



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 1, 2020 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Keith Mainwaring, Steve Saunders and Noelle Orloff. Absent: Bob Hofman and Larry Holzworth.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Mike Jones (Senior Assistant Coordinator-by phone).

MINUTES: Keith moved to approve the September 2020 meeting minutes, Steve seconded the motion, and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion continued about the Subdivision Weed Management Plan disclaimer. A statement was added to the WMP form to emphasize the importance of following the label when using herbicides. Additionally, educational information about the herbicide carryover issue was added to the website.
- Discussion continued about the frequency of board meetings. The Weed Board bylaws state that meetings will be held monthly. There was general agreement that it would be best to continue to follow the schedule outlined in the bylaws, and if needed, cancel meetings on a case by case basis.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, discussion included:**
 - Questions were answered about recent Subdivision Weed Management Plans.
 - Landowners in the Rocky Mountain Road area have been working together to control ventenata on private land. The Weed District has provided cost share to many of these landowners. There was a discussion about the importance of cleaning equipment to limit the spread of ventenata seeds to uninfested areas.
 - Canada thistle is in full seed now, and it may be a good time to do some outreach to landowners.
 - Questions about how to deal with death camas in a horse pasture.
- **Commissioner Report:**
 - Commissioner Seifert was not present.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Spray Update.** John summarized the roads and areas that were sprayed by the Weed District in September, including the Logan Landfill, touchups on county roads, the Regional Park & dog park, the Fairgrounds, and West Yellowstone roads and areas.
 - **Complaints Update.** The number of complaints have been declining as the weather gets cooler. The complaints that came in were mostly about Canada thistle and common tansy.

- **Bridger Foothills Fire.** The Weed District will reach out to landowners impacted by the Bridger Fire to offer help with managing noxious weeds. There was a discussion about possible funding sources to help private landowners with weed control costs after the fire, including emergency fire grants through the Trust Fund, regular Trust Fund grants, or potentially the Bridger Foothills Relief Fund. NRCS has the EQUIP program, but it takes a lot of planning to secure these funds, so this program is probably not an option for short-term help. Mike attended a webinar that provided information to landowners about recovery after the fire, which included some mention of the importance of controlling weeds. Mike drove through the fire area and did see some spotted knapweed regeneration already. The Forest Service is applying for funding to do weed control work on FS land that was disturbed by the fire. They had done some weed mapping on FS property before the fire, and this data may be helpful for informing control efforts on private land also. It was decided that the Weed District would send a letter to all landowners impacted by the fire to assess the potential interest in developing a Weed Management Area and applying for a Trust Fund grant. There was also a discussion about the potential for requesting funds from the county to provide additional cost share money for those impacted by the fire. The Weed District will also reach out to landowners through Facebook and potentially contact the Bridger Canyon Owners Association. Information about fire resources has already been added to the Weed District website.
- **North Bridgers WMA Grant.** The landowners in the North Bridgers WMA have submitted reimbursement paperwork for spraying done in 2020. All of the grant funds were spent. The Weed District will submit another Trust Fund grant application for a third year of spraying in the WMA.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - The Weed District sold two 500 gallon spray tanks that were not being used anymore for \$500 each.
 - Upcoming events: Buckthorn removal with GVLTA at the East Gallatin Rec Area and Ophir school event with GISA.
 - The Gallatin County Extension Agriculture Agent position is now vacant.

Meeting dismissed at 2:40 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 5, 2020, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones