

Lewis & Clark County Weed District Minutes

Wednesday Aug 3, 2016

1:00 PM

Weed Conference Room

**Present:**

Steve Johns – Chairman  
Bob Bushnell – Member  
Joel Redding – Member  
Orville Johnson – Member

Susan Good Geise - BoCC  
Greta Dige – city of Helena  
Larry Hoffman - Coordinator  
Guest - Judith Anne Vincent –  
Reed Lane – Susan’s grandson

**Call to Order:** - Steve Johns – Chairman - Called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM with 4 board members present, 3 exofficial persons and 2 guest/public present.

**Introductions:** - Steve Johns – Chairman – Introductions of Reed Lane by Susan Good Geise.

**Minutes:** Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the minutes as sent. Seconded by Joel Redding and approved.

**Budget Report/Claims:** - Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the budget report and pay all outstanding bills. Seconded the motion by Joel Redding and approved.

**Public Comment:** - Judith Anne Vincent reported and submitted update to the board on the Canyon Creek Project. Reed Lane reported on his grandmother – she is awesome!

**Correspondence:** .

- Montana Department of Agriculture – Recognition for participation in the recycling demonstration for DEQ. Board would like it framed and posted.
- State Agency and County Weed District Biennial Noxious Weed Report. Distributed to board for review.

**REPORTS:**

**BoCC** – Susan Good Geise – Discussed coroner events and that it is going in a positive direction.

\***Right To Farm** issue is being pursued by the commission with attorney support. Board appreciates commission efforts and interest. Farm survey – Bob Bushnell presented it to the commissioner and to board for review. Fire council session on developments of residential areas next to agricultural is taking place. Commission is working with the west side of Helena annexing issue..

**Public Works** – Eric Griffin – E-mail report: Rimini project is moving along and Stemple Pass has been completed with a few loose ends. York area had a big storm last week and the crews are fixing several washed out ditches. Marysville project has been awarded to HSG and the pre- construction meeting has been held.

**City of Helena** – Greta Dige – RFP on contracting has been let for future weed management project efforts for the city. 780 pounds of pulled noxious weeds has been collected by volunteers and city crews. Greta will submit a spraying and mowing report in September. City gathered insects from the Missoula area for distribution within the city. 65-70 weed complaints on noxious weeds and vegetation concerns. Track Id program for the city/county has been purchased and will be up in 2017 – Greta is on the steering committee for the programming.

**Board Reports:**

**Augusta Area:** Mike Cobb – My sincere apologies for missing another board meeting, we are preconditioning calves. Report: It is Hot! Knapweed is thriving and leafy spurge is reported to be in control. Houndstongue is going to seed if it has not been sprayed. Talking with constituents leafy spurge is being controlled with improvement. Need to advise – Kevin Stone, with SRWG, should communicate who wants bugs when distributing. The Nylon Canal has knapweed spreading . I thought the county spray group did a good job at the Benchmark area, but was told from constituents that the crews need to be in the Augusta areas more than they have been

**Canyon Creek Area:** Steve Johns – Hot and dry! Weed trucks need to be confined to roads during the fire season.

**Central Area:** Joel Redding – Quiet! Weed not growing because of heat and dry conditions. Discussed weed problem in the Skelly Gulch area and an unhappy resident – Mr. Woods. District has tried to contact him with no luck.

**East Area:** Charles Butler – Not Present – Reported two complaints – one at Clarksville Bay near Lakeside and the other on Clausen Road.

**Helena/South Area:** Orville Johnson – Hot and dry! Spotted knapweed, thistle, and musk thistle growing quite well.

**West Area:** Interest by several persons to finish out Joe Enger term.

**Wolf Creek Area:** Rob McDonough – Not able to attend the meeting. “With the fire activity recently I best stay close by the ranch. It is hot and dry in the area and I’ve put weed control off until the fall spraying season. Knapweed is one priority on the agenda. I’ll be here for September meeting.”

**Coordinator Report:** Larry Hoffman – Spray projects – BLM, FS, Airports, gravel pits, roads and RID’s. Working with NRCS on Right to Farm, equipment up dates, herbicide facility upgrade, chemical purchases, inspections in the city, home visits and crew development. Worked with the PSW and project manager of the tansy ragwort project in Lincoln. Distributed spotted knapweed insects to Dearborn producers and others. Evaluated a call on Purple Loosestrife in the York area for the Department of Agriculture.

**Inspection Report:** Mike Bacon – Total inspections – 89, non-compliant – 56, compliant – 30 and 3 courtesy inspections. He coordinated set up and management of the Lewis and Clark County Fair Booth along with Bobbi Miller and volunteers and participated in the Great Falls State Fair for the Triangle Area booth. July 5 through August 2, 2016.

#### **Action Items:**

- Sun River Watershed Sponsorship – Bob Bushnell made a motion to support the Weed Wacker Rodeo for \$50. Seconded by Joel Redding and approved.
- Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable Sponsorship – Bob Bushnell made a motion to support the Roundtable efforts for \$500 to be used in on the ground projects. Seconded by Joel Redding and approved.

#### **New Business:**

**County Grant Ideas 2017** – The grant is for \$7500. Board will bring back ideas for the September meeting.

**Vehicle Bids/Approval** – One ton for spraying. Three bid requests sent out– Chev/ GMC, Ford and Dodge. Dodge cannot at this time provide a 2016 vehicle. Ford vehicle is high. Bob Bushnell made a motion to support the purchase of a vehicle as long as it is within the CIP and that Larry Hoffman has the go ahead to review all quotes and work with Audra Z. in the purchase of such. Second by Orville Johnson and approved.

#### **Old Business:**

**Recycle Project** – MDOA – MDOA – 345 pounds processed in the month of July – Augusta, Lincoln Helena.

**Fair Booth Contest** – 24 participated in the identification contest. No one had all noxious weeds identified. Three participants had six identified correctly. Winner of the hand sprayer (Beth Sangrime) and runner up (Mary Simpson) will receive a bio-book.. They will be notified by the office and a letter will be sent to all those that participated. Board reviewed pictures of the 2016 booth.

**Tansy Ragwort Spray Day Report** – Bob Bushnell and Larry Hoffman reported. 40 or more persons participated in the project coordinated by PSW (Jeanette Nordahl). Four counties, FS, DNRC, PSW and MDOA took part in the initial attack on the tansy ragwort.

#### **Other Business:**

**Herbicide Storage Facility Update** – Facility purchased and placed on site..

**Report of Purple Loosestrife** – Jim Town Area. Inspection of the area found “fireweed” as the possible weed.

**Lewis and Clark Conservation District Report** – Bob Bushnell – Weed program discussed

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting – September 7, 2016 in the Weed Conference Room.  
Lewis and Clark Conservation District Meeting: August 11, at 8:30 am – Dearborn Community Center

**Adjournment:** Adjourned 2:30 P.M.