

**NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD
BUTTE-SILVER BOW
155 W. GRANITE STREET – COURTHOUSE
BUTTE, MT 59701
497-6460**

WEED BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Tuesday – 7:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Weed Dept.

Members Present:

Carl Johnson, Greg Ebner, and Mark Kambich. Members absent: Scott Haeffner and Doug Butori.

Others Present:

John Moodry and Linda Raiha.

M I N U T E S

1. Approval of January 5, 2010 Minutes:

Chairman, Mark Kambich, opened the meeting by requesting any corrections to the January 5th Minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Public Comment:

None

3. Subdivisions:

- A. Weed Management Plan** – John Moodry reported that he has only one subdivision, that is Alexander Minor Subdivision – John advised the Board this is behind Bugs n’ Bullets. John

reported he has inspected this property and there are a lot of weeds present on the property. Both a weed management plan and a bond of \$500, which John had set, have been submitted to the Weed Board. After a short discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: A motion was made by Greg Ebner and seconded by Carl Johnson to approve both the weed management plan and bond submitted by Brad Alexander for the Alexander Minor subdivision. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Bonding & Bond Releases – See above.

4. Landowner Coordination:

A. State & Federal:

BLM – John advised the Board that the BLM Advisory Council will meet in Butte on February 10th at 9 am. John stated he will attend.

Big Hole Diversion Dam – They will be hauling a lot of rock for this project John advised the Board. The entire structure minus the sump pump will be made up of rock (John had plans which he showed to the Board). John has been asked to comment in regards to weeds and he has requested that the equipment be cleaned before and after leaving the dam.

Tester Forest Bill – Mark Kambich reported that he has been looking at this bill and there are no provisions for weed control of any kind within this bill and he feels this issue needs to be addressed in the bill.

B. Private:

John advised the Board that Jeanne Cady, Jeremy Weber, the new Extension Agent and himself have put together a pesticide training program for sometime in the near future. John has obtained a list of current applicators and was disturbed to find

that a lot of the applicators do not have enough credits to renew their licenses. He was unsure as to the reason, but with the new regulations, they will now have to take the closed book test.

John reported that the long effort by the weed advisory committee to put Russian Olive on the noxious weed list have been stopped by Governor Schwitzer. It was recommended instead to put Russian Olive on a watch list. It has been suggested to allow each county to manage Russian Olive as it sees fit.

5. Progress Reports:

A. Non-Compliance – John reported that Linda had requested and received the reports from both the Assessor's and the Budget Office regarding status of the non-compliance actions put on taxes. John went through the lists with the following results: In 2009, \$22,054.89 was put on the taxes and \$13,682.55 was paid leaving a balance of \$8,422.34 still to be collected. In two years \$59,186.89 has been billed with an outstanding balance of \$16,799. John estimated that the Weed Department should collect another \$3-\$4,000 when the second half of taxes are due.

Also John reported in connection to the non-compliance, John recently put together a meeting with the Treasurer, Assessor, County Attorney, himself, Land Office and Budget Office. As a result of this meeting new procedures will be installed when it comes to collecting special assessments put on taxes. This includes non-compliances, SID's or any special tax. When the tax is collected it will go into the proper account and all assessments will stay on taxes to be paid when property is sold.

John reported that the Montana Code Annotated has been changed and John is working with the County Attorney to bring our Codes in line with the State Codes. The new Montana Code will read that the property owner has ten working days to notify a Board of their attention to appeal the non-compliance process and after that they have no appeal options. After a long discussion, the Board thought it would be best to leave the

county appeal time at 30 days. They felt this would show how lenient the Weed Department is in trying to work with landowners whose property is not in compliance.

6. Other Business:

A. Old Business:

Continental Land Trust – John presented a list of properties that he was given that are the properties that Continental Land Trust is going to give to Butte-Silver Bow. John advised the Board that he feels Continental Land Trust should pay for the spraying and mowing of these properties for the first year as we do not have the budget or manpower to do all of these properties. Once we have an idea of costs and manpower involved, we can then include it in our 01 budget. There are a lot of properties involved he stated and some are MERDI properties also. The Board concurred.

B. New Business – None was presented.

The next meeting will be in March 2, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Raiha
Secretary