

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/Project Name:	Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council Meeting and Grant Hearings		
Date of Meeting:	February 27 – March 2, 2012	Time:	11:00 a.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Carol Bearden	Location:	Red Lion Colonial Hotel - Helena, Montana
1. Meeting Objective			
Business Meeting and 2012 Grant Hearings			
2. Attendees			
Council Members: Ron de Yong, Jim Story, Jim Gordon, Jennifer Anderson Vermillion, Margie Edsall, Dan Jackson, Nico Cantalupo, Todd Wagner, Jack Eddie, Jim Olivarez, Dick Zoanni			
Agency Representatives: Larry Beneker, John Gaskin, Mike Miller, Steve Siegelin, Tracy Sterling, Joe Weigand, Joe Merenz, Dan Dobler, John Simons			
Montana Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) Staff: Greg Ames, Donna Rise, Dave Burch, Kim Johnson, Carol Bearden, Craig McLane, Jeremy Seidlitz			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Review January 9, 2012 Minutes	The minutes from the January 9, 2012 council meeting were reviewed and action items were discussed. Action item #1 was reported as complete with MDA having provided conflict of interest guidelines to the Council. Action item #2 was also reported as complete and reverted funding information was provided for the Council. Dan Dobler suggested that the reverted funds and additional information sheets be provided to the Council prior to the grant hearings. Action item #3 was discussed and Dave Burch reported that he will follow up with Steve Shelly on Forest Service funding for inspection check stations. Margie Edsall moved to approve the minutes as written. Nico Cantalupo seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.		
Budget Review	<p>Greg Ames reviewed the MDA Weed Program budget and reported \$2,132,158 as the estimated program revenue for fiscal year (FY) 2012. Program expenses for FY 12, including Special County / Reservation grant awards, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) pass through county funding, reverted funds transfer to the trust fund principal, the cash balance adjustment, and program operating expenses were estimated to total \$1,330,999. Greg advised the Council that \$801,159 was available from State Special Revenue and General Fund dollars for FY 12 grant awards.</p> <p>Grant funding from the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry was discussed with Greg reporting an initial award to the MDA of \$605,000 and an additional award of \$60,000 that was specified for tribal projects. Dave Burch said that applications had been expected from the Crow and Blackfeet Tribes to utilize a portion of the tribal funds, but to date applications had not been received.</p> <p>Greg reported that the MDA grant application to the Forest Service specified awards of \$40,000 to the Missouri River Watershed Coalition project (MDA 2012-701) and \$40,000 for the Weed Free Borders project (MDA 2012-702). Additionally, \$18,150 was designated for program operations, which included expenses for a summer intern, and \$18,840 for MDA Central Services indirect costs. Forest Service funding to be awarded at the 2012 hearings was reported at \$548,010.</p> <p>The combined total available for award at the hearings was reported as \$1,349,169. Applications received for consideration at the hearings totaled \$2,853,889, leaving a shortfall of \$1,504,720.</p> <p>Mike Miller asked for clarification on the MDT pass through funding. Dave Burch said these funds are passed through MDA to the counties to be used to enhance the weed control program in the county, specific use of the funds is not provided to the Department.</p>		
Hearing Protocol, Other Business, Public Comment, WebGrants Review	Hearing protocol was reviewed followed by Ron de Yong asking if there was other business to discuss. Discussion followed regarding the submitted applications meeting trust fund requirements, division of funds among education, research, and local cooperative projects, and the possible need for changes to evaluation criteria. Greg Ames encouraged the Council to complete application evaluations and funding recommendations based on the merit of the project. Dave Burch noted that the evaluation criteria was based on language from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Act and urged the Council to score projects based on their perception of the quality of the project. The Council was advised that if needed, changes could be made to the evaluation criteria by a rule change and encouraged Council input. Steve Siegelin suggested utilizing statements rather than questions in the evaluation criteria. Mike Miller suggested that the evaluation forms have a section to designate the reviewers funding recommendation as “full, partial, or none.” Several Council members said it would be helpful if a report was provided for the reviewers with key information from their reviews.		

	<p>Greg Ames suggested a criteria committee be formed to assess what evaluation changes might be needed. Greg encouraged Jim Story to head up the committee with Jim Olivarez and Steve Siegelin.</p> <p>Ron de Yong asked for public comment. None was heard.</p> <p>Discussion turned to the education and awareness program that had been housed at Montana State University (MSU) and options for continuing a coordinated education program. Dave Burch provided background information regarding the MSU project proposal that was submitted earlier, which had not been accepted by the Council. Due to timing deadlines, MSU had not been able to submit an application for consideration at the 2012 grant hearings. Ron advised the Council that the MDA hoped to provide an option to continue the education program with the submittal of the MDA 2012 grant proposal. Concern with trust fund dollars funding the full time salary for an education coordinator was discussed. However, others noted that the program may die if there is not an option to carry the program through this year.</p> <p>Dave Burch discussed the funding sources that have supported the Statewide Awareness and Education program in past years, reporting that currently committed funding included \$25,000 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), \$15,000 from the US Forest Service, and \$15,000 from MDT. Mike Miller suggested financial contributions from counties and agencies to increase the participation and buy in to the program. Tracy Sterling advised the Council that MSU is committed to the project and that Jane Mangold is currently involved in the program with MSU. Questions were raised about the future of the project and where the staff would be housed. Ron de Yong noted that the program is in a transition phase and said he hoped for greater involvement from the Extension Service in the future.</p> <p>A review of the WebGrants system that the Council will use during the grant hearings and deliberations was provided by MDA staff. Monday hearings began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 5:00 p.m. Public comment was asked for and none was heard. Tuesday hearings began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 5:00 p.m. There was no public comment. Wednesday hearings began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 5:45 p.m. There was no public comment. Thursday hearings began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m. The Council agreed to begin deliberations Friday morning. There was no public comment.</p>
<p>Re-open Meeting for Grant Award Deliberations</p>	<p>The Council reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 2. Greg Ames noted that this was the last grant hearing session for Dan Jackson as his term on the Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council would end June 30, 2012. Dan was thanked for his work and dedication to the Council.</p> <p>Dave Burch asked for Council input on application T12-039, the Sapphire Village project. Dave explained that although this project had been submitted by Fergus County, the project area was in Judith Basin County. Due to Judith Basin County not having met the 1.6 mil levy or class one county requirement, they had not received a Special County / Reservation Grant in fiscal year 2012. Dave was waiting for clarification from the MDA attorney regarding the funding eligibility of projects in Judith Basin at this time. Dave received word from Cort Jensen, MDA attorney, that the Council should base their funding decision on the merit of the project. Kim Johnson contacted the Judith Basin County Treasurer who stated that they now met the 1.6 mil levy requirement.</p> <p>Greg Ames advised the Council that applications would be deliberated on in the order of the highest average review scores given by the voting members of the Council. Discussion followed and Jack Eddie asked that all applications be discussed and deliberated.</p> <p>Robert's Rules of Order, conflict of interest, and deliberation protocol and procedures were reviewed. Greg advised the Council that he would serve as Director de Yong's proxy vote in the event of a tie vote when the Director was not in attendance. The Council was advised that their funding recommendations would be provided to Director de Yong for his approval.</p> <p>Deliberations began and are itemized below in the order they were conducted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advisory Council Grant Application Deliberations - March 2, 2012</p> <p>T12-081 – Education Backup Plan: Moved to fund for \$48,672 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.</p> <p>T12-076 – In-Lake Suppression of Submersed Flowering Rush: Moved to fund for \$15,920 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.</p> <p>T12-065 – Treatment of EWM & Curlyleaf Pondweed on Noxon Reservoir: Moved to fund for \$25,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.</p> <p>T12-009 – Lake Elwell - Marias River Weed Control 2012: Moved to fund for \$27,770 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Dick Zoanni, passed. No Votes: Nico Cantalupo</p> <p>T12-105 – Tall Buttercup Ecology & Integrated Management: Moved to fund for \$38,034 by Jim Story, seconded by Jack Eddie, passed.</p>

T12-045 – Whitehall Biological Weed Control: Moved to fund for \$9,300 by Dan Jackson, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-046 – Southeastern Musselshell County Grant: Moved to fund for \$25,000 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-036 – Show Me & Teach Me About MT Ag - Drawing Contest: Moved to fund for \$4,628 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-101 – Whitetop Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$18,300 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T12-011 – Smith River CWM: Moved to fund for \$13,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jack Eddie, passed.

T12-025 – Grasshopper Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$4,976 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. Abstentions: Jack Eddie.

T12-067 – Bitterroot Blueweed 2012: Moved to fund for \$11,012 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-085 – Can Biological & Targeted Grazing be Integrated to Suppress Spotted Knapweed?: Moved to fund for \$25,678 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-004 – Upper Musselshell South West: Moved to fund for \$12,500 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. Abstentions: Jim Gordon.

T12-024 – Montana Dyer's Woad Cooperative Project: Moved to fund for \$20,036 by Jim Story, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. Abstentions: Jack Eddie.

T12-033 – Government Lincoln County Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Management: Moved to fund for \$11,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-017 – Lincoln Valley Snowmobile Trails: Moved to fund for \$3,556 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T12-026 – Centennial Valley Noxious Weed Cooperative: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Nico Cantalupo, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed. Abstentions: Jack Eddie

T12-071 – Midnight Canyon/Trout Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$21,121 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-096 – Establishing & Monitoring Insectaries for Yellow Toadflax Biocontrol: Moved to fund for \$35,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T12-021 – Argenta Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$1,374 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jack Eddie

T12-069 – Bitterroot Biocontrol Project 2012: Moved to fund for \$16,500 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-005 – Judith Gap WMA: Moved to fund for \$9,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-062 – Oliver Point Sheep Project: Moved to fund for \$4,160 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T12-012 – Ringling WMA: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-060 – Lake County Yellow Flag Iris Control Project: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Story, passed. No Votes: Jim Olivarez.

T12-022 – Wise River/Big Hole River Oxeye Daisy Management & Restoration: Moved to fund for \$28,927 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. Abstentions: Jack Eddie.

T12-072 – Fishtail Basin WMA: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Dick Zoanni, passed.

T12-023 – Beaverhead River Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$28,411 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jack Eddie.

T12-063 – Salish Mountains Leafy Spurge Project: Moved to fund for \$6,935 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T12-032 – Private Lincoln County Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Management: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed.

T12-008 – Haystack Mountain Loop Northwest & Southeast: Moved to fund for \$22,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T12-035 – Lincoln County Cooperative Rush Skeletonweed Management: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. No Votes: Jim Olivarez.

T12-015 – Flood Recovery from Noxious Weeds: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jack Eddie, passed.

T12-106 – East Bench Noxious Weed Program: Moved to fund for \$33,500 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed.

T12-059 – Purple Loosestrife Management Project: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T12-098 – Invasive Hawkweed Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-027 – Western Carbon County Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-050 – 2012 Cottonwood Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jennifer Vermillion.

T12-029 – Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Project in Flathead County: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. No Votes: Jim Olivarez.

T12-058 – Patterson Prairie CWMA: Moved to fund for \$14,833 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-100 – Russian Knapweed Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T12-014 – Bridger WMA: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T12-039 – Sapphire Village Whitetop Project: Moved to fund for \$10,000 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. No Votes: Jim Story, Jim Olivarez, Todd Wagner, and Jack Eddie.

T12-038 – East Lewistown Cost Share Project: Moved to fund for \$8,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T12-097 – Identifying & Testing Candidate Agents for Russian Olive Biocontrol: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T12-061 – Lower Salish Mountains Invasive Plant Management Area: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T12-090 – Leave No Weeds - Missoula County: Moved to fund for \$4,000 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-034 – LCHS Biological Control Project: Moved to fund for \$9,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T12-082 – Missoula Conservation Lands Restoration Research Project: Moved to fund for \$9,205 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Story, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-002 – Upper Musselshell South Center: Moved to fund for \$12,500 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. Abstentions: Jim Gordon.

T12-066 – Aquatic Invasive Plants Education and Outreach: Moved to fund for \$0 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. No Votes: Jim Olivarez, Jennifer Vermillion, and Margie Edsall.

T12-013 – Sunrise Weed District: Moved to fund for \$12,500 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T12-099 – Common Tansy & Oxeye Daisy Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$37,500 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-073 – Beaver Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jennifer, passed.

T12-070 – Stillwater County Weed Education: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. No Votes: Margie Edsall.

T12-006 – Yellowstone County Saltcedar Management Project: Moved to fund for \$25,000 by Jim Olivarez, seconded by Jack Eddie, passed.

T12-001 – Upper Musselshell South East: Moved to fund for \$12,000 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jack Eddie, passed. Abstentions: Jim Gordon.

T12-028 – Powder River Leafy Spurge Project: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Olivarez, passed.

T12-089 – Japanese Knotweed Initiative: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-084 – Clearwater River Yellowflag Iris Eradication: Moved to fund for \$5,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-057 – South Garnet CWMA: Moved to fund for \$5,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-077 – Sequential Foliar Herbicide Applications for Suppression of Flowering Rush: Moved to fund for \$0 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. No Votes: Margie Edsall and Jim Olivarez.

T12-064 – Sanders County New Invaders Project: Moved to fund for \$23,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-088 – Montana Aquatic Plant ID Guide: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-049 – Lower Boulder River Valley 2012: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Dick Zoanni, passed.

T12-010 – Hound Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$25,000 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed.

T12-040 – Fords Creek Whitetop Project: Moved to fund for \$3,500 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-0103 – Noxious Weed Alert Fact Sheets: Moved to fund for \$0 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. No Votes: Nico Cantalupo, Jim Olivarez, Jennifer Vermillion, and Margie Edsall.

T12-048 – Jefferson Canal WMA: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-056 – Gold Creek Cooperative Weed Management: Moved to fund for \$5,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-030 – Survey of Flathead County for Aquatic Invasive Species: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-104 – Weed Seedling Identification Guide: Moved to fund for \$18,323 by Jim Olivarez, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. No Votes: Todd Wagner.

T12-052 – Beck Hill CWMA: Moved to fund for \$2,500 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T12-031 – Montana Hawkweed Cooperative: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. No Votes: Nico Cantalupo.

T12-083 – Sentinel / South Hills WMA: Moved to fund for \$12,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-080 – Evaluation of Select Native Forbs for Revegetation after High Herbicide Application Rates: Moved to fund for \$8,448 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Story, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-042 – Fight Five Campaign: Moved to fund for \$45,000 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-037 – Madison Watershed Project: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jack Eddie, passed. Abstentions: Margie Edsall.

T12-091 – Upper Clark Fork River Vegetation Management Area: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. No Votes: Jennifer Vermillion. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-054 – Blackfoot River Corridor Leafy Spurge WMA: Moved to fund for \$4,500 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Jim Olivarez, passed. No Votes: Nico Cantalupo.

T12-086 – Swan Valley Cooperative Weed Management: Moved to fund for \$10,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. Abstentions: Jim Olivarez.

T12-068 – Leave No Weeds - Ravalli County: Moved to fund for \$3,000 by Dick Zoanni, seconded by Jim Olivarez, passed. No Votes: Jennifer Vermillion and Margie Edsall.

T12-051 – Cottonwood Cooperative Weed Management: Moved to fund for \$4,300 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-053 – Avon Cooperative Weed Management: Moved to fund for \$3,750 by Jim Story, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-074 – Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM): Moved to fund for 0\$ by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jennifer Vermillion, passed. No Votes: Dan Jackson.

T12-016 – Public Awareness & Participation: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jack Eddie, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed.

T12-018 – South Rocker CWMA: Moved to fund for \$0 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T12-055 – North Fork CWMA: Moved to fund for \$0 by Todd Wagner, seconded by Jim Story, passed. No Votes: Jim Olivarez.

T12-075 – Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information: Moved to fund for \$10,000 by Jim Olivarez, seconded by Todd Wagner, passed. No Votes: Dan Jackson, Nico Cantalupo, Dick Zoanni, and Jack Eddie.

Below are the low ranking applications that were recommended to be funded at \$0.

T12-087 – Missoula County New Invader Task Force

T12-019 – Flint Creek CWMA

T12-092 – Evaluating the Effectiveness and Limitations of eDNA for EWM Detection

T12-020 – German Gulch CWMA

T12-003 – Weed Control in Harlowton

T12-041 – MWCA Education Coordinator

T12-102 – Assessment of Yellow Toadflax Invasiveness, its Response to Herbicide, and Biocontrol Spread Rate

T12-079 – Use of Search Dogs to Intensify Dyer's Woad Eradication Efforts in Missoula

T12-078 – Updating the INVADERS Database System Legacy Computer Code & Securing the Site for a Hostile Web Environment

T12-044 – Upper Yellowstone River Riparian Weed Project

T12-043 – Engaging Anglers & Recreationists in Riparian Weed Projects

T12-093 – Evaluating Effects of Annual Brome Grasses on Eastern Montana Rangelands

	<p>T12-095 – Native Grass Restoration of Cheatgrass Dominated Rangelands at Legacy Ranch with Siduron and Sugar Beet Pulp Application</p> <p>T12-047 – Cost Effective Weed Mapping with Hyperspectral Remote Sensing</p> <p>T12-094 – Sugar Beet Application for Cheatgrass Control</p> <p>T12-007 – Clearwater Watershed Weed Mapping and Control – WITHDRAWN</p> <p>While deliberating application T12-064, Sanders County New Invaders project, the threat posed by rush skeletonweed to wheat and barley was discussed. Donna Rise was asked to continue this discussion with Director de Yong and discuss quarantine procedures with Cort Jensen. Donna was asked to report back to the Council.</p> <p>As the deliberations progressed, the Council discussed how to proceed in deliberating the lower ranked applications. The majority of the Council members favored continuing to deliberate on each application. Deliberations continued in sequence of the application rankings until reaching T12-087. Jim Gordon moved that due to lack of funding and low rankings by the Council, that the remaining applications, number T12-087, T12-075, T12-019, T12-092, T12-020, T12-003, T12-041, T12-102, T12-079, T12-078, T12-044, T12-043, T12-093, T12-095, T12-047, and T12-094 be funded at zero dollars. The motion was seconded by Jack Eddie. Discussion followed with Margie Edsall requesting that the applications with high rankings from agency representatives be heard. Jim Olivarez noted the importance of applications T12-075 and T12-078 and requested an amendment to Jim Gordon's motion. Jim Gordon was not in agreement with the proposed amendment for T12-078. The proposed amendment was not seconded. A vote was taken on the motion made by Jim Gordon. The motion passed with all voting members, other than Jim Olivarez, in favor of the motion. The motion passed by a majority.</p> <p>At this point grant award recommendations were reported by Dave Burch as totaling \$38,730 more than the available funding. Deliberations continued with re-opening of several projects, including T12-075, which was then funded for \$10,000. Jim Olivarez moved to re-open T12-079 and was seconded by Dan Jackson. Discussion followed and Jim Olivarez withdrew his motion due to realizing a conflict of interest. Additional projects were re-opened and discussed until adjustments were made to remove the funding deficit.</p> <p>The Council discussed projects to be considered for additional funding if unexpected revenue became available. Following discussion, Dan Jackson moved that if additional revenue for grant funding is available, that it be used to fund the next available project in the priority order that they have been ranked, at Director de Yong's discretion. The motion was seconded by Jim Story and unanimously approved.</p>
Other Business	<p>Formation of an evaluation criteria committee was discussed further. Margie Edsall made a motion to formalize creation of a subcommittee to review and evaluate the criteria and rules for funding the Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Subcommittee members included Jim Story, Jim Olivarez, Steve Siegelin, Jack Eddie, Dan Dobler, Tracy Sterling, and Mike Miller. The motion was seconded by Jim Gordon and unanimously approved. John Gaskin, who had volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, offered to provide comments rather than be on the subcommittee to keep the size down.</p> <p>Donna Rise advised the Council that approximately 90 days are required for a rule change. Greg noted that during the subcommittee review of the statute they may find that re-wording of the criteria questions is all that is needed, if so a rule change would not be required. Dave Burch said the Department will poll committee members for meeting dates and will work to arrange meetings through Adobe Connect to lessen the need for travel. The subcommittee was asked to present their recommendations at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>Public comment was asked for by Greg Ames. Lindsey Bona-Eggeman expressed appreciation to the Council for their difficult work in deliberations.</p> <p>Dates for the next Council meeting were discussed and June 19, 2012 was selected as the meeting date. The meeting will be held in Billings and is hoped to include a project tour.</p> <p>Agenda items for the June meeting were requested and include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noxious Weed Program detailed budget review • Invasive species update • Criteria subcommittee report • Introduction of staff selected for T12-081, the Education Backup Plan <p>At 2:55 p.m. Jim Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Todd Wagner and approved unanimously.</p>

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Provide reverted funds and additional information sheets to the Council prior to the 2013 grant hearings.	MDA Staff	Prior to 2013 grant hearings	open
2	Follow up with Steve Shelly regarding check station funding from the Forest Service.	Dave Burch		open
3	Criteria committee will meet to discuss application evaluations forms and provide the Council with suggestions for improvements at the June Council meeting.	Jim Story, Jim Olivarez, Jack Eddie, Steve Seigelin, Dan Dobler, Tracy Sterling, and Mike Miller	June 19	open
4	Mike Miller requested that county and sponsor information be added to the deliberation ranking order sheet in future years.	MDA Staff	2013 hearings	open
5	Discuss with Ron de Yong and the Wheat and Barley Committee the threat of rush skeletonweed as discussed by the Council when deliberating on application T12-064. Discuss quarantine options with Cort Jensen and provide an update to Council.	Donna Rise		open
6	Poll criteria committee members for meeting dates and arrange meetings through Adobe Connect.	MDA Staff	March 12	open