



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

February 6, 2014

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Fred Bell, Bob Hofman, Jeff Littlefield, Keith Mainwaring
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Mary Vanderby (Program Assistant), Joe Skinner (County Commission), Emily Lockard (County Extension), Brad Bauer (County Extension), Bruce Grupe (Commercial Applicator)

MINUTES:

- Fred Bell – Question regarding new Board Member replacement. Fred wanted to know the process and Commission Skinner stated that it is being advertised and that the Weed Board can recommend someone to be appointed. Fred would like the Weed Board to see a list of applicants that have applied but no one has applied as of this time.
- Keith – misspelling under the Old Business section.
- Minutes – Fred moved to accept, Jeff 2nd and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Emily Lockard – Advertising for 4H Position from January 25 to February 25 and there has been a lot of interest in that position. She is starting on Fair stuff and Brad is working on 4H camp. There are some workshops coming up. Extension bought a truck.
- Brad Bauer – Developing a program for Natural Resources at the Bozeman Public Library on April 2. Covering Weeds, Forestry, and Water. Talked with Jen Mohler to develop something in Big Sky as well. Got his fuels cost share money.
- Bruce Grupe (Commercial Applicator) – came to the Board Meeting around 2pm to introduce himself and submit his bid for the Roadside Spraying.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Monthly Report Q&A

- **Fred Bell** – SW Area Meeting that was held Whitehall. Was that similar to the Weed Manager's Meeting that we hold in April? This was a meeting to discuss MOU' between agencies and Weed District's. This was the meeting where we found out that Beaverhead County has rush skeletonweed.
- **Fred Bell** – Call from Rote in reference to weed inspections and advice and does the Weed Department charge? Weed Department provides this service at no charge. Bell stated that this is a good service.

- **Keith** – comment on misspelling of spayer which should be sprayer.
- **Keith** – comment on gas for the Weed Shop seems reasonable due to the insulation of the shop.

➤ **Commission Report**

- Is anything regarding the Farm Bill affecting Extension or Weeds? Extension and Weed Department is not aware of any issues.
- Continuing search for County Administrator. Decided to re-advertise for another 3 weeks. Looking at County organizational changes which could affect the Weed Board as well as some other Boards. If the Board has any comments, to let the Commission know. Managers would be accountable to the County Administrator. This would put the County Administrator between the Board and the Manager. The Commission would like to make these changes within a month or so that way it is in place before the new Administrator is hired.

➤ **Coordinators Reports**

- **MWCA Conference** – held January 14-16. The SW Area Meeting discussed the cost of the education trailer. Some businesses might help sponsor and donate money if they could have some advertising on the trailer. Cost of use of the trailer would be \$50 per use. Trailer should be ready around April. Trailer will have displays inside as well as riker mounts and other education materials. Urban county meeting was not well attended so it was not as beneficial as we thought. Some counties don't have an enforcement program while others do. Counties that do not have an enforcement program usually do more educational programs. Good conference with good seminars some of which included: Flowering Rush in Flathead Lake, Black Fingers of Death (fungus) on cheatgrass, Reaching out to the Public that Ravalli County presented, and a Russian knapweed seminar. MTNWEC has educational materials available for public use such as articles for newspapers and lessons for teachers.
- **Wild West Winterfest** – February 15 & 16. Weed Department will have a weed booth. The booth is usually not manned but we will man the booth on Saturday the 15th.
- **Spring Home & Garden Show** – February 22 & 23. Weed Department will man the booth both days.
- **Weed Manager's Meeting** – April 17th from 9:30am – 11:30am at the Bozeman Library small conference room.
- **SW Area Commercial/Private Applicator Training** – February 4th in Butte. Approximately 75 applicators attended. It helps to combine private and commercial together to get more attendance. Good presenters at the training.
- **GIS Steering Committee Meeting** – Mike attended this meeting. This meeting was to gather ideas from different departments and their needs. The Weed Department would like an updated road list and have more a quantified weed distribution map.
- **NWTF Grant Hearings** – March 4th at 11am in Helena.
- **Road Contracts** – letters have been sent to solicit bids. Have received one bid back so far and they are due February 21. Should we bring in the 3 lowest bidders to the next Board Meeting? Bids will be screened by Weed Staff this year. We have 2 Options to choose from. Option 1 is higher traffic roads and Option 2 is more rural roads. Might need to score the applicants when screening them. Need to check to see if bids have to be sealed and opened at a public meeting.
- **Working on Equipment** – general maintenance such as spark plug replacement, air filter replacement and replacing worn pull cords for the small engines.
- **Fixed Asset Audit** – scheduled for next week with the Auditor's Office.

- **Subdivision Weed Management Plan** – propose new language to include this statement: “approval for any extensions or final plat of this plan may be denied or delayed if noxious weeds have not been properly controlled”.
- **County Weed Management Plan** – close to having this done and then we will contact the County Attorney’s Office for review
- **Noxious Weed List** – no additions or deletions but there has been some moving of species to different priorities.
- **Big Sky Weed Summit** – Jen Mohler is putting this together and would like to have more of a collaborative effort in Big Sky.
- **Raffle** – Weed Department would like to have some prizes available to raffle at workshops. Raffle items might include Weeds of the West books.

- **Round table**
 - Bruce Grupe (Commercial Applicator) – came to the Board Meeting around 2pm to introduce himself and submit his bid for the Roadside Spraying.
 - Fred Bell – mentioned a subdivision that was proposed at the old Huffine place. This should help with the weed issues.
 - Bob Hofman – asked if Commissioner Skinner would still come to the Board Meetings when the new Administrator is hired? He will still attend the Board Meetings.
 - Thank you card in the office for the Board to sign for Craig Morgan.

Meeting adjourned 2:16 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 6, 2014, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, John Ansley, Weed Coordinator