



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 5, 2013

ATTENDEES:

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

MINUTES: Fred Bell moved to approve the minutes from August meeting, Bob Hofman 2nd, approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Gravel Sources** – the question is if we can deny a WMP if we know the gravel pit is full of weeds. Legal request sent to Chris Gray and he questioned if we had any issues with a gravel pit at this point – no we do not. Will continue to follow up with County Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Emily from Extension – hired a new Admin Assistant will start Sept 16.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A**
 - Bob Heidecker WMP extension – Question about difference between extension being under preliminary plat approval and final plat with the WMP
 - Epic Development enforcement was paid. All 3 enforcements from last year have been paid.
 - Call from new county resident just moved here from Idaho. She felt the Idaho law may be more readily enforceable. The Idaho law consists of an add being published in the Spring, a written warning, then enforcement. No need to get court order. Seems much quicker and more efficient. The Nebraska law is similar only contains a fine system as well with possible fines up to \$10,000. There is a great need to talk to our legislators to help stream line the system to make it more efficient. Would a fine system work with us verifying the noxious weed issue and the sheriff delivering the fine. We are doing better on enforcement and cleaning up some very bad weed areas.
- **Coordinators Reports**
 - **Spray Season update:** Contractor finished up and his roads look very similar to the roads our crews spray. We will look at putting it out to bid again and decide at what point it is better to hire through contracted services or hire another county crew. The county crews finished on August 15. John has been out spraying every morning and will continue getting fall growth.

There are some parks that need to be treated this fall. Will continue to spray until weather forces stop – usually November

- Complaints: Possible for one property to go to legal action. 2nd notice was claimed – out of state land owner with 4 acre property with spotted knapweed. No complaints this year on Huffine Property – there is a WMP in place now with plans for the property to be farmed until subdivided.
- Epic Development enforcement was paid and wondering if we can set up a “savings account” with this money. \$4500 would go into this account to accumulate then used as large unprojected expenses come up. If we need to hire an aerial sprayer this money could be used. We will talk with Ed
- Grants – we submitted notice of intent on Special County Grant from the Department of Ag. We have letter requesting 50% reduction in ICAP fees. Fred moved we submit letter requesting reduction of fees, Keith 2nd, passed unanimously. Jeff signed letter, submitted to Grants Dept. We are going to look at a joint grant with Extension as Ed Brainard has approached us about a grant in his area. Emily is going to contact Ed and set up a meeting time and see if Ed knows other land owners in the area that would participate. We would need to investigate the need for aerial spraying.
- Big Sky Weed Committee – we will help them if they apply for grant to maintain corridor where the power lines are coming down the canyon. Jen Mohler is looking at EIS for the project and what the contractor responsibility is in the canyon. Jen does quite a few sight visits, goes to all Big Sky Farmers Markets, lined up Ophir School, and the High School for education and weed mapping using a GPS. Currently Big Sky Weed is housed under RC&D which is most likely closing. BSWC is looking at several options to be housed. Rosemary recommended GVLTL. It will depend where BSWC goes and the challenges they will face with admin fees for the grant money.
- Making trip to West Yellowstone to perform a site visit at Yellowstone Preserve in an advisory capacity. Will take spray trucks and spray roads while down there.

- **Round table**

- **Keith** – Questioning if we can treat gravel pits with an embargo action similar to placing an embargo on a hay field that is infested with weeds.
- The hoist system is completed and the lean to project is finished. We feel the locked gate around the property is sufficient security to keep this safe.

Meeting dismissed at 2:15. Next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2013

Respectfully submitted
Mary Vanderby
Program Assistant