



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 5th, 2018 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

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

MINUTES: Bob moved to accept the minutes as written, Keith 2nd the motion, and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- John summarized the suggested revisions to the County Weed Management Plan. Common reed, medusahead and common buckthorn will be added, as they are recent additions to the state Noxious Weed List. If the Weed Board resolution regarding changes to the County Noxious Weed List is approved by the Board and the Commissioners, scentless chamomile and meadow knapweed will be removed and ventenata will be added. The estimates of the areas of distribution for noxious weed species within the county will likely change slightly (this is a rough estimate). There will be changes in the budget section based on details of the FY19 budget. Wording will be changed to reflect the fact that contractors are now hired instead of seasonal employees; 2/3 of the county roads are now sprayed by contractors, and the remaining 1/3 are sprayed by Weed District staff. Additional regulated plants will be added to the aquatics section, including hydrilla, Brazilian waterweed, and parrot feather watermilfoil. Changes to the section about subdivision Weed Management Plans will include the addition of a checklist that clarifies how weed management activities need to be documented in order to receive an MOU with the Weed District at the time of Final Plat application.
- Mike informed the Board that he will send out this new checklist of necessary documentation to all of the subdivisions that submitted Weed Management Plans in 2017 to clarify what will be required with their MOU application.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - A suggestion to add the location of subdivisions to the Monthly Report.
 - Inquiry about whether or not goats can provide effective weed control. Probably yes, if it is done right. Weeds need to be targeted for consumption, and how to control the spread of seeds needs to be considered.
- **Commissioner Report**
 - There was nothing new to report from the Commission office.
- **Coordinators Report**
 - Mike summarized the presentations that were given at the Spring Weed Managers Training in Dillon, including talks about herbicide issues related to bees and other pollinators, how to deal with conflict in the field, and how Esplanade works to control annual grasses. During the update from MDA there was discussion about how Dave Burch, the State Weed Coordinator, has moved into a different position and Jasmine Reimer will serve as the interim Coordinator.

- John opened the sealed herbicide bids. Four bids were received from Helena Chemical (\$22,431.60), Ag Depot (\$22,110), Rocky Mountain Supply (\$26,666), and Crop Production Services (\$23,676). All of the bids were for the same products and product amounts. Keith moved to accept the lowest bid from Ag Depot, Bob seconded the motion, and all approved.
- John introduced a Weed Board Exotic Plant Species Resolution recommending the addition of ventenata and removal of meadow knapweed and scentless chamomile from the county Noxious Weed List. Bob moved to accept the Resolution, Keith seconded the motion, all approved and the motion passed. All Board members except Steve (who was absent) then signed the Resolution. John will write a County Resolution to present to the Commissioners for approval.
- Upcoming events: On April 25th the Annual Weed Managers meeting will be held at the Weed District office. This meeting will be followed by a planning meeting to work out the details for the ventenata tour that is occurring on June 26th. The Big Sky Summit will be held on April 20th to discuss weed management for the upcoming year in Big Sky. The MWCA Southwest Area meeting will be held April 17th in Whitehall.
- Mike discussed issues surrounding the Weed Management Plan for the PT Land subdivision. This 32 acre subdivision is full of Canada thistle and other noxious weeds. The WMP was submitted last year, but the property was not treated last fall, despite two reminders from the Weed District that it needed to be done. Mike asked the Board for advice about how to proceed, knowing that the WMP is not being followed. If the landowners continue to ignore their obligations for weed management on the property, the Weed District will not sign the MOU necessary for them to receive Final Plat. There was general agreement by the Board that this was appropriate. Mike discussed the different options. The Board agreed that it would be a good idea to get in touch with the engineer and landowner and explain that the MOU will not be signed if the weeds are not treated, and to copy the city planner on any communications. Mike said he will move forward with communication and request a prepaid contract with a private applicator in the future.
- **Roundtable**
 - John mentioned that Jen Mohler from Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance will attend a future public meeting to thank the Commissioners for their support and give an update on organization activities.
 - Regarding the past discussions about helping organizations that are actively involved in weed control efforts in the county, John emphasized the value of the county Cost Share program.
 - The Weed District is in the process of planning two trailhead signs with built-in boot brush stations. The signs will aim to educate the public about invasive species such as ventenata, burdock and other noxious weeds. They will cooperate with GVLTA to get the signs installed at Peet's Hill and Drinking Horse trailheads. Each sign will cost around \$300+ and will hopefully be installed this spring.

Meeting dismissed at 2:35 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 3rd, 2018, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant