



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 4th, 2019 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Noelle Orloff, Bob Hofman, and Fred Bell.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant).

MINUTES: Bob moved to accept the minutes as written, Fred seconded, and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - Discussion included the Trust Fund grant proposal for the project up in the Sixteen Mile area. The grant will probably be funded at 75% of what was requested, although that decision is not yet final. The project will include helicopter spraying as well as roadside spraying. The Weed District will help with roadside spraying and monitoring.
 - It was recommended by the State Noxious Weed Listing Council that ventenata be added to the state list. The Dept of Ag will decide on final approval, but it is likely ventenata will be added by next fall.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Numbers for the startup budget are being determined. The search for the new Deputy County Administrator is progressing, but no one has yet been chosen.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Professional Development Training.** Mike and Danielle attended the training at the Lindley Center in Bozeman on March 27-28. Mike summarized some of the topics that were presented at the training, including HR issues, cooperative weed management areas, county budgets, and leadership training.
 - **NRCS Targeted Implementation Plan.** At the last meeting, Steve had mentioned that Bighorn County had developed a TIP for managing ventenata, and suggested that the Weed District look into getting a similar TIP developed for Gallatin County. This is an NRCS program that will potentially provide funds to Gallatin County resident for various land management projects, including the control of invasive annual grasses such as ventenata. Mike summarized his recent discussions with Chris Mahoney (NRCS) regarding this. Mike also had recently attended a local working group meeting related to developing TIPS for Gallatin County, and summarized the discussions from that meeting. Important management issues in Gallatin County were identified, including issues specific to managing weeds.

- **Herbicide Bids.** The Weed District sent out a request for bid to five distributors (Wilber Ellis, Ag Depot, Nutrien Solutions, Helena AgriEnterprises, and Rocky Mountain Supply) for the purchase of herbicide. Bids were received from Nutrien Solutions, Ag Depot, and Wilbur Ellis. The low bid was Nutrien Solutions for \$17,242.96. Bob moved to accept the low bid from Nutrien Solutions, Fred seconded, and all approved.
- **Upcoming Events.** John summarized the upcoming events that the Weed District will participate in, including the Weed Managers meeting, the Southwest Area of MWCA meeting, the Gateway Youth Group Weed Pull, the Environmental Summit at the Flying D Ranch, and Farm Fair.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - The Road Department will install the spray tank on the new Polaris Ranger, as well as mirrors, horn, etc. to make it street legal. The rental sprayers and spray trucks are currently being de-winterized and will be calibrated in the next couple of weeks. The contracts with Montana Spraying Company for spraying the county roads have been finalized.
 - John discussed the possibility of the Weed District attending an upcoming Monday Work Session Meeting to discuss with the Commissioners and others in the County the possibility of the District purchasing a drone.
 - The Weed District has been working with the Planning Department to update the subdivision regulations as they relate to noxious weed management.
 - The Treasurer contacted the Weed District about the possibility of the Motor Vehicle Department handing out informational brochures that inform about preventing the spread of weeds. People registering boats and ATVs would be the target audience.

Meeting dismissed at 1:55 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 2nd, 2019, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant