

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council Meeting		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	June 28, 2016	<b>Time:</b>	1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Carol Bearden	<b>Location:</b>	MT Dept. of Agriculture – Rm. 225 GoToMeeting / Conference Call
<b>1. Meeting Objective</b>			
Business Meeting			
<b>2. Attendees</b>			
<p>Council Members: Ron de Yong*, Linda Eklund*, Jack Eddie*, Jennifer Vermillion, Kellieann Morris, Kenny Keever</p> <p>Agency Representatives: Tracy Sterling</p> <p>Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) Staff*: Donna Rise, Dave Burch, Carol Bearden, Jasmine Reimer</p> <p>Meeting Guests: Shantell Frame-Martin*, Brian Ostwald, Jeanette Nordahl, Margie Edsall</p> <p>* Attended in person</p>			
<b>3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Ron de Yong called the meeting to order and introductions were made.		
<b>Review Minutes</b>	<p>Minutes from the February 29 – March 4, 2016 meeting and grant hearings were reviewed. Peter Rice’s 2016 flowering rush application, which was withdrawn from Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) consideration and provided to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) was discussed. Dave Burch advised that the project had been approved for funding through the DNRC Aquatic Invasive Species grant program.</p> <p>The EDDMapS presentation given at the previous meeting was discussed with council input that it is a beneficial system that hopefully will be utilized for the long run in state weed mapping. The <b>EDDMapS West user guide</b>, which was funded by the NWTF and written by staff from the Center for Invasive Species, was available for meeting attendees and will be <b>mailed to conference call participants</b>. Dave Burch reported receiving 80-90 EDDMapS noxious weed submissions in June and said he will <b>work with Chuck Bergeron to provide approval access for county weed coordinators when and if the verification becomes too large</b>.</p> <p>Ron thanked the council for the expertise that they provide and for the unanimous approval of the motion made at the last meeting to assume additional council responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Jack Eddie moved to approve the minutes as written. Linda Eklund seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.</b></p>		
<b>Advisory Council Appointments</b>	Council member appointments were reviewed by Ron de Yong. Council terms begin July 1 and continue for two years, with five of the council member terms coming to an end each year. Ron reported that Jack Eddie had been reappointed for an additional term as the Montana Weed Control Association representative and that new council members would		

	<p>replace four out-going members. Out-going members were thanked for their service.</p> <p>New appointments are as follows:</p> <p>Jeanette Nordahl – Recreationist / Wildlife Group Representative</p> <p>Joel Farkell – Consumer Group Representative</p> <p>Margie Edsall – At-Large Member</p> <p>Brian Ostwald – Eastern County Representative</p>												
<b>Agricultural Experiment Station Overview</b>	<p>Tracy Sterling, Department Head and Professor with MSU, provided a written report of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Montana State University Extension Service activities. The report included highlights of MSU’s 2013–2015 NWTF grant projects, 2016 NWTF grant awards, additional funding sources and amounts, research and education impacts and current publications.</p>												
<b>Budget/ Noxious Weed Program Overview</b>	<p>Dave Burch provided an estimate of the noxious weed program budget for fiscal year 2017. Dave reported that non-grant expenses for fiscal year 2017 are budgeted at \$232,881. This amount is based on 12% of the prior year grant awards from fund 02068 which totaled \$1,940,672. Historical information of weed vehicle fee revenue, NWTF interest amounts, reverted funds and grant hearing funding requests were provided to the council.</p> <p>Following distribution of pending FY 2017 Special County/Reservation grant awards, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) pass through awards, and allowable non-grant expenditures, the estimated funds available for the 2017 grant hearing awards are as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>State Special Revenue Fund</td> <td>\$1,217,340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Fund</td> <td>\$101,159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forest Service Funds</td> <td>\$113,798</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unspent past Forest Service Funds</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reverted Funds</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total (estimate)</td> <td>\$1,432,297</td> </tr> </table> <p>Funds available for the 2017 grant hearings will continue to be updated following the close of fiscal year 2016.</p>	State Special Revenue Fund	\$1,217,340	General Fund	\$101,159	Forest Service Funds	\$113,798	Unspent past Forest Service Funds	\$0	Reverted Funds	\$0	Total (estimate)	\$1,432,297
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<b>Legislation Update</b>	<p>Donna Rise provided details about MDA legislation related to noxious weeds and pesticides that is being prepared for the 2017 session. Legislation is due to the Governor’s office by September 15, 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursery program legislation will focus on fee changes to support a full time nursery inspector. Legislative changes include language to eliminate nursery inspection fees and to update the licensing fee structure.</li> <li>• Vertebrate pest program legislation for 2017 was described as mainly housekeeping legislation following a review of current language that is no longer relevant or accurate.</li> <li>• Donna discussed legislative changes proposed for the Pesticide program. Extensive efforts to expand awareness of the legislation and provide opportunities for comments have been underway since May 2015. Changes will include EPA proposed certification and training changes, pesticide fee changes, statute and rule changes, and changes to worker protection standards.</li> </ul> <p>Additional information can be found on the MDA website or by contacting department staff.</p>												
<b>Grant Reviews and Schedule</b>	<p>Jasmine Reimer shared her grant site visit schedule and project evaluation forms with the council. Jasmine has completed 12 project evaluations and plans to visit all of the new local cooperative projects as well as new weed coordinators who have taken over existing</p>												

	<p>projects. Several completed site visits were reviewed and <b>Jasmine will follow up on the herbicide application rates used for the Douglas Weed District project in Granite County.</b> Dave Burch said he would like to have Jasmine’s site visit reports include a report of what information has been submitted to EDDMapS. Dave said he is not asking counties with existing mapping systems to change what they are doing, but would be asking that their information be shared on EDDMapS. Kenny Keever agreed, adding that it would help with data for the state plan. <b>Kellieann agreed and moved that it become a requirement in applications and the contracts for each grant. Kenny Keever seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>Council members were encouraged to contact Jasmine with suggestions or requests for specific project reviews/visits. Following discussion it was agreed that Jasmine will provide a summary report of her site visits to the council.</b></p>
<p><b>Noxious Weed Education Campaign Update</b></p>	<p>Shantell Frame-Martin discussed the recently completed web-based noxious weed training module for realtors. The training provides education credits and is available at no cost to those who sign up for it. Fifty people have registered for the course and 15 have completed the program at this time. Module test scoring and survey results have provided favorable feedback on the training.</p> <p>Shantell reported that the Adopt a Trailhead campaign is growing with ten kiosks in place or in the planning stages. Shantell has partnered the Adopt a Trailhead campaign with Play.Clean.Go materials to provide a consistent message at the kiosks, on area billboards, on vehicle tailgate wraps, and in television commercials. Newly developed Play.Clean.Go materials were shown to the council along with information on outreach efforts that have been accomplished.</p>
<p><b>Noxious Weed Trust Fund Program Update</b></p>	<p>An overview of the MDA noxious weed program trends in NWF applicants, awards, types of grants, and program funding information was provided by Carol Bearden. Completed and planned program activities and trainings were discussed.</p> <p>Dave Burch reported a high turnout at the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council’s (MISAC) recent Governor’s Summit on Invasive Species. A Summit Results webinar was held earlier in June and a recording of the webinar can be found at: <a href="https://attendeegotowebinar.com/recording/1470611471055719426">https://attendeegotowebinar.com/recording/1470611471055719426</a>.</p> <p>A Request for Qualification, released by the MISAC to select a natural resource consultant who will aid in developing the Montana All-Taxa Invasive Species Strategic Framework, closed June 24<sup>th</sup> with submissions from two applicants. Dave said a draft Strategic Framework is expected to be available in October or November, and a final document completed prior to the 2017 legislative session.</p> <p>Dave discussed the recent MISAC executive council meeting with Governor Bullock, noting that although not opposed to it, the Governor’s budget is not expected to provide funding for an aquatic trust fund, and is considering funding a half time employee for the MISAC council. Dave believes that other legislation may pursue trust fund funding efforts. Dave said that the MISAC is expected to be reinstated and continue to function.</p> <p>Petitions to list plants on the state noxious weed list are due for submission to the MDA by September 31, 2016. Petitions to list Common Buckthorn and Medusahead have been received. Dave expects to receive additional petitions for aquatic plants including hybrid milfoil. Development of a state noxious aquatic plant list was discussed, which may follow the completion of the Montana All-Taxa Invasive Species Strategic Framework.</p> <p>Activities of the Healthy Habitats Coalition were discussed as well as ongoing efforts for noxious weed coordination along the Idaho/Montana border. Dave noted that his counterpart, Matt Voile, had resigned from the Idaho Department of Agriculture. Dave said</p>

	<p>that he and representatives from Madison, Beaverhead, and Ravalli counties have formed a small group to work directly with their Idaho counterparts.</p> <p>Dave reported that recent Western Weed Coordinating (WWC) activities have included involvement with the Healthy Habitats Coalition and the sage grouse initiative. <b>Dave suggested that Shantell attend the next WCC meeting to present information on the realtor training program. Dave will provide the meeting date to Shantell.</b></p> <p>Dave reported that oversight reports continue to be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC), which currently funds his position as the state weed coordinator. Ron noted the thoroughness of the reports that have been submitted.</p>
<b>Other Business</b>	<p>Ron de Yong asked for public comment. None was heard.</p> <p>Ron encouraged involvement and support from the council as the MDA moves forward with pesticide program legislation and funding efforts for the state weed coordinator position.</p> <p><b>A Doodle poll will be sent out to select the January meeting date.</b></p> <p>Agenda topics include:</p> <p>Biocontrol presentation - Melissa Maggio-Kassner</p> <p>NWTF grant site visit summary and success stories – Jasmine Reimer</p> <p><b>Dave encouraged the council to provide additional agenda suggestions for the meeting.</b></p> <p><b>The NWTF grant hearings will be held in Helena at the Wingate Hotel, February 27 – March 3, 2017.</b></p> <p><b>Jack Eddie motioned to adjourn and Linda Eklund seconded, which was approved unanimously.</b> Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.</p>

<b>4. Action Items</b>				
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Mail EDDMapS West user guide to conference call participants.	Carol Bearden		Completed
2	Work with Chuck Barger on to provide approval access to county weed coordinators for EDDMapS noxious weed submissions.	Dave Burch		
3	Follow up on herbicide application rates used on the Douglas Weed District project in Granite County.	Jasmine Reimer		
4	Update applications and contract language to include requirement that project weed information be entered into EDDMapS.	MDA staff		
5	Contact Jasmine if council members have suggestions or requests for specific project reviews/site visits.	Council members		
6	Prepare summary report for the council of site visits and success stories.	Jasmine Reimer		
7	Provide WWC meeting dates to Shantell for a presentation of the realtor training program.	Dave Burch		
8	Poll council for January 2016 meeting date.	MDA staff		
9	Submit agenda suggestions for the January 2017 meeting.	Council members		