

Madison County Weed Board

PO Box 278*Virginia City, MT 59755*Physical Address: 2296 Hwy 287, Alder, MT 59710

Ph# Dale (406) 842-5595 * Janie (406) 842-5596 * Fax (406) 842-5596

E-mail – Dale Grose – dgrose@madisoncountymt.gov

The regular meeting of the Madison County Weed Board of May 20, 2021 was brought to order, at 1:30 by Board Chair, John Armstrong. Present were Coordinator Dale Grose, Board members, Kent Tilstra, Rick Sandru and Office Assistant, Janie Alt. Absent were Mark Boyd and Todd Durham.

Interviews were conducted at 1:00 pm to hire another Field Crew member.

Public comment of Items on Agenda: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- After review, Rick moved to approve the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Kent seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

Interview Committee: After a brief discussion, Rick moved to approve hiring Kyie Salerno. Kent seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

Office & Program:

- Dale reported to the Board that he had finally purchase a new desk for \$100.
- Dale met with the Commissioners on May 10, 2021 for setting the preliminary budget.
- Dale stated that he and Janie will most likely be out spraying at least 2 days a week to make up for the lack of crew. The Compliance Tech, Bruce Koblish will be in the office the days that they are out spraying.
- Janie gathering items to put into the county surplus sale.
- Janie and Dale took the recertification course to get their certificate for doing hay inspections.

Facilities/Equipment:

- Dale ordered 200 gal spray tank to put in the 2020 Dodge. Dale stated he would wait until they have a delivery coming this way to save the shipping and handling.
- Dale discussed renting a porta-poddy for the crews.
- Dale reported that Andy Allhands has started de-winterizing equipment.

Personnel:

- Andy Allhands started on May 17 and John White will start May 24.
- Compliance Tech, Bruce Koblish will start on May 25. Janie will work with him to show him how the program works.
- Dale reported that Colton Helwinkle declined the field crew position.

OLD BUSINESS:

Other Old Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Weed Management Plans:

- Rick moved to approve the WMP from Jim Hicks and Leonard Rinehart as submitted, Kent seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

Partnership Funding Request: Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance:

- Dale requested permission to donate \$2,500 along with Gallatin County to the GISA to educate landowners on the how important it is to treat noxious weed problems up in Big Sky. The Board requested that he ask them to document what the money has gone towards. Kent moved to approve the \$2,500 donation the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance for education on noxious weeds in the Big Sky area. Rick seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

DOT Sub-contract Work:

- Dale handed out a cost comparison from what the contract workers did on their sections of the highways last season along with the quotes from this season from the contractors. After reviewing the quotes, Rick moved to approve giving MT Hwy 287 and Ennis North to TerraNova and section Ennis South to Southwest Weed Control. Kent seconded. All voted aye, motion carried. Dale will get together with the two contractors to discuss the Hwy contracts.

Budget:

- The Board reviewed and discussed the regular budget.
- Cash on hand for the **2140** - \$413,060.00 and in the **2840** - \$ 11,041.00.
- Dale is working with finance to reconcile the BLM budget.

Other New Business:

- Dale reported that he spoke to Nigel Davis, West River Land Weed Management and Nigel gave him a quote of \$2400 a day including chemical for work using the drone. Nigel said he could do about 40 acres a day. That turns out to be about \$60/acre. Dale said he is going to try it on a FWP land over at Reynolds Pass fishing access area.
- Dale ask the Board for direction for a landowner that does aerial work but also does ground work, if they should they be eligible to receive up to the \$1,250 reimbursement for both? After a brief discussion, Rick moved to clarify that each landowner who applies for the cost share will only receive up to \$1,250 maximum for reimbursement. Kent seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

Public Comment items not on Agenda: None

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Minutes done respectfully by: Janie Alt, Office Assistant