



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

August 1, 2019 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell, Noelle Orloff, and Steve Saunders.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator) and Alan Claunch (Citizen)

Before we got started, everyone introduced themselves to the new Deputy County Administrator

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** Alan Claunch introduced himself and gave a presentation on the benefits of pulling weeds rather than the use of herbicides and the work he has done on his property and along some roads in his subdivision on Bozeman Pass.
- **Everyone introduced themselves to the new Deputy County Administrator**
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - Discussion included disposing of spotted knapweed; common mullein control; grant activity (acres sprayed in the grant area, participation and future work in the grant area); not recommending straw for garden; Ventenata distribution and grant that MSU has for mapping Ventenata
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner MacFarlane was not present. He is out of town.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Medusahead.** Jane Mangold (MSU) found Medusahead on the Fairgrounds when she was walking her dog. She found about 15 plants or so. She found it where the old white house building was torn down and she found a plant on the boulevard. John found a plant where the hog barn collapsed and was torn down. Not sure how it got here. Might have been from seed or straw that was put down in the revegetated areas. Fairgrounds is looking into receipts from seed purchased. The Weed District and MSU will survey the entire Fairgrounds to see if we can find more. The Weed District will do an Esplande treatment in mid-August or so on the areas where Medusahead has been found. Ventanata was also found in the area where Medusahead was found.
 - **FY2020 Budget.** Hearings were in June. We think that cost share will be increased from \$4,000 to \$10,000. After we find out if it has been increased, there can be future discussions on the cost share program.
 - **Spray Update.** Weed District is behind because of the cold wet spring/early summer. We are currently working on projects and have several left. A big one that is still left to work on is the

Logan Landfill. There was talk about having the landfill pay us to do the work or maybe have them hire a helicopter to spray it. Keith had a few roads in the Belgrade/Bozeman area that needed touch up spraying by the contractor. We will notify the contractor to have them re-touch those areas. Steve stated that the roads up north looked good and that the contractor up there seems to be doing a pretty good job.

- **Complaints/Enforcement Update.** Most calls this time of year are complaint related. We did a court ordered spray treatment on a piece of property using a turf herbicide called Foundation and it worked really well. The bill was sent to the Clerk and Recorder's Office since the landowner did not pay the bill. Will be getting a court order soon on another piece of property. Discussion on future complaint policy including maybe changing the policy to enforce high priority weeds and not the common ones or sending friendly letters with information to landowners with common noxious weeds. Also, maybe see if we can get help from the Compliance Office on enforcement. We can verify to see if the complaint is valid and then send to the Compliance Office to send the notices. The compliance policy will be discussed in detail over the winter months. What should we do when commercial applicators file formal complaints? The Deputy County Administrator will talk to the County Attorney's Office for direction.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:** We were contacted by Tim Griffiths and there was discussion on trying to get something done on the M Trail including boot brush stations, disperse biocontrol and limited herbicide use in certain areas. Tim is going to talk to USFS and USFWS and get back in touch with us. Landowner with blueweed has had the site hand-pulled by an applicator but not sure if it has all been pulled. Landowner has reached his financial limit. We will be in touch with the applicator to find out more about the situation. Fred has clover in his lawn and was wondering what herbicide might work well on it. Keith mentioned that interchanges at Belgrade are loaded with hoary alyssum. Spraying on MDT roads.

Meeting dismissed at 3:05 pm

Next scheduled meeting: September 5th, 2019, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Ansley, District Coordinator