



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

August 4, 2022 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Bernie Jones and Noelle Orloff.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator) and Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public were present.

**MINUTES:** Steve moved to approve the June 2022 meeting minutes as written, Noelle seconded and the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award.** Board members reviewed the two nominations that were received for the Landowner Recognition Award. A resident of Big Sky was nominated for his work with HOAs down there and two employees of Bridger Bowl were nominated for their work at the ski area. Board members discussed the merits of each nomination, including the scale of the impact for weed management and education and the length of the history of the work. Steve made a motion that the award be given to the nominees John VanHouten and Josh Thompson, employees of Bridger Bowl Ski Area. Noelle seconded the motion and all approved. Steve discussed the opportunity to publicize the award by possibly having the media conduct an interview up at Bridger Bowl with the winners and other interested parties. It was agreed it would be a good idea to keep the remaining nominations on file for next year. A plaque will be purchased for permanent display at the courthouse to recognize the winners. The name of winners will be added each year. Engraving for the plaque will read 'Gallatin County Outstanding Noxious Weed Management Award' with a short description of the award. Each winner would also be given a Leatherman that is engraved with 'Gallatin County Weed Management Award' and the year. The total annual budget for the award is \$500. \$100 has already been allocated for Facebook advertising, and each Leatherman will cost about \$140. The plaque for the courthouse will cost about \$125. Each winner will also be presented with a framed certificate. Next steps are to notify the winners and plan for the award to be presented by Commissioners at a Public meeting in September. Board members will be present at this meeting also.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
  - Bridger Foothill Fire summary of funding spent.
  - Weeds in the city on public and private undeveloped land.
  - Calls about bulbous bluegrass.
  - Bluesteed update. The property on Sourdough Ridge Road was inspected in June and two bluesteed rosettes were found. Mike sent a weed management plan for the landowner to sign.
- **Commissioner Report:**
  - Commissioner Brown was not present.

- **Coordinators Report:**
  - **Spraying Update.** John summarized all the areas that were sprayed including County roads and properties, City of Bozeman streets and parks, the Logan Landfill, and roads sprayed by contractors.
  - **Complaints Update.** There have been many complaints coming in, mostly about knapweed and thistle. Many friendly letters have been sent out. There were two complaints about active subdivisions.
  - **Bridger Fire Area Update.** John and Danielle attended and presented at a Forest Health Field Day at Crosscut sponsored by the Gallatin Watershed Council. This was an educational event for landowners in Bridger Canyon to learn about resources available for fuels reduction and weed control projects. The Forest Service, NRCS, Extension, and Crosscut also presented.
  - **North Bridger's WMA Grant.** Mike gave a summary update of activities for the grant. Helicopter spraying occurred June 25 and 26. Mike attended a tour on July 11 with Greta from Montana Department of Ag and Zade Morgan. 950 acres within the grant area were sprayed by helicopter. The CA Ranch treated another 400 acres, mostly out of the grant area. A lot of ground spraying also occurred on the CA Ranch. The budget for the grant includes \$39,485 in grant funding that will be matched by landowners. \$7000 was leftover from the 2021 grant. Expenditures to this date are about \$11,000, but we are still waiting for invoices to be submitted by some participating landowners. Any leftover money will be used next field season.
  - **Gravel Pit Certification.** Mike gave an update on the gravel pit certification for the season. He did inspections for TMC Sand and Gravel the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>, including the Main Pit in Belgrade, Morgan Pit, Cameron Springs Pit, and Story Pit. All of the pits passed inspection.
  - **Upcoming Events/Spraying.** John summarized the upcoming events, including burdock pulls with Sacajawea Audubon, Peet's hill ventenata mapping and spraying, and touch-up spraying of county roads.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
  - Steve reported that Montana Helicopter does not spray anymore.
  - Ed Brainard has been appointed by the Commission as the new Weed Board member.
- **Proposed Agenda Items:**
  - Recognition award planning and finalizing of award details.

Meeting dismissed at 3:00 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: September 1, 2022, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones