



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 4, 2023 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Noelle Orloff, Ed Brainard, and Larry Holzworth.
Others: John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Jen Mohler (Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jen Mohler, Executive Director of Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, gave an update about the organization, reviewed the annual report, and summarized upcoming events. GISA will rebrand and change its' name to Grow Wild this year.

MINUTES: There was a discussion about the current weed manager at FWP since Jay Pape recently left the organization. It was suggested that the Weed District reach out to the FWP biologist about the ventenata grant activities that are occurring in the north end of the Bridgers since she may be interested in becoming a partner. There was a question about the bids for the herbicide contract, and John clarified that Ag Depot had the low bid and was awarded the contract. Larry moved to approve the March 2, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Ed seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Steve gave an update on the status of the Bill Smith Creek WMA grant. Landowners in the grant area will receive cost share funds to treat sulfur cinquefoil and ventenata this summer. Steve is in the process of setting up a meeting with landowners to provide information, answer questions and plan spraying efforts. It was proposed that the meeting be held on June 1 at 10 am in the Weed District conference room followed by a field tour with MDA staff and other partners. This landowner meeting and tour will be combined with the scheduled board meeting so that board members can attend as well. The board business meeting will occur at 9 am before the meeting. However, this date will need to be confirmed with MDA staff to make sure it will work for them before this change in the time of the board meeting is finalized.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - Questions about the status of subdivision weed management plan submissions.
 - Questions about various phone calls and claims.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Zach had a question about cheatgrass in a subdivision that is being developed in the city limits. John explained that all subdivisions in the city should have a Weed Management Plan with the county, but it is hard to keep track of. However, cheatgrass is not technically a noxious weed, so it cannot be regulated by the county.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF Grants.** Both the Lyman Creek WMA and Bill Smith Creek WMA grant requests received full funding from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Council. Meetings with landowners are currently being planned. The meeting with Lyman Creek landowners will likely occur on June 26th and will

include an informational meeting followed by a field tour of properties. The North Bridgers grant will also continue this summer, with two landowners using grant funds to do spraying.

- **Annual Weed Managers Meeting.** The annual Gallatin County Weed Managers meeting was held in the Weed District conference room on April 11. About 25 people attended, with many agencies being represented. It was a good time to connect with the many new weed managers in the county.
- **Recognition Award.** There was a discussion about implementing the Landowner Recognition Award again this year. The same protocol for implementation that was used last year will also be used this year, including sending out a press release, posting flyers and nomination forms at local businesses, posting on the website and county social media outlets, and placing an ad in the Belgrade News. Board members agreed to help distribute flyers around the county. There was a suggestion about potentially looking for a business sponsor to partner with for the award in the future.
- **Summer Board Tour.** The summer board tour was discussed in Old Business with the grant update. Board participation in the grant tour on June 1 will serve as a tour for the summer.
- **Upcoming Events.** John reviewed upcoming events including Farm Fair, the Gateway Youth Group education event, Beartrap spray day, and a ventenata identification tour with MSU Extension, other Weed Districts, and MDT.
- **Roundtable:**
 - Steve discussed a meeting that occurred with NRCS last week about developing a TIP through the EQUIP program that would target the management of invasive annual grasses in Gallatin County. There are funds available for this program through the Inflation Reduction Act. Private landowners enrolled in the program would be eligible for cost share money to help with herbaceous weed control and other conservation practices. The TIP needs to be written and approved first before money can be available to landowners. Ed is familiar with the TIP process and explained a little bit of how it works.
 - Steve attended the Sweetgrass County Weed Summit hosted by Extension and Weed District. He suggested that a similar meeting in Gallatin County could possibly be an opportunity for collaboration with Extension in the future.
 - Ed mentioned that the Sixteen Mile area experienced a lot of flooding this year, so there will likely be an influx of weeds up there. Toadflax, knapweed, and leafy spurge are the main weeds that they are fighting.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**
 - Landowner award for 2023.
 - Trust Fund grant update.

Meeting dismissed at 2:10 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: June 1, 2023, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones