



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 3, 2022 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award.** There was a question about the media coverage for the winner of the Recognition Award. Bridger Bowl and Gallatin County both posted the award on Facebook and the county also issued a news release to media outlets. The discussion continued about potentially installing a sign up at Bridger Bowl to commemorate them as the winners of the 2022 Noxious Weed Management Award. Bridger Bowl had not yet been contacted about the idea of the sign because it was not clear how the sign would be paid for, so further discussion was needed. Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance had installed similar educational signs along Highway 191 that were 4' x 8'. The cost of those four signs was \$1300. There is no money left in the Weed District budget to pay for the sign. The original budget for the award line item was \$500, and most of that has already been spent on advertising and purchasing the plaque and Leatherman tools. There was a discussion about other options that would not cost so much. It was decided that a large poster would be created by the Weed District that would include a message about the Recognition Award as well as an educational message about noxious weeds. Bridger Bowl would then be contacted about displaying the poster in a prominent location, such as the display case in the lodge. Larry and Danielle agreed to follow up with this.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - Bozeman Landcare, one of the contractors that sprays the county roadsides, called to say that they will be moving out of state and will not be able to spray the county roads for the remainder of their contract. There was one year left on the contract. John will send out a request for bids to applicators in January for a new three-year road spraying contract for the area. This contract is for the roads north of Belgrade.
- **Commissioner Report Included:**
 - Commissioner Brown was not present.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **NWTF Grants Update.** Reports are being finalized for the North Bridgers WMA grant. There will be two new grant applications submitted by the Weed District this year, including the Lyman Creek WMA near the M trailhead and the Bill Smith Creek WMA on the west side of the Bridgers between Corbly Gulch Road and the North Cottonwood trailhead. The Lyman Creek WMA will focus on ventenata, leafy spurge and other noxious weeds. Steve has been working with landowners in the Bill

Smith Creek WMA, and they will focus on managing ventenata and sulfur cinquefoil. There are two larger acreage landowners, and the rest have smaller parcels. There are approximately 1400 acres of ventenata in the area and much of it is 100 percent cover. The US Forest Service has land adjacent to the WMA and they will be contacted to get their support of the project. The FS ground is very steep and inaccessible. They will hold a landowner meeting on November 19th to talk about the grant and hand out information. The Weed District will participate in the meeting. Jill Allen from Jefferson County mentioned a landowner she has previously worked with in her county that might be interested in a grant in Gallatin County near Willow Creek. This would likely be a grant for 2024.

- **Spray Update.** John summarized the areas that were touched-up in October including county roads and properties. There was a discussion about an area with knapweed along Dry Creek Road about a mile south of Maudlow and the feasibility of effectively spraying weeds in winter.
- **Risk and Safety Overview Meeting.** The county hired a new Risk and Safety Manager in the HR department. John met with him to show him the shop and talk about the new county safety program.
- **Spray Contract.** This was already discussed in the monthly report section.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - Both Steve and Larry are up for Board renewal at the end of the year. They both said they would reapply.
 - It was decided to cancel the scheduled December 1st board meeting.
 - There was a discussion about the merits of using the herbicide Duracor instead of Milestone.

Meeting dismissed at 2:20 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: January 5, 2023, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones