



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 5, 2023 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Bernie Jones, Ed Brainard, and Larry Holzworth.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator) and Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner).

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present.

MINUTES: Steve moved to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes as written, Larry seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award.** At the last meeting it was decided to try to further the educational impact of the Recognition Award and create a large poster that would potentially be displayed at Bridger Bowl. Larry and Danielle made a poster that included a message about the Recognition Award, an educational message about noxious weeds, and Weed District contact information. A copy of the poster was passed around for Board review. Larry volunteered to follow up with Bridger Bowl and, if they agreed to display it, deliver the poster to them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **New Board Chair Election:** It was decided that the 2023 Board Chair would be elected at the February board meeting.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - A potential Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant in the Willow Creek area. Three landowners are interested and have submitted cooperator forms. The grant application for this WMA will be submitted in 2024.
 - Drone sprayers that have been added to the applicator list. They are becoming more common.
 - The new herbicide Venue and potential impacts.
- **Commissioner Report Included:**
 - Commissioner Brown did not have any news or information regarding the Weed District, and welcomed any questions from the Board that they may have for him.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF Grants Update.** Applications were submitted yesterday for two new Noxious Weed Trust Fund grants. Lyman Creek WMA grant is requesting \$23,550 (project cost of \$47,100) and Bill Smith WMA grant is requesting \$32,000 (project cost of \$64,000). The grant hearings in front of the Advisory Council will be held in March. Mike will do the presentation at the hearings and Steve will attend with the landowners. The County Commissioners previously agreed to waive the admin fees for these grants if they are funded, so they will be administered through the county instead of MSU. These waived fees will be included as additional match money from the county. All available funds were spent out for the North Bridgers WMA 2021 grant. Funds still remain for the North Bridgers 2022 grant, and that money will be used for spraying projects in 2023. A new grant application was

not submitted this year for the North Bridgers grant. In the future, the boundaries of this WMA may be reworked and a new grant application submitted for additional work in the area.

- **Roadside Spraying Contract.** A request for bids for Contract 3 roadside spraying will be sent out next week to all known applicators. The request will also be posted on the Weed District website and on the MWCA website. Bids are due March 1 and will be reviewed at the March 2 board meeting.
- **MWCA Conference.** The Annual Conference will be located in Helena on February 6-9. John passed around the agenda and asked if any board members were interested in attending. The Weed District would cover registration and travel costs for board members to attend. Applicator credits are also available for those that attend.
- **Herbicide Bids.** A request for bids for the purchase of herbicides will be sent out next week to all known herbicide vendors. John listed the herbicides and amounts that will be purchased this year. Those bids are also due March 1.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - There will be a meeting with the Weed District, Steve, and Forest Service personnel Daren Many and Derek Stephan regarding weed management work done in the Bill Smith Creek area. Mike recently met with Jen Mohler and the Forest Service to discuss work being done in the canyon and will meet next week with them and Melissa Maggio to discuss biocontrol options in the canyon.
 - The annual Weed Managers Meeting hosted by the Weed District will be held in April.
 - Farm Fair will be held May 9 – 11. Currently 1100 fourth graders are signed up to attend. This is the 17th year for Farm Fair.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
 - Elect new Board Chair for 2023.

Meeting dismissed at 2:05 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones