

Lewis & Clark County Weed District Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

1:00 PM

Weed Conference Room

Present:

Tom Thompson – Chairman
Rob McDonough – Vice Chairman
Orville Johnson - Member
Chuck Butler - Member
Steve Johns – Member
Bob Bushnell - Member

Eric Griffin – Public Works
Greta Dige – City Code Enforcement
Susan Good Geise - BoCC
Larry Hoffman - Coordinator

Call to Order: -

Introductions: - Tom Thompson – None needed

Minutes: Rob McDonough made a motion to approve as sent. Bob Bushnell seconded. Approved.

Budget Report/Claims: - Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve and pay all bills. Rob McDonough seconded. Approved. Mention: Purchase of pickup and copier – in the process.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence:

- MDOA – Need to update five (5) year weed management plan. Discuss and approval at November meeting
- Eric Bryson –
- Attorney Note – Paul Stahl.

REPORTS:

BoCC – Susan Good Geise – El Paso – grandson – congratulations. Safety initiative to the people. Billion dollars remains from Katrina – Lewis and Clark County is asking for \$50 million plus flood planning dollars. 250 million dollars on fires indicated at Choteau Meeting. Good job by Bob Bushnell on fire with Lincoln residence.

Public Works – Eric Griffin – Finishing projects and getting ready for winter. Four projects in the making. Engineer, Scratch gravel, Mechanic needed plus others. Public Works – 16% of the staff of county 32% of the county dollars.

City of Helena – Greta Dige – mowed 271.5 hours, pulled 1500-2000 lbs of weeds, City staffed sprayed 2791 gallons of herbicide (mix), Contractor sprayed 270 acres, Grant has 14 participants with 2 pending reimbursement

Board Reports:

Augusta Area: Mike Cobb – Called producers in the Augusta area. Responses; 1) Appreciative of stockyard spraying, 2) Lot of bindweed on Benchmark Road. And 3) Producers feel this season is the most prolific year for weeds but we are holding our own.

Canyon Creek Area: Steve Johns – Canal turned off. Dry weeds need burned – east of property.

Central Area: Joel Redding – On his way to North Dakota and unable to attend.

East Area: Charles Butler – Spotted knapweed in Devil’s Elbow. (BLM) needs to be contacted.

Helena/South Area: Orville Johnson – Yacht Basin – spurge and knapweed – they have hired contractors. New Committee of ?? on Noxious weeds request info. Larry report to Weed District.

Lincoln Area: Bob Bushnell – Snow missed us. MDOT has not done any work on 200 Hiway. They have been notified along with contractor. Blackfoot Challenge session – Government Developed another weed committee. Bryce oversees the group. (Greenie). Must keep an eye on Weed Trust Fund to coordinate programs. Not well attended.

West Area: Tom Thompson – Still plants are greening up. Concerned with Hiway 200 weed problem. 3rd and 4th growth on noxious weeds. Holter area needs to be watched. TYPE II fire crews has weed person on staff.

Wolf Creek Area: Rob McDonough – Fall spraying on knapweed, houndstongue and other plants in rosette stage. 6” snow Sunday morning (9/10”) of moisture – help plants growth.

Coordinator Report: Larry Hoffman –

- Shop closing and equipment review
- Staff situation
- ROW managed – 1142 miles
- Management – Estimates
 - Subdivisions – 12 active
 - Timber Harvests – 3 active
 - Open Pits – 13 certified
 - Special Projects –
 - Compliance/Non-Compliance
 - Total 462 inspections
 - Management plans – 131
 - City - 151

Action Items:

- Powell County Proposal – Rob McDonough – approve to send with corrections to Powell County. Seconded by Bob Bushnell Approved.
*Change *Misspelled – Orville – invasive, transporting and efficiently. Initiate a letter to request support and cooperation – Tom Thompson and Larry Hoffman.

New Business:

Correction Tour: Steve Johns – Good tour! Cost of sending prisons out of county - \$65 per day for each. Orville Johnson – quite educational. Rob McDonough – Understand the issue and situation of the county jail.

Trout Creek Trail Special project for the spring of 2016 with forest service personnel.

Old Business:

Calendars 2016: Available for distribution by board members.

Shop Closing: All equipment is winterized and housed indoors for the season. 2016 season equipment needs have been put together and ready for startup.

Right to Farm: Group to review what has come in and report back to board.

Other Business:

2016 County/Reservation Grant: Looking at submitting an application for the \$7500 on UTV trailer, educational computer/projector and \$2500 Augusta Insectary.

Attorney Note – Paul Stahl “Are weeds protected by the First Amendment? “ Posner think not! Publication shown to the board..

Montana Noxious Weed List: Greta Dige produced the “new” noxious weed – state and county for our use.

RMF Group Report: High points of the past board meeting; 1)Available cash \$16,160 to end of year, 2)Evaluation of activities, 3)Decrease board membership, 4)CI Grant \$61,100 left, 5) 25,250 insect distributed, 6) Watch invaders; Baby Breath, Silver Cinquefoil, Blue Weed, Garlic Mustard, St. Johnswort and Tansy Ragwort and 7) Job description for board members

Forest Service: Timber Harvests/Sales were distributed to board for review.

District Minutes: Eric Bryson – Notice to remember to submit minutes and information to county.

THLPPNWP Project: Judith Anne Vincent report.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting – November 4, 2015

Adjournment: Bob Bushnell/Chuck Butler – Approved 2:50 pm