

Ravalli County Weed District

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WEED BOARD MEETING ON 10/8/2013

Members present: Randy Maxwell, Lance Brown, Rob Meyers, Diane Bessler-Hacket, Tim Tackes, Gil Gale, and Kellieann Morris.

Others present: Shane Arnott.

Approval of 5/14/13 Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the 5/14/13 meeting were emailed to all board members. Randy motioned to approve and Lance seconded the motion, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Board Reports: None

Forest Service Report: Gil met with the commissioners to place more money into the participating agreement. They moved to and accepted it. Gil talked about the "Western Montana New Invader Initiative" is still moving forward. Its goal is to look invasive species in a broader scale in a wide region looking at weeds like rush skeletonweed, yellow star thistle and dyers woad. Gil also commented of the Gold Pan fire which he said is mostly a mosaic and didn't burn hot in all areas. Kellie asked if the weed district should apply for money for the Montana portion of the fire. Gil said that she could check into it but only a small portion of the fire burnt into the Montana and it was low intensity.

Coordinators Report: Kellie emailed her report to the board. Lance said he liked the fact it was to the point. Randy said that he had been getting call from Linda Habeck on the hoary alyssum and the complaint she filed on a neighbor. She did leave Randy a message that the property had been sprayed. Randy asked that Kellie to call Linda to fill her in on the complaint property. There was another letter in the paper about Wilcox lane concerning the weeds and mowing. This was based on a misunderstanding because she asked for the road to be mowed which the road department handles.

Education Report: None

Old Business:

- **Any other old business:** – None

New Business:

- **New Assistant:** – Kellie said that Reba our administrative assistant moved away and we have hired Gina for that position. She will start October 21st. Gina is a good match for the weed district with her knowledge of weed management.
- **Bio-control program:** Melissa has been hired by Missoula County Weed district as their new Bio-control coordinator and program. They want their program to be statewide. Kellie feels that our Bitterroot Bio-control program helped start it all and now she would like to get input from the board on what direction she should take her program if at all. Rob asked how the program is funded to pay these students to run it, which is through grant money along with donations for the bugs. Randy asked how many students are employed in the program which Kellie responded 8 students. Lance asked if it was still Darby and Victor students which Kellie replied that they opened it up last year to all the schools in the county. Lance further asked if Josette at Stevi had been contacted which Kellie said she does not know yet what's happening with the program. The board generally felt that we should take the program to the next level. We need someone to run it and take it further. One option might be Alex who was a bright kid from this past season or maybe our new girl (Gina) but not at only 18 hours a week. Tim suggested that Kellie talk with Melissa about her plans in Missoula and how she sees her program running and report back. Rob asked if he could see the budget for the program and Kellie said she can get it from the finance ladies at the county.
- **MRL weed plan:** Kellieann had a visit with a landowner who wants to complain on the MRL and the tracks. Kellie called Rick Shelly at MRL and asked him what his plans were for weed control which he responded that he didn't have a budget for it. But we have to have a plan because it is getting really bad. Rick said that they would only work on the track from Victor north since Victor south is abandoned. So Kellie asked if they still own it or what. Rob said they would have to deed it to the county which may not

have been done. Kellie wants to take pictures and tell them it needs to be treated twice a year. Lance said this needs to be from the weed board. In the mean time we need to check on land ownership of MRL.

- **MDT – seeding:** Kellie said this year she did not go to the MDT meeting this year and the result was she got more money from them. Kellie requested to use this extra money for reseeding. There are some sections of very infested kochia on eastside and throw some seed out and covering it with straw (weed free straw) or maybe deer compost from MDT. Kellie said she is checking into some good seed. The board says to find a stretch, maybe an unseeded section of 93 to give it a try
- **New Subdivisions/Gravel Pit Reviews:** None
- **Other new business:** This is the last week for one of our seasonal and will soon be the end of spraying.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM. Next meeting will be on November 12th at 7:00 PM.

Approved

11/12/13

Respectively submitted,
Shane Arnott