

Madison County Weed Board

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The regular meeting of the Madison County Weed Board was brought to order February 18, 2021, at 1:40 by Board Chair, John Armstrong. Present were Coordinator Dale Grose, Board members, Todd Durham, Kent Tilstra, and Office Assistant, Janie Alt. Absent were Rick Sandru & Mark Boyd.

Public comment of Items on Agenda: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- After review Todd moved to approve the October 10, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Kent seconded. All voted aye and motion carried.

Appoint Board Chair & Vice Chair: Kent moved to renew John Armstrong as Weed Board Chairman Todd seconded the motion. All voted aye and motion carried. Todd moved to appoint Rick Sandru as Vice Chairman, Kent seconded the motion. All voted aye and motion carried.

Old Business:

Office & Program:

- Dale asked the Boards approval to purchase a new computer desk. He explained that his new monitor doesn't fit in the desk he has now. Board approved the purchase of the new desk.
- This year's Special County/Reservation Grant will be used to purchase 4 buddy reals for the side x sides.

Facilities/Equipment:

- Dale asked the approval of the Board to purchase a 200-gallon slide in tank for the 2020 Dodge Ram. The Board approved the purchase for a 200-gallon slide in tank.

Personnel:

- Dale discussed with the Board the opportunity to hire MCC (Montana Conservation Corps) Fellows for summer help and explained the details. Dale stated that he filled out the application that was due by February 5, and it was accepted. Todd moved to approve hiring a MCC Fellow for the 2021 season. Kent seconded. All voted aye and motion carried.
- Advertisement for employment for a Compliance Tech, crews, and shop help will be sent out the 1st part of March.
- Interviews will be held at the April 15th meeting. Tentative interview committee will be John Armstrong, Rick Sandru & Mark Boyd.
- Dale discussed the possibility of contracting the highways out again this season if we do not get enough crews hired for the task. Todd asked how it went last season with contracting it out and Dale explained that there are always improvements to be made with trying something new the first time but stated overall he thinks it worked out fairly well. He also stated that there would be some changes to the contracts if he has to go that direction.

Other Old Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Weed Management Plans:

- There were 3 subdivision plans submitted. Kent moved to approve the WMP for Rambling Moose, Wade Minor and Overlook Phase II as submitted. Todd seconded the motion. All voted aye and motion carried.

Subdivision Fee's:

- Dale handed the Board a copy of the Madison County & Gallatin County Subdivision Weed Management plans for review. He asked to Board to take them home to look over to see if the county is charging enough in fees.

Spring Aerial:

- Dale discussed plans for spring aerial. He talk about the possibility to of doing drone applications on difficult terrain areas. He explained that it can be more cost effective and less liability than having the crews do some of these areas. Dale said he has talked to two different licensed applicators stating that they would be willing to coming over to look at couple different area's he would like to do work on. Dale also stated that the drone would not take place of using a helicopter on larger acreages.

Budget:

- The Board reviewed and discussed the regular budget.
- Cash on hand for the **2140** - \$396,000.13 and in the **2840** \$ 3,541.24.

Other New Business:

- Dale asked the Board about going with the State herbicide bid vs sending it out to distributors for bid. He said we send it out to 5 different distributors and typically only receive two back and one is usually disqualified for not bidding what herbicide was required on the bid sheet. The Board agreed it was the most logical thing to do.
- Three grants have been submitted to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Council. Trust fund hearings will be held virtually March 8-11. Madison Counties grants will be on the 9th at 9:30.

Public Comment items not on Agenda: None

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Next meeting April, 15, 2021

Minutes respectively submitted by: Janie Alt