



## Gallatin County Weed Board

### Regular Monthly Meeting

September 3, 2020 1:15 pm

#### ATTENDEES:

- **Board members:** Larry Holzworth, Keith Mainwaring and Noelle Orloff. Absent: Bob Hofman and Steve Saunders.
- **Others:** John Ansley (Coordinator), Danielle Jones (Assistant Coordinator), and Don Seifert (Commissioner). By phone: Mike Jones (Senior Assistant Coordinator) and Cola Rowley (Deputy County Administrator).

**MINUTES:** Larry moved to approve the June 2020 meeting minutes, Keith seconded the motion, and all approved. Keith moved to approve the August 2020 meeting minutes, Larry seconded the motion, and all approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion continued about the issue of herbicide carryover, which has affected many residents in Gallatin County this year, and the role of the Weed District for providing education to the public about the issue. Herbicide contamination seems to originate in added topsoil and soil amendments such as manure. Herbicide carryover may be an issue for subdivisions when distributing topsoil that has been treated with herbicide, or for county residents purchasing topsoil or soil amendments. It was decided that the Weed District would include a statement in the subdivision weed management plan about the importance of following the label when using herbicides. Additionally, it was decided that educational materials that include best management practices for reducing herbicide carryover would be added to the Weed District website to provide general information to residents about the issue.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.
- **Monthly Report Q&A, discussion included:**
  - There have been a lot of inquiries recently about purslane growing in gardens.
  - Ventenata was found along the right-of-way of Jones Road. The infestation extended about 1/3 mile along the road and Mike treated it.
- **Commissioner Report:**
  - The FY 2021 final budget was recently approved.
- **Coordinators Report:**
  - **Spray Update.** Mike continues to spray the roads around Sedan, and John sprayed roads in the Bozeman area and touched up a few county roads. John also sprayed the Bozeman convenience site roads and hillsides for ventenata.
  - **Complaints Update.** The Weed District is sending out educational letters to landowners in response to complaints. Complainants are generally okay with going the educational route. The feedback

received suggests that these educational letters have been effective, with many landowners treating their weeds after receiving the letter. In the future, it may be a good tactic to try educational methods first before legal enforcement because it may result in more long term buy-in from landowners.

- **Ventenata Update.** Many landowners that received the informational ventenata brochure in the mail have recently called the office, and many of them have been working with commercial applicators to spray the ventenata on their property. Quite a few cost share applications have been received for help with the cost of spraying ventenata. Ideally, more than \$200 in cost share money would be available to those people spraying ventenata over large acreages since the treatment is so expensive, but the cost share budget is limited. Few other options for cost share are available right now for landowners. The NRCS TIP for ventenata is still in the works.
- **County Contracted Roads.** All of the contracted county roads have been sprayed. The 2020 contracts end on September 15<sup>th</sup>, so any touchups need to be requested before then. Mike reported a large patch of yellow toadflax that he sprayed on Petterson Road and mentioned that toadflax seems to be expanding in that part of the county. Larry asked about the spraying of non-target broadleaf plants on the rights-of-way. Some of the contractors manage the roadsides just for grass because it is most efficient and ensures that noxious weeds will not be missed.
- **Roundtable, Discussion Included:**
  - John attended the Audubon Society burdock management event on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - West Yellowstone roads and properties will be sprayed again next week, and the Dog Park and the Regional Park will be sprayed in September. John and Mike will continue to touch up county roads.
  - The medusahead that was found on the Fairgrounds last year has not returned. John treated the infested areas with Esplanade last year.
  - There was a discussion about the possibility of changing the frequency of the monthly Weed Board meetings. The board members decided to wait to have the discussion until all of the board members were present at the next meeting.
  - Bremer Creek is still a county road, but there will probably be new travel and vehicle restrictions. These restrictions should not impact weed control activities on the road.
  - Links to the Weed District webpage and services have been posted on the Gallatin County facebook page.

Meeting dismissed at 2:25 pm

Next scheduled meeting: October 1, 2020, 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Jones