



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

February 7th, 2019 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders, Noelle Orloff, Bob Hofman, and Fred Bell.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Scott MacFarlane (Commissioner), Jane Mangold (MSU Extension).

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2019 Board Appointment/Chair:** Steve nominated Keith as the new Board Chairmain, Keith accepted, and the Board approved.
- **Public Comment:** Jane Mangold discussed her recent Noxious Weed Trust Fund research proposal to fund a project addressing ventenata in Gallatin County. Ventenata is an invasive annual grass that has taken hold in the county. The project would include surveying, mapping, habitat modelling, and evaluating the effectiveness of control efforts. If funded, work would begin this summer and continue through fall of 2020.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - Discussion included recent subdivision Weed Management Plans, recent weed id inquiries, the cost of utilities the Weed Board pays, and a court case for which John will potentially be an expert witness about weed control.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner Scott MacFarlane, the new county commissioner assigned to the Weed Board, introduced himself to the board.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant.** Mike discussed the NWTF grant application, which includes the North Bridgers Weed Management Area located south of Sixteen Mile road. The WMA includes 34,000 acres and three landowners, and will focus on spraying sulfur cinquefoil, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed. \$20,000 of grant funding was requested, with landowners providing an additional \$20,000. Most spraying will be done with a helicopter. The application was submitted in January, and Mike will go to Helena on March 5th to give a short presentation to the Trust Fund Council and answer questions they have about the project.
 - **DNRC Grant with Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance.** The Weed District, in partnership with GISA and Gallatin River Task Force, was awarded an Aquatic Invasive Species grant from DNRC. They were awarded \$20,000 to put up two billboards in the Four Corners area for two years, and Jen Mohler of GISA will spearhead these activities. These billboards will aim to educate people

recreating on the Gallatin and Madison Rivers about the Clean.Drain.Dry campaign, which focuses on preventing the spread of AIS.

- **MWCA Annual Conference.** John, Mike and Danielle attended the training in Great Falls from January 7-9th. John summarized some of the things presented at the conference.
- **Side x Side and Trailer.** John purchased the 2019 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 EPS with a 4500 winch installed from Helena Cycle, and picked it up last week. He will install a spray tank on the back. He also purchased a car hauler trailer from Murdochs to haul the new Ranger.
- **Herbicide Bids.** John reviewed the herbicides that the Weed District will be purchasing this year, including Tordon (Picloram), Escort, 2,4-D, Liberate surfactant, Curtail (Clopyralid), and Glyphosate. Requests for bids will be sent out to Nutrien, Ag Depot, Rocky Mountain Supply, Helena Chemical, and Wilbur Ellis. The deadline to submit bids is April 1st, and bids will be opened at the April board meeting.
- **Drone.** John discussed future plans for the Weed District to potentially acquire a drone for mapping, site visits, and other applications. He is still waiting to hear from the county attorney about reviewing the possibility of purchasing one.
- **Road Contracts.** Bid requests were sent out to commercial applicators for two of the three county road contracts. One contract covers the Belgrade/Four Corners/Bozeman area and the other contract covers the Three Forks/Manhattan/Clarkson/Sedan area. Dan Marx currently holds the third contract until 2020. Deadline for the submission of bids is March 1st, and bids will be opened at the March board meeting. The District still sprays 13 county roads, as well as parks, gravel pits, and other county maintained properties.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - The upcoming Weed Managers meeting, and additional people and agencies that should be invited.

Meeting dismissed at 2:50 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 6th, 2019, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant