeds on the mountain. There is not a lot of county property in the Big Sky Area. We did work in cooperation with Madison County last year on a spray day.
 - **Weed Managers Meeting:** April 17
 - **Southwest Area Meeting:** April 22
 - **County Weed Management Plan:** Please read and review so we can sign the next meeting and present for approval to the Commissioners.
 - **North Horseshoe Hills Grant:** Awarded one spray season support but feel if things go well we can go back to the trust fund agency and request assistance for the 2nd year.
- **Round table**
 - **Keith** – Black Fingers of Death – Cheatgrass fungus – some research is being done by a grad student under Jane Mangold.
 - Question about the WMP submitted to the Belgrade city/county planning. Clarified that the land owner listed Kochia as a noxious weed, not the Weed Department.

Meeting dismissed 2:25 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 1, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant