



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 2, 2020 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring and Noelle Orloff.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator), and Don Siefert (Commissioner).

MINUTES: Minutes for the December board meeting were not approved because there was not a quorum present. They will instead be reviewed at the February board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The discussion continued about ideas for changing the enforcement policy to make it more effective. Prior to the meeting, a draft was sent out to board members for review. Noelle and Keith suggested a few more changes, including adding language to expand on what is included in the process of addressing a complaint with an educational approach, clarifying how a complaint will be verified if the weed infestation cannot be observed from a public place, and defining the meaning of a 'high priority' species. Changes will be incorporated and a final draft brought to the next meeting for Board approval. There was a suggestion to get in touch with the news media to publicize the new policy. The county has a communications coordinator that could help with writing articles and Facebook posts. John summarized an email discussion with Erin Arnold from the Attorney's Office about getting an insurance policy that would indemnify contractors that do weed control treatments for enforcement. Erin advised against a policy such as this, which would mean that the Weed District would have to do enforcement treatments instead of hiring them out. Once the enforcement policy is finalized, the Weed District will attend a Monday morning Commission meeting to brief the Commissioners on the changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2020 Board Chair Appointment:** A new Weed Board Chair was not chosen because a quorum was not present. The Board Chair will be chosen at the next board meeting.
- **Public Comment:** No public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - There was a question about a citizen that had come to the Weed District because he was having issues accessing his property. The Weed District could not help him.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - There was a discussion about subdivision Weed Management Plans and the importance of the process. There are often problems with developers not following their weed plans, and there were suggestions about ways to deal with this in the future.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **North Bridgers NWTF Grant.** The North Bridgers Weed Management Area was expanded to add two more sections. Mike is waiting on budget commitments from participating landowners. The application is due on January 6th.

- **MWCA Annual Conference.** The conference will be held in Great Falls on January 14-16th. John, Mike, and Danielle will attend. Mike will present in a discussion about population growth and increased subdivision development.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - The Southwest Area of the MWCA is holding a raffle for a spotting scope.
 - The Commission will decide board assignments at their next meeting, including which Commissioner will be assigned to the Weed Board for 2020.

Meeting dismissed at 2:20 pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 6, 2020, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant