



Gallatin County Weed Board

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 1, 2022 1:15 pm

ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Steve Saunders, Bernie Jones, Ed Brainard and Larry Holzworth. Noelle Orloff attempted to attend by conference phone, but the conference line was not working.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator), Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator), Glenn Colclough (Commercial Applicator) and Jen Mohler (Executive Director, Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance). Remotely: Mike Jones (Assistant Coordinator) and Zach Brown (Commissioner).

The new board member, Ed Brainard, was welcomed and everyone introduced themselves.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Recognition Award.** Details were discussed for presenting the award to the winners, John VanHouten and Josh Thompson of Bridger Bowl Ski Area. It was agreed that the award would be presented by the Commissioners at the October 4th Commission Public Meeting and that Board members and Weed District staff would attend. A press release will be sent out by the county Communications Coordinator to notify the media about the award winner, and the Weed Board members will receive a copy of this release when it comes out. Steve agreed to contact KBZK to potentially set up a TV interview up at Bridger Bowl to heighten the awareness of the award and noxious weeds in general. A perpetual plaque for the courthouse wall will also be ordered. One of the Commissioners (likely Joe, the Chair) will present the award certificate to the winner. Someone from the Weed Board will also say a few words in support of the award winner. Two leathermen tools have been purchased and engraved and will be presented to the winners as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** Glenn Colclough introduced himself. Jen Mohler gave a summary of the annual report for Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, Discussion Included:**
 - Subdivision weed management plans have slowed down.
 - There have been many calls and complaints about Canada thistle.
- **Commissioner Report Included:**
 - Discussion about the Landowner Recognition Award and presenting at the October 4th public Commission meeting.
 - Recap of the status of collaboration between the county and city regarding weed control.
- **Coordinators Report:**
 - **Possible New NWTF Grant.** Last spring the Weed District was approached by a landowner in the Brass Lantern area that was interested in applying for a Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant. Four landowners in the area are interested in participating. They have been battling leafy spurge for years.

The area encompasses about a section of land, and the landowners have previously been working with an applicator to spray their properties. Mike, John, and Danielle are scheduled to meet with the landowners next week to discuss the process, talk about how to move forward, and tour the area.

- **Complaints Update.** There have been many complaints coming in, mostly about knapweed and thistle. Many friendly letters have been sent out. One formal letter was sent out to a landowner in the West Yellowstone Area. The landowner has contacted a commercial applicator to treat the property.
- **Peet's Hill Ventenata.** John, Mike, and Jane Mangold met up on Peet's Hill to look at ventenata. There is much more than they originally thought (over 3 acres). John would probably not be able to spray it all, so he talked to the City of Bozeman and they hired a commercial applicator to do a Rejuvra treatment on the area. The MSU Weed Ecology class will do long term monitoring of the area that was sprayed. There was a discussion about how widespread ventenata is becoming in Gallatin County, especially on the west side of the Bridgers and in South Bozeman. Steve suggested doing another ventenata field trip at some point. Mike is meeting with GVLTA at Triple Tree to talk about ventenata infestations along the trail system there and discuss management options.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
 - The contracted sprayers are done treating the county roads for the season, so let John know before September 15 if any of the roads need to be touched up. John provided an overview of how the road contracts are split up between contractors.
 - Steve discussed the importance of applicators cleaning equipment after spraying ventenata to prevent spread. It was suggested that the Weed District could do some outreach about this topic to applicators and others that work in areas with noxious weeds in general. Danielle will look into the 'Work Clean Go' campaign and see if this message is something that could be used for this kind of outreach.
 - Mike gave a blueweed update. Earlier in the summer, the Weed District met with the applicator who is managing the property and found 2 blueweed plants that were later pulled. The District will continue to follow up with the owner of the property.
 - Ed discussed infestations of dalmatian toadflax in the north end of the county that started showing up 5 or so years ago. Hundreds of acres have been sprayed so far this year.
 - The Weed District does certified gravel inspections every year. TMC is the only gravel company certified in the county and their pits look good.
- **Proposed Agenda Items:**
 - Update on Commission meeting award presentation.

Meeting dismissed at 3:20 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: October 6, 2022, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Jones