



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 7, 2019 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Fred Bell, Noelle Orloff, and Bob Hofman.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Program Assistant), Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator), and Glenn Cloclough (Private Applicator).

MINUTES: Fred moved to accept the October minutes as written, Bob seconded, and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The discussion continued about ideas for changing the enforcement policy. Mike summarized the workload priorities for the Weed District, discussed problems and challenges with the current policy, reviewed the current enforcement policy and process, and suggested changes that could make the policy more effective, efficient, and fair. It was emphasized that changes to the enforcement policy are important because they would free up time for other priorities and programs that have a large scale impact on weeds in the county, such as monitoring the implementation of weed management plans for subdivision developments or helping residents that are interested in controlling weeds on their property. The board provided initial ideas and comments about the suggested changes to the policy, and added some of their own. It was agreed that the board members will all think about the suggested changes that Mike outlined, and be prepared to provide comments about each at the next meeting. John suggested that the process going forward should be to gather ideas from the board, propose changes based on those ideas, write the proposed changes into the policy, have the board approve the new policy, then take the policy to a meeting with the Commissioners. It was suggested to meet with the Commissioners before spending a lot of time rewriting the policy, in order to gauge their general level of support for the proposed changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** Glenn Cloclough gave a brief introduction and statement of interest.
- **Monthly Report Q&A:**
 - Discussion included the status of the blueweed infestation on a property in Gallatin County; the property was recently sprayed.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner MacFarlane was not present.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **FY20 Budget.** Final appropriations for FY20 were released, and John reviewed the budget. The Weed District had requested that cost share funds be increased from \$4,000 to \$10,000, and it seemed that this request was approved at the budget meetings, but the final appropriation for that line item is \$4,000. There was a slight decrease in capital reserve funds, which was not fully understood because this is supposed to be a savings account and money was not spent from this line item in FY19. There was a discussion about the revenue account associated with enforcement payments to the Weed District. It is unclear where the money goes after it is deposited. It would be

good to get an expense or savings account established where that enforcement money could be stored for paying for future enforcement costs. The FY20 budget for the Special County Grant will be \$15,258, which includes the annual \$7500 revenue plus the money rolled over from FY19.

- **Spray Update.** In partnership with the City of Bozeman and GVLTL, the Gallatin Rec Area was toured and surveyed for common buckthorn, an invasive species on the state noxious weed list. The Weed District did a foliar spray on the small seedlings coming up in the understory, then returned the following week with GVLTL and City of Bozeman to cut down the larger trees. This will likely be a long-term cooperative project, since the infestation at the Rec Area is extensive and there were a lot of berries on the trees that were cut down. Other sites in Bozeman that are infested with buckthorn include Peets Hill and Drinking Horse. John summarized the areas and roads that were sprayed for noxious weeds in October, including the dog park at the Regional Park and the Logan Landfill. The Weed District will bill the Landfill for that spraying, as well as for the spraying done there last year.
- **Complaints/Enforcement Update.** Mike and John did a court ordered treatment on Meadow Creek Partners property, spraying approximately 25 acres. The invoice for the spraying has not yet been paid by the landowner, so will likely be added to their taxes. There will be a few complaints that carry over to next year.
- **MDA Training.** John attended the MDA recertification training in Bozeman on October 23rd and summarized some of the topics discussed.
- **GYCC Meeting.** Mike and Danielle attended the annual GYCC meeting at the Fish Hatchery in Bozeman on October 23rd.
- **SW Area Meeting.** Mike and Danielle attended a phone conference for the meeting. At the meeting, the Southwest Area Weed Districts gave updates about their programs, and discussed plans for the upcoming commercial applicator and crew trainings. The Commercial Applicator training will be in early February in Whitehall.
- **Cost Share Policy.** A request recently came in for a cost share reimbursement that included reseeding costs for an area previously sprayed for weeds. The board discussed whether reseeding costs should be eligible for cost share funds, because they currently are not covered in the policy. Noelle moved that reseeding should not be covered in the cost share policy, Bob seconded the motion and all four board members approved. The motion passed.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - Fees charged by the District when doing enforcement cases. The law restricts the amount of allowed fees and charges, which makes it difficult to increase them.
 - Budget revenue.

Meeting dismissed at 3:00 pm

Next scheduled meeting: December 5th, 2019, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones, Program Assistant