



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

June 4, 2020 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Bob Hofman, Larry Holzworth, Keith Mainwaring and Noelle Orloff.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), and Don Seifert (Commissioner). By phone: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator).

Noelle welcomed new board member Larry Holzworth to the Weed Board, and everyone introduced themselves.

**MINUTES:** Bob moved to approve the minutes for the May board meeting, Keith seconded the motion, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- The 2020 County Weed Management Plan was approved at the most recent Commission meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, discussion included:**
  - Recent reports of Japanese knotweed in a few locations around the county.
  - Many calls have come in about horsetail management in pastures.
  - The current weed contact with the Forest Service? Danny Heim, the Range Conservationist.
- **Commissioner Report:**
  - The FY21 budget meetings will occur next week. Actual additional expenses incurred by the county due to the impacts of Covid-19 have been manageable so far.
- **Coordinators Report:**
  - **FY 2021 Budget.** John summarized the requests for the Weed District for the FY21 budget. The budget work session with the Commissioners, where these requests will be reviewed and discussed, will take place next week.
  - **Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance.** Mike summarized how Covid-19 has been impacting GISA. Funding for the nonprofit is dependent upon an allocation from the Big Sky Resort Tax, which has been hit hard by the pandemic. GISA will likely operate with significantly less funding this year.
  - **Enforcement.** Reminders were sent to the landowners with active court orders to make sure they are following through with weed control this year. One of the four property owners has already been in touch, and John will attempt to reach out to the others if he does not hear from them soon.
  - **Spray Update.** John summarized the properties that have been sprayed in the past month, including Sappington Road, Elk Creek Road, Maudlow Road West, Neinfeldt Lane, the MOR trail, the BMX

park, the Beef Producers Scale, Holdsworth Pit, Logan Park, Fort Ellis (where the county stores gravel), and some knotweed on Swamp Road.

- **Upcoming Events.** Gallatin River Weed Pull on June 13<sup>th</sup>; GISA spray days with MCC and USFS on June 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> (including the bighorn winter range and other USFS lands).
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
  - Heliworks will spray in the North Bridgers grant area in mid-June.
  - Ventenata brochures will be sent out at the end of June to approximately 130 landowners in areas with known infestations of ventenata. Mike is also putting together brochures for other noxious weed species for future mailings and outreach efforts. Don suggested getting in touch with Whitney Bermes, the communications contact for the county, to discuss ways to publicize the helpful information that exists on the Weed District website (e.g. weed management tips).
  - It was suggested to cancel the July Weed Board meeting; Bob moved to cancel meeting, Larry seconded the motion, and all approved.
  - There are numerous patches of whitetop along the railroad right-of-way between Belgrade and Bozeman; John will email the weed contact with the railroad.
  - Keith had good cheatgrass control with glyphosate, with minimal impacts to smooth brome.

Meeting dismissed at 2:30 pm

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

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones