



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 6th, 2019 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell, Noelle Orloff, and Bob Hofman.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Danielle Jones (Program Assistant).

MINUTES: Fred moved to accept the April minutes as written, Bob seconded, and all approved. Bob moved to accept the May minutes as written, Fred seconded, and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - Discussion included recent subdivision Weed Management Plans, site visits, and complaints.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner MacFarlane was not present.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Farm Fair.** The Weed District manned the weed booth on May 7th and 9th, while MSU folks were there on the 8th. 1200 fourth graders attended Farm Fair this year.
 - **Crew Training.** Mike and Danielle attended the training in Twin Bridges. Mike gave a presentation about weed id and native look-alikes, and taught the hands-on handgun calibration station. Other stations included PPE, boom sprayer calibration, and small engine maintenance.
 - **Drone Session.** Mike attended the event on May 29th, which included three speakers discussing the use of drones in agriculture. Topics included the use of drones to improve crop conditions, to map and collect data for research, and for spraying. The Weed District will be working on writing a draft drone policy for the county in the fall, and will hopefully purchase a drone sometime in FY20.
 - **BLM Beartrap Spray Day.** Mike and Danielle attended the spray day on May 30th along with around 30-40 other people. Mike noted that there seemed to be a decrease in the amount of spotted knapweed in the area, but a dramatic increase in hoary alyssum.
 - **FY 2020 Budget.** John summarized the startup budget for FY2020 and discussed the requests that will be made to increase certain budget line items. Most of the requests will be to simply get funding back that was cut from the startup budget. However, there will be a request to increase the cost share budget by \$6000 over the current budget amount. The budget for the Special County Grant will be \$16,187, including \$8687 that will rollover from this year and \$7500 in new revenue that will come in next year. Part of those Special County Grant funds will be used to purchase the drone and a new laptop next fiscal year. Budget meetings will be at the library next Wednesday or

Thursday. There were some recent year end purchases, including new tanks for the five rental sprayers, new backpack sprayers, and large poster printouts of 15 noxious weeds to use at educational events.

- **Upcoming Events.** Gallatin River Weed Pull, June 15; Bighorn Winter Range treatment, June 18-19; Rotary Weed Pull with GISA, June 13; Wildflower and Weed Walk on Peets Hill with Jane Mangold, June 27; Big Sky Community Weed Pull, June 25; Big Sky Community Organization kids camp, June 25. Next week, photo points will be taken for the North Bridgers WMA grant and the helicopter spray will occur sometime around the 3rd week in June. The Weed District will continue to work on spraying county properties; it has been a late start because of the weather.
- **Complaints.** Some friendly letters have already been sent out. No new official complaints have come in yet, but there are multiple carry-overs from last year. These include a court order for a small lot in a subdivision up Bridger Drive, and a court order for 20-30 acres of weeds in the Springhill area.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - Board members voted to cancel the scheduled July 4th board meeting. Fred moved to cancel the meeting, Noelle seconded, and all approved. The next meeting will be August 1st.
 - Mike gave an update on blueweed in the county; there is a new infestation on a property on Sourdough Ridge Road, and the Weed District is keeping tabs on that.

Meeting dismissed at 2:20 pm

Next scheduled meeting: August 1st, 2019, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant