



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 1, 2023 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Noelle Orloff (by phone), Bernie Jones, Ed Brainard, and Larry Holzworth.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator).

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public present.

MINUTES: Larry moved to approve the May 4, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Ed seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - Questions about the status of subdivision weed management plan submissions.
 - Questions about various phone calls and claims.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Zach was not present so there was no Commissioner report.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF Grants Update/Tour.** Mike gave an update on the status of the three Noxious Weed Trust Fund grants. The North Bridgers grant will continue this summer, with two landowners using grant funds to do helicopter, ground, and possible drone spraying. Both the Lyman Creek WMA and Bill Smith Creek WMA grants will hold landowner meetings in June. Landowners for Bill Smith will meet at the Weed District office on June 10th to discuss the logistics of the grant and plan for the summer. A field tour of the grant area will occur immediately after the meeting. A field tour with MDA will occur on June 26th and both grant areas will be toured that day. Monitoring plots will also be established at that time. MDA and Weed District staff will meet at the office at 9:15 and then the groups will split to go to the two grant areas and meet landowners and tour the areas. It was agreed that Board Members would also attend this tour of the Bill Smith WMA on the 26th if possible.
 - **Recognition Award.** There was a discussion about implementing the Landowner Recognition Award again this year. The same protocol for implementation that was used last year will also be used this year. The press release will go out to the media on the morning of June 5th and it will also run in the weekly bulletin sent out to county residents. The Belgrade News agreed to run three free ads to promote the award. Board members agreed to help distribute flyers around the county.
 - **Noxious Weed Awareness Week.** There was a discussion about plans for Noxious Weed Awareness Week which occurs June 4-10. Noxious weed related messages will be posted on the Gallatin County facebook page every day. An educational ad will run in the Belgrade News and the Ag Spotlight.

- **Past Events and Upcoming Events.** John reviewed events that had occurred over the past month, including Farm Fair at the Brainard Ranch and the Beartrap spray day. Upcoming events include the field trip at Ophir School, Gallatin River Weed Pull, MCC spray day, and a ventenata identification tour with MSU Extension, other Weed Districts, and MDT.
- **Board Tour.** This was previously discussed with the Grant Update and tour discussion. It was agreed that the grant tour would serve as the board tour and the Board members would attend if possible. The scheduled July 6th board meeting was also moved forward to June 26th and will occur at 8am before the tour.
- **Roundtable:**
 - There was a discussion about noxious weeds, including leafy spurge, on railroad ROW between Belgrade and Bozeman. There is also leafy spurge on the railroad ROW in the Clarkston area. FWP has cleaned up the spurge on their property in Clarkston pretty well. There is private land on Clarkston Road with leafy spurge also, and the Weed District will reach out to them.
 - Steve gave an update about some ventenata on Rocky Mountain Road that was sprayed a few years ago, and the sprayed area looks good.
 - There was a follow up discussion about the NRCS TIP that was mentioned at last month's board meeting. It turns out that the Inflation Reduction Act money is not available for a TIP in Gallatin County because spraying is not an approved conservation practice. Any TIP for ventenata would have to be funded through the regular EQUIP program.
 - There will be helicopter spraying for dalmation toadflax in the north part of the county this summer.
 - There was a discussion about the benefits of weed control when working to restore grass communities.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
 - Landowner award for 2023.
 - Trust Fund grant update.

Meeting dismissed at 2:20 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: June 26, 2023, 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones