



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2013**

ATTENDEES:

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

MINUTES: Correction on the spelling for Brad Bauer's name – Bob Hofman moved we accept the minutes, Keith second passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

- Gravel pits – met with Deputy County Attorney Erin Arnold – our current WMP application asks if source of gravel has a weed management plan. There is no recourse if gravel pit is not current on their WMP. Gravel pits need to have a WMP in place when they apply for the pit through DEQ but traditionally do not renew the WMP after it expires in 3 years. Do we want to add stronger language to the WMP and deny the application if the developer does not use a gravel pit with a current WMP. Commissioner Skinner recommends using the system – write up new language, bring it to the Commission and go through public comment to see if this would be a good improvement. Certain pits do get certified for Federal and State contracts that do not require a current WMP on file. Bell asked if we maintain a list of pits with a current WMP/Certified pits. We have a list of pits that apply for permits and know the certified pits, traditionally gravel pits do not apply for an extension of their WMP once the original 3 yr WMP has expired. Bell used an example where a development used on-site gravel that was infested and spread weed seed on all the roadways in the development. If gravel source is from on-site we could add language that we inspect the source. Do we add something about using gravel from a poor source may cause additional mitigation in the future. The current language in the subdivision WMP really has no recourse if the gravel source is poor. We will work with the County Attorney to strengthen our position on gravel source for a subdivision.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Emily Lockard**
 - The North Horseshoe hills grant was submitted.
 - Extension will offer a master gardener class starting Jan 6, it is an 8 week program.
 - Beef producers have their educational luncheon and annual meeting on Jan 8 with the banquet on Jan 10

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Jeff had a question on the Belgrade City non-compliance – Belgrade has a mowing enforcement clause – they give a 10 notice to bring into compliance, mow and bill the land owner.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - The County Administrator will be leaving soon and the search will start for a replacement. The Commission is looking at restructuring the county and bringing different departments under the umbrella of the County Administrator. At some time in the future we will have an agenda item

to see if the Weed Board feels it would be beneficial to have the Weed District report to the County Administrator instead of directly to the County Commissioners.

- **Coordinators Reports**

- **Grants**

- **Bridger grant** final report was submitted to Dept of Ag and will be submitted to County Grant department when everything for Dept of Ag is finalized.
- **North Horseshoe Hills Grant** was completed and will be run through County Extension and MSU. MSU will not charge administrative fees since none are allowed through the Weed Trust Fund grants. Grant hearings will be in late February and will be a joint effort between Extension and Weed.
- Soils Workshop given by NRCS in November primarily talking about soil health. 2 credits were given for pesticide license. Intensive grazing was one of the topics encouraging plant diversity. Another topic was companion crop growth for potato crops. Diversity is good and makes for resilient system overall.
- 2014 Roadside spraying – Agreed upon to put out bid looking a 2 different options. One with the roads we contracted out this year, second for outlying areas. 2013 spraying worked out with similar results and less complications from additional employees. When spraying technically supposed to stop at the property line, not spray over the fence. We need to improve language in the contract for needed touchup spray after contractor is finished and withhold full payment until we inspect the results.
- County Weed Management Plan due for revision in 2014 and update and change items that have changed in the last 2 years. Will go through public meeting and seek a resolution. We would like to present the new plan after the Dept of Ag comes out with updated list of Noxious Weeds.

- **Round table**

- **Board member Term Expiration** – Fred and Craig both have terms that expire this year. Fred was encouraged to stay on the board as he brings a perspective that is helpful to the process. Appointments will be made at the Jan 7 public meeting .
- **Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee** meeting Dec 12 to finalize 501c3 application
- Mechanic still going through vehicles, looking into driving issue with the diesel truck
- Legal request sent for complaint carry over. Can we start in the spring where we left off with previously filed complaint? Also sent request about subdivisions that do not follow the WMP. Is the WMP a binding contract we can use to put them right into non-compliance?

Meeting dismissed 2:15 pm

Next scheduled meeting: January 9, 2014, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Vanderby

Program Assistant