



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 4th, 2018 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- The resolution for the Gallatin County Weed Management Plan and the changes to the County Weed List will be presented at the Oct 16th public meeting for approval by the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - There was discussion about a few of the subdivision WMPs and MOUs that were recently approved.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - The new Deputy County Administrator will likely be hired by Jan 1st. This person will oversee the Public Works Departments, which includes the Weed District. The county will also be hiring a public relations officer, which would be able to help the District with press releases, etc.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Spray Update.** John summarized the county roads and properties that have recently been sprayed. Ventenata has been found on some rights-of-way and other properties, including West Baxter Lane, the Bozeman Convenience Site, and the Gallatin Rec Area. Those ventenata infestations were recently sprayed with Esplanade. There was a discussion about the ventenata infestations being found throughout the county and the potential impacts of ventenata management on the Weed District budget, as well as the potential for using mapping technology to get an understanding of where ventenata exists in the county.
 - **Complaint/Enforcement Update.** The Guylyn Warren case was resolved and the Weed District did not have to spray the property. Warren contacted the Weed District and worked out an agreement to have it sprayed by a commercial applicator. The court order that the Weed District obtained as part of the enforcement is for 3 years, so there will be follow up in the spring to make sure the property continues to get treated to address the weed problem. A summary was provided about other complaints that are currently active, including an organic farm in the Springhill area and an abandoned house in a residential area in Bridger Canyon. These complaints will be put on hold until spring, since it is getting too late in the season to treat these properties. Mike initiated a discussion about the Weed District enforcement policy, and asked the Board to consider how we might change the policy to make it more effective by incorporating the use of discretion when handling official

complaints that come into the office. John had consulted with the county attorney about the matter, and she suggested that the Board draft a written policy about how it will use discretion when considering enforcement cases. At this point all complaints are sent to the county attorney regardless of the magnitude of the weed problem, but the District would like to be able to use discretion to address some cases through education instead. This would free up time to reach out to landowners and be more proactive about weed management in the county through education and outreach. The Board discussed options for potential changes, and Mike requested that the Board members think about the issue for discussion at the next board meeting.

- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**

- Steve mentioned the possibility of petitioning the Montana Department of Ag to get ventenata added to the state Noxious Weed List. It was mentioned that since ventenata is now on the County Noxious Weed List, projects involving ventenata management are eligible for trust fund grants. There was a discussion about the possibility of writing a local cooperative grant for ventenata management which would include mapping ventenata infestations. Maps would help inform efforts for containment of current infestations and would provide information about rates of spread in the county. Steve requested that the District contact Dave Burch at MDA about starting the petitioning process.

Meeting dismissed at 2:50 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 1st, 2018, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant