



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

February 2, 2023 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Bernie Jones, Ed Brainard, Larry Holzworth, and Noelle Orloff (by phone).
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator) and Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner; joined the meeting at 1:35).

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present.

MINUTES: Larry moved to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes as written, Ed seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award.** Larry reported that he delivered the Landowner Recognition poster to Bridger Bowl, and they agreed to display it somewhere up there. The poster included a message about the Recognition Award, an educational message about noxious weeds, and Weed District contact information.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2023 Board Chair Appointment:** Bernie nominated Steve as the Chairman of the Weed Board for 2023. Steve nominated Larry as the Chairman. All voted and Steve was unanimously approved as the new Weed Board Chairman.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - Questions about various phone calls and emails received.
 - Updates to the Weed District Safety Policy.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner Brown did not have any news or information regarding the Weed District and welcomed any questions from the Board.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF Grants Update.** Applications were submitted for two new Local Cooperative Noxious Weed Trust Fund grants, including Lyman Creek WMA and Bill Smith WMA. In the past, the Weed District has partnered with MSU to administer these types of grants. This year the County agreed to waive the administration fees (since these costs are not eligible expenditures for the grant funds) so, if funded, these grants will be administered by the County instead of MSU. The applications were approved at the County Commission public meeting and then submitted to MDA January 5th. John passed around a list of the other projects from around the state that will also be asking for grant funds. Mike will present remotely for the Trust Fund Advisory Council grant hearings on March 6th. Steve will attend the hearings at the Delta Hotel in Helena with a landowner. Steve will tell the other landowners about the hearings in case they also want to attend, and requested that Mike send him a Zoom link so that landowners can attend remotely if possible.

- **MWCA Annual Conference.** The Annual Conference will be located in Helena on February 6-9. John, Danielle, Larry, Bernie, Steve and Noelle will attend.
- **Upcoming Events/Projects/Trainings.** Safety Fest webinars for the Department of Labor will occur the second week of March.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - Both of the county road spraying and herbicide contract bids are due March 1st and will be brought to the March 2nd board meeting for discussion. Three bids have been received so far for the road spraying contract. The herbicide contract is for one year and the road contract is for three years.
 - The Weed District has received notification about new drone spraying companies that are now working in the area. There are currently a lot of applicators in the county, which is good for receiving road spraying bids.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
 - Herbicide and roadside spraying contract bids will be opened and discussed.
 - Trust Fund grant update.

Meeting dismissed at 1:45 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: March 2, 2023, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones