

**Stillwater Weed Management District**  
***Regular Meeting***  
**Aug 12, 2015**

**Approved 10-14-15**

**Present:** Al Nordahl  
Harold Riensche  
Will Patterson  
Commissioner Dell

**Absent:** Eric Lowell  
Carl Thompson  
Bob Kirch

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting** (5-13-2015) were reviewed. The minutes were approved; a motion was made by Al, seconded by Harold.

**Fall Meetings**

- **Up Coming Fall Meetings:** Will presented his request to attend two upcoming fall meetings. On Oct 15 and 16(check on dates) the fall managers meeting to be held in Lewistown. The second Nov 4-6 the Weed Coordinators Training to be held in Helena. A motion was made by Harold and second by Al.

**Season Updates**

- Will presented a spread sheet outlining the season states to date, this is a summary of the updates. Tordon sales: 131 gallons, Invoices: 23,978.7, Spraying: 203.44 acres for noxious weeds, Sterilant: 21.9 acres, Kochia/ Russian Thistle: 95 acres.

**MDT**

- Will made a presentation to the board to enter into talks with MDT concerning Stillwater County assuming responsibility for the treatment of noxious weeds on the state highways only. The Interstate will remain the responsibility of MDT. Commissioner Dell add that Will has spoken with the Commissioners about this and if the Weed Board is in agreement and a recommendation is made to the Commissioners to open talks they are in support.

**Contractors**

- Will reported that the contracts are pretty much wrapping up the county roads. Bob with area 4 was done earlier than expected, this was due to an up coming major medical surgery bob has scheduled. Mike is wrapping up area 3, he was hoping to be done earlier, however to injuries suffered from a horse riding accident he is running behind. Daniel in area 2 is going back over some areas and wrapping things up. Ben with area 1 has just finished up.

**Rail Road**

- The Weed District was able to enter into a contract with MRL to spray the areas of the Rail Road right of way that RSI(Rail Services Inc) could not reach with their rail trucks. The contact was for \$5000.00, final figures for the job came in over budget, \$6460.00 was the

final cost. Rick(MRL) did not seem to think that was going to be an issue. The section from Reed Point to Columbus was much more intensive than I thought. The weeds were very thick and the terrain was difficult, however Rob and I won that battle. All total we sprayed 126.24 acres of weeds.

### **Budget**

- Will presented the current expenses from July 1. Over all the budget looks pretty good, keeping in mind that we do not have an approved budget from the commissioners yet. Will did point out that the chemical expenses are high, that is due to some chemical expenses for grants and jobs that the county has done for the BLM and FWP. These expenses need to be put back into the chemical line. The Tordon sales need to be transferred back into the line too.

### **Coordinator Report**

- Having Rob, seasonal sprayer, has been a huge help and he is working out very well.
- Contractors are wrapping up county roads and Rob and I are working on Kochia and Russian thistle treatments.
- Poison Hemlock moths have been released on a section of the Yellowstone River. This was a cost share with the Free River Ranch. These moths have never been used in Stillwater county and trying to see if we can get them established for future collections and releases in sensitive areas.
- Helicopter was here for a bit, did not get everything done that we wanted. Hopefully he will return this fall to do some more work. I have called some other aerial contractors.
- Tordon program is going really well, sales are good and paperwork seems to be done correctly.
- Will presented two items for Board comments and suggestions prior to sending to Commissioners and County Attorney for approval. 1. A Cooperative Agreement between the City of Columbus and Stillwater County Weed District and 2. The Non-Compliance State of Montana Code, Non-Compliance letters to landowners and flow chart outlining the process.

Next meeting will be November 11, 2015 at 200pm at the Weed District office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.