

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council Business Meeting & Tour		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	July 11, 2024	<b>Time:</b>	12:24 p.m. – 1:51 p.m.
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Greta Dige	<b>Location:</b>	Elks Lodge Thompson Falls, MT
<b>1. Meeting Objective</b>			
Business Meeting & Tour			
<b>2. Attendees</b>			
<p><b>Council Members:</b> Joel Farkell, Amber Burch, Jeff Brennan, Kellieann Sweeney (virtual), Dana Weatherford (virtual), Bill Curran (virtual), Brian Ostwald (virtual)</p> <p><b>Agency Representatives:</b> David Hopkins – BIA (virtual), Brenda Witkowski – BLM (virtual), Micheal Hammel – DNRC, Jason Allen- MDT, Hannah Lewis – APHIS, Gary Adams- APHIS, Natalie West- USDA-ARS (virtual)</p> <p><b>Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) Staff:</b> Jasmine Chaffee, Greta Dige, Josh Wagoner (virtual), Sam Yonan, Lori Leaf, Megan Hoyer, Amanda Coyle, Chloe Perel (virtual),</p> <p><b>Guests (in-person):</b> Jared Moch and Matthew Winhardt with Lake County Rush Task Force, Mark Andreason Lincoln County Weed District Rush and Tansy Taskforce, McKenzie and Avery Lincoln County Rush Task Force.</p>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Welcome</b>	Jasmine, welcomes everyone and completes introductions		
<b>Minutes Review/Action Items</b>	Council meeting and grant hearing minutes from March 18-20, 2024, were reviewed. All action items were completed. <b>Amber Burch moved to approve the minutes as written; Joel Farkell seconded the motion; minutes were unanimously approved.</b>		
<b>Department Updates</b>	<p>Jasmine Chaffee provided a noxious weed program update by starting with the introduction of Megan Hoyer as the new Invasive Species Education Coordinator. Megan says she is excited to be here.</p> <p>Council member positions up for renewal are typically 5 positions, however this year there is two additional positions looking to be filled. Moved Joel from Consumer to Herbicide Applicator, Brian and Bill are staying on. Looking for Noxious Weed Free Materials and Recreation/Wildlife positions.</p> <p>Jasmine announced she has taken on the certified weed free materials program. She has completed a dozen gravel inspections, and it is looking to be a good forage year.</p> <p>Amanda Coyle gave an update regarding the AgCorps program. The program has been renewed for another year. To date they exceed the number of students with over 700+ and have met the organization service goal already. Excited for the next year and looking to expand. Megan mentioned that she has heard good things about the AgCorps program. There are three AgCorps members for noxious weeds, Philippe Naviaux;</p>		

	<p>Mapping/Monitoring Specialist, Chloe Perel; Education/Outreach Specialist, and Sam Yonan; Adopt-a-Trailhead Montana Coordinator.</p> <p>Jasmine brings up the state noxious weed project dashboard that was done in collaboration with the Western Weed Coordinating Committee. Data is pulled from EDDMapS which will be a good incentive for projects to enter their weed data as this will be public for anyone to look at. When information from current projects are loaded, Jasmine will send an email to the council to review. She proceeded to give a quick demo of the dashboard. There are three states so far that are working on dashboards; Colorado, Utah, and Montana with possibly WY, NV, WA and OR coming on board in the next couple of years.</p>
<b>Grant Program Updates</b>	<p>Greta Dige gave a brief summary of site visits and monitoring. They are slow to start, however the addition of Phil has been great as he maps while conversations are going on. Created a flier that was included in the grantee starter pack that shows what MDA can help with in relation to mapping and monitoring. The 2025 summer tour will be the Yellowstone saltcedar project. Posted County Reservation and Emergency Grants and the other funding opportunities will be posted in September. MDA still plans to change from WebGrants in the next few years.</p>
<b>Education &amp; AATM Program Updates</b>	<p>Lori Leaf gave a summary of the projects she has been working on since her start earlier in the year. Attending a lot of youth events with Chloe. Big thing this summer is completely redoing the EDDMapS guide and working on tailgate wraps.</p> <p>Sam Yonan gave a quick summary of the activities she has been up to since the July meeting. Working on installations and weed pull events with more coming on. Beat the number of volunteers from last with 84. Doing education events and tabling with Chloe and Lori and helping with 4H boards. Sam and Chloe went on a 4-day back packing trip with Glacierview 4H group focusing on pulling houndstongue.</p> <p>Chloe Perel gave a brief summary of projects to date in the following counties Lewis and Clark, Cascade, Powell, Missoula, Flathead, Jefferson, Broadwater, Beaverhead, Gallatin, Stillwater, Carbon, and Yellowstone. Activities included: Draw your own weed and the invasive species challenge. Went to events such as farm fairs, conservation days, and Pull Your Share both classroom and weed pulls. Fun side notes are seeing Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) on a weed pull for cheatgrass, Nature Walk and Glacierview 4H Backcountry Weed Pull.</p> <p>Megan Hoyer gave a summary of what she has been working on since her start. Working with Central Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST), September working with kids from Yellowstone County to Lake Elmo to demo a wash station. CEMIST works a lot with conservation districts looking at soils. Riverfront Park with seventh graders in the fall. Gave a tour at Two Moon Park and show off boot brush station and the work volunteers has done. Working with Pam Schwend to develop Indian education for all curriculum. Wheatland county meeting with WD4C to look for saltcedar and has been invited to present at NAISMA. All invited to Two Moon Park event on November 2nd. Megan said she is looking forward to increase partnerships and working with everyone, working on new costumes, and highlighting all of good things going on out there.</p>
<b>EDRR Program Update</b>	<p>Josh Wagoner gave an update on the Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) program. He worked in seven locations so far and given talks in Glasgow and Miles</p>

	<p>City twice and once in Roundup. Done two international talks about what they don't want of what we have, and the Canadians came and visited Lincoln County for a visit. Went with Chloe to look in Big Horn County for ventenata which is badly infested. In Lake County some ventenata was two feet tall and is getting worse.</p> <p>Rush skeletonweed: Have two new task forces that had difficulty hiring and on boarding strike teams. Cooperation with Lincoln County has helped out Sanders County which has put it in a better place due to the cooperation. Lake County's crew has been great and picked it up rather quickly with locating existing infestations and treating them. Flathead has not reported issues. Mineral County is finding more especially along the interstate. Missoula is trending up. Ravalli is hold on. The two Helena sites are clear after only 6 months.</p> <p>Medusahead: Northwest Montana is improving and have hand pulled plants. Big concern is what is potentially coming from Wyoming. Trying to get data from that area to check out reports.</p> <p>Phragmites: Bozeman knocked out with glyphosate and is doing well. North of Missoula is doing good. Hill County Terry has approximately 200 plants and is actively on top of them. Josh has looked at the site twice and plants were not up yet.</p> <p>Palmer Amaranth: Idaho has it and reports glyphosate resistant plants. No longer working towards eradication. Amalgamated Sugar has a petition in Montana to add herbicide for treatments in sugar beet crops. Mike Hammel said he is seeing palmer in North Dakota and are seeing herbicide resistant plants. Josh reports plants are being found in southern Idaho most likely being spread from sugar beet trucks south Boise.</p> <p>Garlic mustard is a concern since more locations are being found especially in Helena. Creditable reports of this plant are in Glacier and Whitefish. Greta states new site of Garlic mustard location in Helena was found at Nature Park.</p>
<p><b>Member Updates</b></p>	<p>Dana Weatherford: Nothing to report</p> <p>David Hopkins: Nothing to report</p> <p>Brenda Witkowski: Run of the mill work; accepted position for program lead and will be fulltime and will be helping with my previous position until filled. BLM approved 7 herbicides including indaziflam.</p> <p>Bill Curran: Palmer amaranth has moved into Pennsylvania. Reports meeting with Jane Mangold to discuss Garlic Mustard and whether it would be a problem in Montana. The plant is a moisture loving plant, but something to watch for.</p> <p>Natie West: Work on Flowering Rush and start implementing it. ARS out of Ft. Decrick can find rush skeletonweed rust let her know to send it out to Maryland. Will be hiring John Gaskin's position which will be the same scope as what John was working on but not exactly like him. Asked to send information to her about rust so she can forward on to everyone.</p>

Kelliann Sweeney: Blueweed is in full bloom right now. Reducing by a lot along the Bitterroot River. Rush Skeletonweed contractors have started and working around Darby. Where we can us Method working better than Milestone.

Jason Allen: A lot more rush being found. Don't think it is spreading. Ventenata trying to seal off and have a pile of treatments going on south of Billings. Blueweed and are working on that. Have spent \$1.7 million on county work so thanked them for all their efforts with weed control.

Gary Adams: Will be his last meeting then Hannah will be taking over. Hannah will be delegating since she will be on maternity leave. Seed Cleaners under a compliance agreement with Canada and the seeds need to be heat treated. Works in biological control and insects. Help with collecting and facilitate them as well as work with other states. Spurge collections have been super productive this year. Like to help monitor to see if insects are established. Ship WA, AR, and have interest from Arkansas for knapweed insect, but it fell through. APHIS helps with shipping costs. Support the Montana Biological Control Project.

Amber Burch: Dyers woad numbers are down. Stillwater and had 26 plants so vast improvement. 20-30 plants range in Snowline. Dogs working in Missoula and Flathead area. Flathead is watching for look-a-likes and hoping for 0 there. Gary: How many after 0 do you not need to look at the sites. Great question 10+ years just found one new plant in Carbon County. Make sure with turnover that the information gets passed along. MWCA: new field guides will be ready soon and calendars soon as well. Beaverhead has a lot of spray days this year.

Jeff Brennan: Seeing more and more leafy spurge all over HWY 12 corridor. Comment on Palmar and water hemp sugar beet acres is where it is likely to show up. Brought in in millet seed and buy from out of state. It is a transport issue and not using appropriate herbicide rates.

Joel Farkell: Agrees with Jeff on Palmer and water hemp and would include ventenata. Department make sure to touch base with ag groups (MT Ag business Association, Seed trade, Stock growers, Grain Growers) to keep eyes out as there has been some change in those groups. Do get booths and posters out there to get awareness of these species out there as now is the time to do it.

Jeff: Seed Trade to get involved.

Mike Hammel: This time of year mapping weeds. Clarified in mapping as mapping sections rather than infestation size. Have been working on plant id. Attempting to work with Dan Wilkins for Pull Your Share. Be on the lookout for invasive annual grasses specifically medusahead. He noted they are trying to do more staff training because the big problem is plant ID and Jasmine offered help from MDA.

Lake County task force: More mapping being done and entering in EDDMapS and tracking the spread. Following the prevailing winds. Greta offered to assist to get data out.

	Lincoln County Task Force: Just keep at it. Saw skeletonweed that is flowering.			
<b>Other Business/ Public Comment</b>	<p><b>The winter council business meeting will be held at the Department of Agriculture in Helena on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</b></p> <p>March Grant Hearings 10-14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Yellowstone saltcedar and woody invasives is summer tour in 2025.</p> <p>NAISMA conference September 30-October 3. Codes for registration coming tomorrow.</p>			
<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Joel Farkell motioned to adjourn, Amber Burch seconds; meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.</b>			
<b>4. Action Items</b>				
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Jasmine and MDA staff load NWTF projects into new dashboard	Jasmine/Greta	March 2025	
2	Secure next year's field tour for Yellowstone saltcedar Project	Greta and Yellowstone County Weed District	July, August, September 2025	
3	Send Jasmine information about rush skeletonweed rust to Jasmine to forward onto others.	Natalie West	July/August	
4	Provide Jasmine agenda items for next Business Meeting	Council Members	January 31, 2025	