



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 7, 2024 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

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

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

MINUTES: Bernie moved to approve the January 4, 2024 meeting minutes, Ed seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **MDT Discussion.** At the last meeting, there was a discussion about meeting with MDT weed managers to discuss weed management along state roads. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the annual Weed Managers Meeting in April. John shared that he learned that Dan Skattum, the MDT weed manager for the region and our main contact, had recently retired. Ted Jones from MDT was invited to attend the annual Weed Managers Meeting, and hopefully he will be able to make it or will send someone in his place. If it seems like more discussion is necessary after the meeting, a follow-up meeting with MDT can be requested.
- **New Board Member.** Jane Mangold was appointed to the Weed Board at the Commission meeting on March 5. She introduced herself and board members welcomed her and provided general information about the background and procedures of the Weed Board.
- **Weed Managers Meeting Agenda.** John reviewed the draft agenda for the annual Weed Managers Meeting that will occur on April 16 at 9am at the Weed District office. The official invitation and agenda will be sent out to weed managers in the area at the beginning of April.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - The subdivision weed management plans that have been recently received seem to encompass smaller subdivisions. There was a discussion about the types of applications that are being received by Planning, and how growth is being encouraged in the county.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Zach provided an update on county issues, including the Fairgrounds Master Plan and how potential changes might influence the Weed District, a Board Training event in October sponsored by the the Local Government Center that Weed Board members may attend, and other county business.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Grants Update.** There will be a meeting on March 20 of the participants in the Bill Smith Grant for coordination of spraying efforts for the upcoming season. The Trust Fund hearing for the Willow Creek WMA grant will be held on March 19 and Mike will present. There will be some money remaining to be spent this summer for the North Bridgers Grant and the Lyman Creek Grant as well.
 - **MWCA Annual Conference.** John, Danielle, Steve, Bernie, and Ed attended, and it was a good meeting. Next year it will be held earlier in February in Great Falls.

- **Herbicide Bids.** Bids were received from three herbicide vendors, including Nutrien Solutions (\$19,526.60), Helena Ag Enterprises (\$19,503.58), and Ag Depot Inc. (\$19,052.30). It was clarified that Sensipro WSB is the brand of blue dye that will be purchased, and the three bids received all had Sensipro as the quoted dye. It was agreed that the contract would go to the lowest bid, Ag Depot.
- **Landowner Recognition Award.** The landowner Recognition award had previously been scheduled for the June 4 County Commission meeting, but it turns out that that date will not work for the recipient. It was decided to reschedule the award ceremony for the June 11 Commission meeting instead, and Board members will make an effort to be there.
- **Upcoming Events/Projects/Trainings.** Danielle will join Elizabeth from Extension for a talk on weed id and management at the Manhattan Saloon on the 12th. One pesticide credit will be offered to attendees. The MWCA sponsored Western Weed Managers meeting will be in Missoula at the end of the month.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - Ed gave an update on spray activities in his area for the upcoming season.
 - There was a discussion about the great work that Grow Wild does in Gallatin County.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
 - Discussion about a potential Board tour this spring.

Meeting dismissed at 2:45 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: April 4, 2024, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones