



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 6, 2022 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Larry Holzworth, Bernie Jones, and Noelle Orloff (by phone).
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator). Remotely: Mike Jones (Senior Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner).

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present.

MINUTES: Steve moved to approve the November and December 2021 meeting minutes as written, Bernie seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award Finalization.** Noelle provided an updated version of the nomination form. The nomination form will be distributed with the information sheet that had previously been written up printed on the back. The nomination form will also be posted on the Weed District website when the nomination period opens up in June. Danielle will look through the past minutes and create a summary of the award program implementation details that have been decided upon to this point. She will send the summary out to board members so they can review the details and then finalize the implementation plan at the next board meeting.
- **Annual Weed Managers Meeting.** There was a discussion about whether or not to hold the annual Weed Managers meeting that is sponsored by the Weed District and usually occurs in April. The meeting has not been held since 2019 because of Covid. It was agreed that an email would be sent out to the weed managers that usually attend the meeting to gauge interest in having a meeting this year, considering the current Covid situation. If there is a lot of interest in attending the meeting, then the meeting will be planned as usual. If not, then the meeting will be postponed until next year.
- **MRL Follow-up.** There had been a discussion at a recent meeting about some weed issues with Montana Rail Link property. John reported that he contacted Rick Shelley of MRL who said that MRL will address any complaints and concerns that come in, just direct the complaints to him.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2022 Board Chair Appointment.** Steve nominated Bernie to be Chairman of the Weed Board for 2022. Larry seconded the motion and opened up the floor for discussion. After discussion, Larry asked for a vote on the nomination and all board members approved. Bernie accepted the nomination.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - Steve suggested creating a map that shows all of the subdivisions in the monthly report to help the Board Members see where development is occurring. John agreed this was a good idea, and a map will be included with the monthly report for future board meetings.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner Brown gave an update on the plans to meet with Bozeman City officials to discuss weed management in city limits and cooperation between the city and county. John, Cola, and Zach

will have coffee on the 19th with the Assistant City Manager and the Director of Parks and Recreation. John suggested inviting someone from the Street Division to the discussion as well.

- **Coordinators Report:**

- **NWTF North Bridger's Grant.** The 2022 Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant application for the North Bridgers Weed Management Area was submitted on January 5th. Two new landowners were added to the WMA this year, including Bremmer Creek Ranch and the new owners of the CA Ranch. Other landowners include Frank and Kathy Anderson, Craig Morgan, and Zade Morgan, who all participated in previous years. \$36,100 in grant funds were requested, for a total project cost of \$72,200. Most of the money will be used for helicopter spraying, but there will also be some contracted ground spraying and one landowner purchasing herbicide to do his own spraying. There were some new invaders found along the roads in the grant area last year including oxeye daisy, field scabious, leafy spurge, and hoary alyssum.
- **City/County Noxious Weed Coordination Update.** This was discussed in the Commissioner report.
- **Upcoming Events/Projects.** The Weed District will be updating the county Weed Management Plan and revising the Weed Board bylaws. Bid requests will be sent out to applicators for two county road spray contracts this year, with bids due to the Weed District by March 1st. The bids will then be reviewed at the March board meeting and a contractor chosen based on the lowest responsible bid. The herbicide bid request will be sent to distributors earlier this year because of potential herbicide shortages. Bids will be due March 1st and will be reviewed at the March board meeting as well. John will be working on equipment maintenance at the shop, including updating the rental sprayers. Steve suggested that the Weed District pay for Bernie to attend the MWCA annual meeting in Billings. Cola agreed to look into whether it is okay for the county to pay for him.
- **Cancel February Weed Board Meeting.** The scheduled February 3rd Weed Board meeting conflicts with the MWCA annual meeting. Steve moved to cancel the February board meeting, Bernie seconded, and the motion passed.

- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**

- Steve mentioned including Belgrade in the discussions with municipalities and suggested it would be good to have a manager representing the City of Belgrade at the Weed Manager's meeting.
- Larry mentioned the Triangle Trails Plan and wondered about plans for long term weed management along the trail system. The plan includes HOA's managing subdivision trails for the long term. Steve mentioned that HOA maintenance could be problematic if there is no good system in place.

- **Proposed Agenda Items:**

- Herbicide and road bid contracts
- City/county conversation update
- Recognition award, finalization of details
- Weed manager meeting update
- Bylaw revision and county WMP revision update
- Start meeting at noon next time because so many things to discuss

Meeting dismissed at 2:40 pm. Bernie moved to adjourn, Larry seconded and the motion passed.

Next scheduled meeting: March 3, 2022, 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones