



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 2, 2023 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Bernie Jones, Ed Brainard, and Larry Holzworth.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator) and Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner).

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present.

MINUTES: Larry moved to approve the February 2, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Bernie seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - The new weed manager at FWP that replaced Jay Pape.
 - Questions about various phone calls and emails.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner Brown reported about public comment that was received at a recent County Commission meeting for the Arnica Minor subdivision. A neighboring landowner wanted to share his concerns about weed management in the development. Historically, landowners in the area have put a lot of time and money into managing weeds and have seen significant positive results. Neighbors are hoping that the developer will also do their part to manage weeds on the property during development and after. It was a very constructive comment about how to improve and lessen the impacts of the development to surrounding areas. There is a weed management plan in place for this subdivision.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF Grant Presentations:** Mike will present two grants to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Council, including Lyman Creek WMA and Bill Smith Creek WMA, on March 6th. Mike will go over the presentation with the board members after the meeting adjourns today.
 - **MWCA Annual Conference Update.** The Annual Conference was located in Helena on February 6-9. John, Danielle, Larry, Bernie, Steve and Noelle attended. John recently purchased a used 75 gall UTV sprayer from Warne which will be added to the rental program. To save on freight costs, he was able to pick this up at the conference along with other parts and supplies.
 - **Herbicide Bids.** Herbicide bids were received from three vendors including Nutrien Solutions, Ag Depot and Helena Chemical. Ag Depot submitted the lowest bid so it was agreed to award the contract to them, per county policy.
 - **Roadside Contract Bids.** Bids for the roadside spraying contract that includes county roads in the northern part of the county were received from three commercial applicators including Monture Creek Land Management, NPK, and S&H Weed Control. S&H submitted the lowest bid so it was agreed to award the contract to them, per county policy. This is a three-year contract that starts this summer.

S&H currently has another roadside spraying contract with the county that began in 2022 which includes the roads in the Bozeman/Four Corners/Belgrade area.

- **Upcoming Events/Projects/Trainings.** John reviewed upcoming events, including the Weed Managers Meeting on April 11, Safety Fest webinars for the Department of Labor on March 6-8, the GYCC meeting on April 18-19, and Farm Fair on May 9-11.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - There was a proposal to cancel the April 6 Weed Board Meeting. After discussion, Ed moved to cancel the meeting, Bernie seconded, and the motion passed.
 - Bernie will be working some this year but will do his best to attend board meetings.
 - Steve gave an update about the recent consolidation of some major ag companies that do aerial spraying.
 - Ed mentioned that it would be a good idea to try to get the word out about the rental sprayer program. Some suggestions were to put up flyers at retailers, put an ad in the Belgrade News, and get the word out in newsletters and on county social media.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
 - Landowner award for 2023.
 - Trust Fund grant update.
 - Summer tour for board members.

Meeting dismissed at 2:10 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: May 4, 2023, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones