



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

August 1, 2013

Attendees:

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

Minutes: Fred Bell reviewed the use of Pramadol on parking lots, clarified information about complaint on Jackrabbit Ln/Valley Center owned by SKA

Fred Bell moved to approve the minutes from July meeting, Keith Mainwaring 2nd, approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Fred Bell question on LexisNexis – background check for county new employees
 - Aspen meadows – Jackson Creek area where we have had Orange Hockweed issues
 - Call from Pat Povah HA and CT on Denny Cr Rd – Denny Cr Rd is county rd for 2 miles – there are 3 county roads we maintain in the West Yellowstone area
 - Call from the public SK on Pronghorn and Ramshorn. Spray on right of way done by John. Continued down Durston to the W of Jackrabbit.
 - Lean – to is finished other than electricity. Haubrich Electric will run the power and hoist will be operational.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **West Yellowstone Spray day** – July 16, sprayed county roads, transfer station, airport area and canal area. Will go back in Sept for retreatment
 - **Cherry River** – One crew helped FWP – improvement noticed from previous years with decrease of noxious weeds
 - **County Fair** – popular brochures were the Manage Pasture Rangeland and Spotted Knapweed
 - **Big Sky Weed Pull** – 25 people attended – pulled at Community Park, and Cutcher Park –
 - **Big Sky Spray day Co-op with Madison County.** Madison County initiated a joint spray day in the Big Sky Area to help with control of noxious weed spread between the. We should use this as an educational event wherever possible. Big Sky does donate heavily to the Upper Big Sky Weed Committee. There are indicators that awareness is increasing about Noxious Weeds and treatment.

- **Complaint Process** – 2nd notices are going out we did need to send out a 1st notice twice because of the change in the notification process and the need to use the uniform notification. Each certified letter costs \$6.11 to send. We do go to great lengths to find the property owner through tax records, Department of Revenue, and Cadastrel. Slow process. We are referring the complaints within city limits to the city as they can have the weeds cut down within 10 days. If a complaint progresses all the way to the treatment phase we do not have within our budget to hire a commercial sprayer - the work would be done in house. To hire a commercial sprayer we would need to pay them up front and it may be years before we are reimbursed and the amount is too unpredictable to budget. Commissioner Skinner will check with the Finance Office to see if reserved funds can be used and reimbursed upon payment of enforcement.
 - **Road Spraying** – contracted services with Zach is done. We will get application records and review what he has done. 2nd payment will be made after final wrap up. What we paid Zach is very similar to the expense of adding a 3rd crew. This will be evaluated after talking with Zach. HA is very evident where the county has mowed and blooming strongly and will need a 2nd treatment done by our personnel. Spray crews will be finished August 15.
- **Round table**
 - New Natural Resource agent Brad Bower in the Extension office. Working on a grant that has a weed control portion. Looking at Co-op grant with Extension in the North Bridger's area targeting large land owners. Weeds present are Spotted Knapweed and Sulfur Cinquefoil. Grant due Dec 2nd.
 - Question from Keith about Kochia being noxious to horses. Some discussion about possible increase in nitrates.
 - Aspen Meadows is in the grant area so we took a crew and backpack sprayers up to spray Orange Hawkweed. One of 3 colonies of known Orange Hawkweed in the county
 - Sprayed Rose Park as co-op with city. Used 3 ATV's
 - Lots of subdivisions and property inspections coming in.
 - Aug 22 – Cattail Creek HOA want John there for educational purposes.
 - Mike did gravel pit inspections for TMC.
 - John inquired about whether we can hold a subdivision to the standard of using a gravel pit that has an active WMP on file to encourage irresponsible gravel pits to increase their business practice to an acceptable standard. A bad gravel source can greatly increase the weeds in the subdivision. John will submit a legal request.

Meeting Dismissed at 2:15. Next meeting September 5, 2013

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant, Gallatin County Weed District