



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders, and Fred Bell.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Danielle Jones (Program Assistant).

**MINUTES:** Steve moved to accept the minutes as written, Keith seconded, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
  - Discussion included recent subdivision WMP's, a potential trust fund grant project area that was toured, and trainings that were attended.
- **Commissioner Report:**
  - Commissioner Siefert was absent.
- **Coordinators Report:**
  - **MWCA Weed Education Program Training.** Danielle summarized the information and programs from the Education Training in Billings.
  - **MT Invasive Species Council Summit.** Mike summarized the information from the Summit in Helena, which included information at a local, regional, and national scale for issues on all taxa of invasive species. There was discussion about creating a state list that includes all taxa of invasive species, rather than the current standard in which different agencies have lists for the species under their jurisdiction.
  - **MWCA New & Old Coordinator Training.** John, Mike and Danielle attended the training. John summarized some of the things covered, including budgeting, HR issues, pesticides, weed law, and tools for outreach, including social media.
  - **Side x Side.** John got six bids from retailers around the region (Billings, Dillon, Great Falls, Helena, and Butte, Lewistown) for a 2019 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 EPS with a 4500 winch installed. Keith moved to accept the lowest bid (\$15,268) from Helena Cycle, Steve seconded and all approved.
  - **Trust Fund Grant.** The North Bridgers Weed Management Area has been established, which includes three landowners in the northern part of the county. The project area is approximately 34,000 acres, with about 5000 acres infested with noxious weeds. These infestations include dense monocultures of sulfur cinquefoil, as well as some large areas of spotted and diffuse knapweed. Grant activities will include a combination of helicopter spraying and ground spraying. Landowners have committed to spend \$40,000 for weed control in 2019, with \$20,000 of that then reimbursed by

the grant. This will treat about 500 acres, and they will focus on satellite infestations and roadsides to stop the spread of existing infestations. The landowners are hoping to continue the work for the next 3-4 years.

- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**

- Issues that need to be addressed with the county attorney, including changes to the enforcement policy, drafting a resolution to delegate signing authority of official complaints to the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator, and purchasing a drone for mapping, site visits, education, and possibly enforcement. There may be a need for a county-wide drone policy in the future.
- Advice from the board about spending cost share money for use of organic herbicides. Non-selective herbicides are already not allowed, and organic herbicides fall into this category. It was agreed that a clarification is necessary in the cost share instructions about allowable costs, with organic herbicides being excluded in most cases.
- An additional area with a significant sulfur cinquefoil infestation, where landowners are also possibly interested in a trust fund grant. County cost share funds could also be used, with the trust fund grant as a future resource.
- It was decided to cancel the January 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

Meeting dismissed at 2:15 pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant