



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 3, 2022 12:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders (arrived 12:35), Larry Holzworth, and Bernie Jones.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator; left at 1:15). Remotely: Mike Jones (Senior Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner; arrived 1:00).

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present.

MINUTES: Larry moved to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes as written, Steve seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award Finalization.** Before the meeting, the board was given a summary of the award implementation plan which included all of the details discussed up to this point. This information was gleaned from past meeting minutes. Board members reviewed the plan and suggested minor changes. Larry moved to accept the plan with the suggested changes, Bernie seconded, and all approved. The next step is to provide Whitney (County Communications Coordinator) with information to create a press release about the award and nomination process. Danielle agreed to send her a copy of the flyer that has all of the pertinent information about the award. The group suggested ideas for how to publicize the award and nomination process, including: distribute the flyer and nomination form around the county; send the information to associations such as the Beef Producers, Farm Bureau, or AGAI; and invite KBZK to help publicize the award and recognize the winner (Steve will follow up with this). There was a discussion about giving the award posthumously, and everyone agreed that would be fine.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - The first complaint of the season
 - A potential WMA in the Bridger Canyon Road area
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - There was a discussion about the current board vacancy; Steve and Zach both agreed to reach out to Walt Sales to see if he would be interested in applying. The annual water meeting will happen at the Courthouse on April 5 or 6. Zach may attend the annual Ag Appreciation Dinner on March 11, and he agreed to mention the Weed Management Award to the group.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF North Bridger's Grant.** Mike reported on the status of the 2022 Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant application. He will give a presentation about the project to the Trust Fund Advisory Council on March 8. Five landowners have signed up to participate. The requested budget is \$39,000, which had been revised to reflect increased herbicide costs. The project will include a combination of helicopter and ground work. If successful, this would be the fourth year of funding for this WMA.

- **City/County Noxious Weed Coordination Update.** John gave an update about a recent meeting with the City of Bozeman. Those in attendance were the Weed District, Mitch Overton and Thom White of the City Parks Department, Jon Vandelinder of the Streets Department, and Jane Mangold of MSU. The recently established Parks and Trails District provides a funding source for maintenance, which will allow the City to be more proactive in the future. The new District will eventually assume responsibility for the maintenance of all of the subdivision parks in Bozeman. Treatment of ventenata on Peets Hill was suggested as a future cooperative project. Zach mentioned that he had proposed the idea of pursuing a joint Weed Management Plan with the cities of Bozeman and Belgrade at the last Planning Coordination Council meeting, and everyone at the meeting seemed to be open to the idea.
- **Weed Managers Meeting.** An email was sent out to past attendees to gauge interest in having a Weed Managers Meeting this year. Most people were interested, so the meeting was planned for April 26 and a 'save the date' was emailed out.
- **Herbicide Bids.** Three distributors submitted bids for providing herbicide to the Weed District in 2022. Nutrien Solutions had the lowest bid at \$23,244.20, and they were awarded the contract.
- **Roadside Spraying Bids.** Two road options were up for bid, with each option including a specified set of county roads. Five contractors submitted bids. S&H Weed Control submitted the lowest bid (\$46,057) for option 1 and 4M Weed Control submitted the lowest bid (\$39,544) for option 2, so they were awarded the contracts. The county provides the herbicide to the contractors.
- **Gallatin County Weed Management Plan.** The revised plan was distributed, and everyone was asked to bring comments and suggested changes for discussion at the April board meeting. The plan could be approved at the April or May board meeting, depending on if there were changes to be made. Revisions to the plan include adding Weed Management Plan regulations to 'Building for Lease or Rent' developments, based on a resolution that was recently passed. The cost share program was also revised so that annual eligibility will be based on the calendar (not fiscal) year.
- **Weed Board Bylaws.** Everyone was asked to review the revised bylaws and bring comments and suggested changes for discussion at the April board meeting. The bylaws were substantially updated and reworded to more accurately reflect how the board operates. Most of the content is based on state statute. Steve asked about potential liability for board members related to the work they do for the board. Montana code states that board members are protected from personal liability.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - Steve mentioned the resurfacing project planned for Rocky Mountain road and how it could impact the weed situation along the county road.
 - Steve suggested having a 'walk and talk' facilitated by the Weed District that was focused on herbicide use and environmental stewardship. It was decided to suggest this to partners, including the City of Bozeman and MDT, at the upcoming Weed Managers Meeting.
- **Proposed Agenda Items:**
 - Approve county weed plan and bylaws if possible.
 - Steve suggested having monthly updates about County-City coordination efforts. Everyone agreed that this is a good idea but probably not necessary for the April meeting because the Weed Managers meeting at the end of April will be the next time we talk to officials from the cities.

Meeting dismissed at 2:05 pm. Next scheduled meeting: April 7, 2022, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones