



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Bob Hofman, and Fred Bell.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Don Seifert (Commissioner), Andy Epple and Janne Hayward (Sacajawea Audubon), and Glenn Cloclough (private applicator).
- Don opened up nominations for 2018 Chair of the Weed Board. Bob nominated Fred, and Keith 2<sup>nd</sup> that nomination. All approved and Fred stepped in as Chair and called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** Keith moved to accept the minutes as written, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Andy Epple and Janne Hayward, representing Sacajawea Audubon, presented a petition to formally request the listing of burdock as noxious in Gallatin County. Andy summarized the habits of the plant and the problems associated with its' spread, including impacts to wildlife and livestock. He also described how, for the past 5 years, 40+ volunteers with Sacajawea Audubon and other groups (e.g. GVLТ) have been working to control burdock in heavily infested areas around the county. Burdock is already listed as noxious in 10 Montana counties. Questions and discussion followed, and it was agreed to further discuss the petition at the next board meeting and make a decision then. There was also discussion about how the Weed District can help by creating and distributing educational materials about burdock (e.g. weed tip posted on the website, trailhead signs, etc.).

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Commissioner Report**
  - John discussed purchasing a plow for the Polaris Ranger. It is needed for plowing around the shop, which can become inaccessible when it snows. John got quotes that ranged from \$830 to \$2000. There was general agreement from the Board that purchasing the plow would be a good idea. John was going to move forward with the \$830 quote.
  - John discussed the potential for the Compliance Department to handle weed complaints in the future; there was uncertainty about whether this was going to happen.
  - Mike discussed problems with the subdivision Weed Management Plan (WMP) process. A 3-year WMP is required to be approved by the Weed District in order for a subdivision to receive Preliminary Plat. The WMP is signed by the landowner, and outlines how weeds will be managed on the property. However, it is common that these WMPs are not being implemented, and landowners come to the Weed District with an MOU application for Final Plat when they have done very little or no weed control on the property over the life of the WMP. There was a discussion about potential solutions for dealing with these subdivisions that have not implemented their WMP. It was suggested that the Weed District also work with the Planning office to improve the process.

There were also suggestions about publicizing the issue to help inform about the process, e.g. an article in the newspaper or a discussion at the Commission meeting.

- Don excused himself for another meeting he had to attend.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
  - There were questions about the status of development and weed control for Cottonwood, Gateway Village, and Story Creek Subdivisions. There was a question about how WMPs are approved. All subdivision WMPs are reviewed and approved by John and Mike, and then are summarized in the monthly report for discussion at the Board meetings.
- **Coordinators Report**
  - MWCA Annual Conference was Jan 9-11 in Great Falls.
  - The discussion about subdivision WMP requirements continued. Mike discussed some potential changes to the WMP form that will clarify the requirements for annual weed control and will include a detailed checklist of the documentation that needs to be provided with the MOU application to show that the work was done. The form will also emphasize that the MOU will be denied if the requirements are not met. These clarifications will be presented to the planning office to inform them of the changes.
  - The County Weed Management Plan is required to be updated every two years, and is scheduled to be updated in 2018. The main change will be adding a few new species to the state Noxious Weed list. Otherwise, there are mostly just minor grammatical changes. John asked the Board members to review the plan and provide comments at the next meeting. Once the plan is approved by the Board, it will then be sent to Montana Department of Ag.
  - John will send the 2018 herbicide bid requests out to Ag Depot, Helena Chemical, Crop Production Services, and Rocky Mt. Supply. He summarized the herbicides and amounts that will be included in the bid. One additional herbicide they will order this year is Esplanade for cheatgrass and Ventanata control. Vendors have until 5 pm on April 4<sup>th</sup> to submit bids, and the Board will review the sealed bids at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - The 2018 Annual Weed Manager's Meeting will be held April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Weed District office.
  - Dan Marx is contracted to spray the north roads through 2020, and NPK has the other two contracts through 2018. For the next bid request in 2019, the Weed District will likely do 3-year contracts.
  - Upcoming Events: \*The Weed District will have a booth at the Greater Yellowstone Ag Forum. \*There will be a conference call with five county Weed Districts, MSU researchers, and other agency people from Wyoming, Colorado, and Idaho to discuss Ventenata, including the potential for state-listing and the extent of the problem in Montana. Additionally, they will discuss the possibility of applying for a short term exemption from EPA that would allow for the use of Esplanade to control Ventenata on grazing lands in Montana. Currently, Esplanade does not have a grazing label. Wyoming recently received a similar exemption. \*The Southwest Area applicator training will be held in Butte on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Roundtable**
  - Discussion continued about the petition to add burdock to the county weed list. The decision will be made at the next Board meeting.

Meeting dismissed at 2:40 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant