



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

June 26, 2023 8:00am

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Ed Brainard, and Larry Holzworth.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no members of the public present.

**MINUTES:** Ed moved to approve the June 1, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Larry seconded and the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
  - Questions about MDT spraying along state highways.
  - Comments about the prevalence of weeds growing this year.
  - Sheep grazing black henbane flowers.
- **Commissioner Report:**
  - Zach was not present so there was no Commissioner report.
- **Coordinators Report:**
  - **Recognition Award.** No nominations have been received from the public to date. The Belgrade News will run three ads in the newspaper during the month of July, and hopefully this will help to get the word out. Board members discussed the nomination process and potential candidates. Danielle agreed to send an email out to Board members in a week or two to give an update about nominations received.
  - **Past Events and Upcoming Events.** John reviewed events that have occurred over the past month, including: Ophir School field trip and Gallatin River Weed Pull with Grow Wild; Bill Smith Creek WMA grant landowner meeting; ventenata tour on Dry Creek Road with MDT, MSU Extension, and other partners; and Gallatin Canyon spray day with Grow Wild, USFS and MCC at Upper Deer Creek Trail Head, Portal Creek, and the Moose Creek Campground. Upcoming events include a spray day with Grow Wild and residents of the Porcupine Subdivision in Big Sky, and a weed pull and ventenata mapping event along the trails in the Painted Hills area with Extension and other partners. There was a discussion about whether Jen Mohler might be interested in attending the Farmer's Market in Bozeman in the future with her trailer if she was provided additional funding to do so. Larry and Danielle agreed to mention the idea at the next Grow Wild board meeting in August.
  - **Spray Update.** John reviewed the areas that had been sprayed by the Weed District over the past few weeks, including roads, parks and other county-maintained areas.
  - **Complaints Update.** Many complaints have been received and friendly letters sent out, especially for reports of leafy spurge and poison hemlock. There were a couple of complaints received about no spray areas being sprayed by contractors. The Board agreed that it is important to make sure that landowners enrolled in the No Spray program are actually managing weeds in the right-of-way.

- **Board Tour.** A field tour with MDA and landowners will occur immediately after the Board meeting. Both Lyman Creek WMA and Bill Smith WMA grant areas will be toured. Vegetation monitoring plots will also be established at that time. Board Members will attend the tour of the Bill Smith WMA.
- **Roundtable:**
  - There was a discussion about particular weeds that are growing along roadsides, including hoary alyssum and annual pigeon grass.
  - Bob Gotshall is not spraying in West Yellowstone anymore.
  - It was decided to cancel the scheduled August Weed Board meeting. The next meeting will be in September.
  - The Weed District budget for FY24 will be approximately the same as last year with no major changes. There is usually some money left in the budget at the end of the year. There was a discussion about potential ways to use money at the end of the year (e.g. herbicide experiments along the roadside, purchasing needed equipment or herbicide, etc.).
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
  - Landowner award.

Meeting dismissed at 9:10 am.

Next scheduled meeting: September 7 2023, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones