

MONTANA NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Business Meeting and Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Hearings
February 28 – March 3, 2011
Best Western Helena Great Northern Hotel, Helena, Montana

Attendance

Council: Ron de Yong, Council Chair; Margie Edsall, Western County Representative; Jim Story, Biological Research & Control Representative; Gary Olsen, Eastern County Representative; Nico Cantalupo, At-Large Member; Jim Gordon, Herbicide Dealer/Applicator Representative; Jennifer Anderson Vermillion, Sportsman/Wildlife Interest; Dan Jackson, Livestock Production Representative; Kurt Myllymaki, Consumer Representative; Terry Turner, Montana Weed Control Association Representative

Agency Representatives: Tracy Sterling, Montana State University; Mike Miller, Montana Department of Transportation; Steve Siegelin, Montana State University-Extension; Joe Weigand, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Dan Dobler, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Joe Merenz, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); Jim Jacobs, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; John Gaskin, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Montana Department of Agriculture Staff: Greg Ames, Donna Rise, Dave Burch, Kim Johnson, Carol Bearden, Jeremy Seidlitz

Business Meeting

Ron de Yong called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011. Council members and agency representatives were thanked for their attendance and their time spent on grant application review. Introductions were made.

The minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Ron de Yong noted that the current trust fund balance reported on page one of the minutes included unrealized bond income. Ron said the principal balance of the Noxious Weed Trust Fund was currently approximately 10,192,000. Additional information was provided regarding the Legislative Update section on page two of the minutes with Ron advising that LC0688 was now SB365, and LC1877 was now SB343. **Nico Cantalupo moved to approve the minutes as written, and was seconded by Gary Olsen. The motion to approve the minutes passed with Margie Edsall abstaining as she had not attended the meeting, and all other members voting in favor.**

Budget Report

Greg Ames provided a review of the Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program budget. Greg reported that a total of \$1,549,920 was available for grant funding and that grant requests totaled \$2,245,872 leaving a shortfall of \$695,952. Greg discussed the change in available funding from what had been presented at the January meeting. Greg said that the revision resulted from the past couple years of aggressively calculating the grant funding award amount, unrealized investment gains resulting from the transition from short term to long term investments, lower revenue to the program from vehicle licensing, and a general slowdown in the economy. To aid in understanding funding changes and Department spending in the Noxious Weed Program, Greg said the Department would hold an open meeting on Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Donna Rise discussed HB375 which if passed, would reduce the amount of funding to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund from vehicle license fees by \$141,000. Further budget discussion followed with Ron de Yong advising the council that SB365, dealing with the allowable 12 percent noxious weed program administration had been tabled unanimously in committee. Discussion continued on the differing opinions of administrative costs and program costs. Ron advised the council that the Department was following the interpretation of the law given by the Department attorney and confirmed by legislative auditors.

The invasive aquatic plant trainings held in February were discussed with Dave Burch stating that approximately 199 people had attended the trainings. Trainings were held at Fort Peck, Lewistown, and Missoula and were funded through the invasive species program at the Montana Department of Agriculture. **Dave said a summer training program utilizing the Eurasian watermilfoil response kits is being considered by the Department.**

Grant Changes, Updates and Review

Dave Burch advised the council that four grant applicants would be providing their presentations via conference call. Kim Johnson discussed the grant hearing materials provided to the council, which included an informational sheet with county budget information compiled from Special County/Reservation grant applications. Dave Burch noted that counties must be funded at 1.6 mills or \$100,000 for Class 1 counties, to be eligible for grant funding. The Montana Weed Control Association Integrated Pest Management Committee ranking sheet for research projects was also provided. Application review materials completed by John Simons and Larry Beneker who were not able to attend the hearings were provided to the council.

Other Business

Greg Ames reviewed Robert's Rules of Order and the hearing/deliberation procedures. Greg advised the council that he would serve as Director de Yong's proxy vote in the event of a tie vote if the Director was not in attendance. The council was told that their funding recommendations would be provided to Director de Yong for his approval.

Jim Gordon provided an update on chemical pricing through the state contract.

Public comment was asked for by Greg Ames. None was heard.

Greg Ames noted that this was the last grant hearing session for Terry Turner and Gary Olsen as their terms on the Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council would end June 30, 2011. Gary and Terry were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

Grant hearings began at 1:00 p.m. and concluded for the day at 5:30 p.m.

March 1, 2011

Grant hearings began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded for the day at 5:00 p.m.

March 2, 2011

Grant hearings began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded for the day at 6:00 p.m.

March 3, 2011

Grant hearings began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 12:15 p.m.

The business meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Grant deliberations were conducted.

The council was advised that the next council meeting would be held on June 22 in the Department of Agriculture conference room in Helena. The meeting time will be forwarded to the council. Greg Ames thanked everyone for participation in the grant hearing process.

At 4:50 p.m., Jim Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Terry Turner and approved unanimously.

**Advisory Council Deliberations on Grant Applications ~ March 3, 2011
All proposed grant applications are for one year**

T11-001 – In-Lake Suppression of Submerged Flowering Rush: Moved to fund for \$40,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. No Votes: Jim Gordon, Jim Story, Nico Cantalupo, Terry Turner.

T11-002 – Flathead Lake Flowering Rush Invasive Plant Management Area: Moved to fund for \$3,363 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T11-003 – Lower Salish Mountains Invasive Plant Management Area: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T11-004 – Oliver Point Sheep Project: Moved to fund for \$4,000 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Terry Turner, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T11-005 – McDonald Basin Invasive Plant Management Area: Moved to fund for \$6,252 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T11-006 – Ravalli Hill WMA: Moved to fund for \$10,035 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Dan Jackson.

T11-007 – Communities Pulling Together: Moved to fund for \$1,680 by Jim Story, seconded by Terry Turner, passed.

T11-008 – Leave No Weeds: Moved to fund for \$6,295 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-009 – 2012 Noxious Weed Weekly Planners: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-010 – Bitterroot Bio-Control Project 2011: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-011 – Bitterroot Blueweed 2011: Moved to fund for \$10,915 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-012 – 2011 Stop the Slow Motion Explosion ~ Common Bugloss & New Invaders: Moved to fund for \$12,550 by Jim Story, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T11-013 – River Junction Cooperative WMA: Moved to fund for \$18,286 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-014 – Douglas Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$17,355 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-015 – Nevada Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$16,132 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Terry Turner, passed.

T11-016 – Dempsey Drainage WMA: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-017 – Blackfoot River Corridor Leafy Spurge WMA: Moved to fund for \$8,769 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-018 – Deer Lodge County Sheep Grazing Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$4,450 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-019 – Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information: Moved to fund for \$10,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-020 – Revegetation of Timber Harvested Land in Order to Suppress Noxious Weed Infestation: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-021 – Canyon Project: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-022 – Augusta Insectary: Moved to fund for \$7,050 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-023 – Turk Road Project: Moved to fund for \$3,918 by Terry Turner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-024 – Tributaries to the Headwaters of the Little Prickly Pear: Moved to fund for \$10,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-025 – Lincoln Valley Snowmobile Trails: Moved to fund for \$2,820 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Gary Olson, passed.

T11-026 – Upper Sun River Watershed WMA: Moved to fund for \$9,850 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-027 – Lake County Yellowflag Iris Control: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-028 – Purple Loosestrife Management Project: Moved to fund for \$10,480 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Gary Olsen, passed.

T11-029 – Sweet Grass Hills Weed management Project 2011: Moved to fund for \$22,938 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-030 – Rocky Creek Weed Management Area – Expanded: Moved to fund for \$9,188 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-031 – Hebgen Basin Weed Management Area: Moved to fund for \$20,549 by Gary Olson, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-032 – Mule Creek Cooperative Weed Control Project: Moved to fund for \$14,338 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-033 – Greater Clarkston Area Cooperative Noxious Weed Education & Control Project: Moved to fund for \$10,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-034 – East Bench Noxious Weed Program: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-035 – Tri-County Leafy Spurge Project: Moved to fund for \$6,350 by Nico Cantalupo, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-036 – Powder River Leafy Spurge Project: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-037 – EWM Survey and Education: Moved to fund for \$49,133 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-038 – Milk River Saltcedar/Russian Olive CWMA: Moved to fund for \$26,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Terry Turner.

T11-039 – Painted Robe Weed Management Project: Moved to fund for \$23,534 by Gary Olsen, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-040 – Park County CWMA Education & Outreach Project: Moved to fund for \$0 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Jennifer Anderson Vermillion. No Votes: Nico Cantalupo.

T11-041 – Invasive Species Landowner Protection Outreach Program: Moved to fund for \$0 by Terry Turner, seconded by Gary Olsen, passed. Abstentions: Jennifer Anderson Vermillion.

T11-042 – Engaging Anglers in Riparian Weed Mapping and Control: Moved to fund for \$0 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. No Vote: Margie Edsall.

T11-043 – Rosebud County Russian Olive/Saltcedar Grant: Moved to fund for \$7,520 by Nico Cantalupo, seconded by Gary Olsen, passed.

T11-044 – Fattig Creek WMA -- Expanded: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Jim Gordon.

T11-045 – Blackfoot Houndstongue Management Area: Moved to fund for \$3,615 by Jim Story, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-046 – Upper Boulder Watershed Cooperative Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$35,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-047 – Smith River Cooperative Weed Management Project: Moved to fund for \$11,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed. No Votes: Jennifer Anderson Vermillion, Margie Edsall.

T11-048 – Highwoods Leafy Spurge Management Project: Moved to fund for \$6,500 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-049 – Hound Creek WMA: Moved to fund for \$50,000 by Gary Olsen, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-050 – North Cable Road North Cooperative Project: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-051 – Barnes Creek Weed District: Moved to fund for \$13,160 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-052 – Ruby-Town Weed Management Project: Moved to fund for \$6,175 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Gary Olsen, passed. Abstentions: Margie Edsall.

T11-053 – Madison Watershed Project: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Margie Edsall.

T11-054 – 2011 Weed Board and Commissioner Training: Moved to fund for \$15,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon passed. No Votes: Margie Edsall.

T11-055 – Social Science and Marketing for Weed Prevention: Moved to fund for \$0 by Gary Olsen, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T11-056 – Grasshopper Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$8,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-057 – MT Dyer's Woad Cooperative Project: Moved to fund for \$20,036 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-058 – Wise River/Big Hole River Oxeye Daisy Management and Restoration: Moved to fund for \$28,705 by Nico Cantalupo, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-059 – Beaverhead River Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Margie Edsall.

T11-060 – Argenta Noxious Weed Project: Moved to fund for \$1,500 by Jim Story, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-061 – Sanders County New Invaders: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Gary Olsen, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-062 – EWM Education & Outreach Program: Moved to fund for \$12,150 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-063 – Treatment of EWM & Curlyleaf Pondweed on Noxon Reservoir: Moved to fund for \$53,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-064 – Clearwater Watershed Weed Mapping and Control: Moved to fund for \$11,235 by Terry Turner, seconded by Gary Olsen, passed.

T11-065 – Haystack Mountain Loop NW, Square Butte, NW Box Elder: Moved to fund for \$30,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed. Abstentions: Terry Turner.

T11-066 – Judith Gap WMA: Moved to fund for \$20,049 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Gary Olsen.

T11-067 – Upper Musselshell South: Moved to fund for \$55,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Gary Olsen.

T11-068 – Weed Control in Harlowton: Moved to fund for \$2,996 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed. Abstentions: Gary Olsen.

T11-069 – Fort Logan Weed Management Area: Moved to fund for \$22,483 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Nico Cantalupo.

T11-070 – Show Me & Teach Me All About Agriculture/Agriculture Topics Awareness Contest: Moved to fund for \$6,072 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Nico Cantalupo.

T11-071 – Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Project in Flathead County: Moved to fund for \$29,100 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-072 – Government Lincoln County Cooperative Tansy Ragwort: Moved to fund for \$8,500 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. No Votes: Dan Jackson, Jennifer Anderson Vermillion, Margie Edsall.

T11-073 – Private Lincoln County Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Management: Moved to fund for \$20,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed. No Votes: Dan Jackson, Jennifer Anderson Vermillion, Margie Edsall.

T11-074 – Lincoln County Cooperative Rush Skeletonweed Management Project: Moved to fund for \$16,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-075 – Lincoln County High School Biological Control Project: Moved to fund for \$8,900 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-076 – School Weed Awareness & Monitoring Program (SWAMP): Moved to fund for \$0 by Gary Olsen, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-077 – Lower Blackfoot Leafy Spurge Project: Moved to fund for \$3,348 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-078 – Upper Clark Fork Perennial Pepperweed Project: Moved to fund for \$0 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Story, passed. No Votes: Margie Edsall.

T11-079 – Ninemile Remount Cooperative WMA: Moved to fund for \$12,000 by Dan Jackson, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-080 – Missoula County New Invaders Task Force: Moved to fund for \$0 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-081 – Clearwater River Yellowflag Iris Eradication Project: Moved to fund for \$5,000 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon.

T11-082 – Japanese Knotweed Initiative: Moved to fund for \$5,779 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Nico Cantalupo, passed.

T11-083 – Missoula Conservation Lands Restoration Research: Moved to fund for \$8,908 by Jim Story, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T11-084 – Can Biological Control and Targeted Grazing be Integrated to Suppress Spotted Knapweed?: Moved to fund for \$25,478 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-085 – N Boulder Valley II Weed Management Project: Moved to fund for \$13,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jim Story, passed.

T11-086 – Smith River Flea Beetle Bash: Moved to fund for \$9,748 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-087 – Whitehall Biological Weed Control Project: Moved to fund for \$8,600 by Terry Turner, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-088 – Integration of Pathogens, Sheep Herbivory, & Herbicides to Manage Cheatgrass: Moved to fund for \$29,195 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-089 – Big Sky Weed Partnership: Moved to fund for \$0 by Terry Turner, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed. Abstentions: Margie Edsall.

T11-090 – Weed Management Certification Program: Moved to fund for \$18,030 by Nico Cantalupo, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-091 – Assessing Noxious Weed Seed Dispersal by Hikers, Dogs, and Mountain Bikes: Moved to fund for \$0 by Terry Turner, seconded by Gary Olson, passed.

T11-092 – Plastic Weed Models and Weed ID Cards: Moved to fund for \$0 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Gary Olsen, passed.

T11-093 – Herbicide Resistance Extension Information for Montana Producers: Moved to fund for \$16,628 by Margie Edsall, seconded by Jennifer Anderson Vermillion, passed. No Votes: Jim Gordon.

T11-094 – Optimizing Establishment of New Yellow Toadflax Biocontrol Agents: Moved to fund for \$39,250 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-095 – Developing Candidate Biocontrol Agents to Stop Spread of Russian Olive: Moved to fund for \$25,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-096 – Russian Knapweed Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$32,890 by Jim Story, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.

T11-097 – Common Tansy & Oxeye Daisy Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$40,000 by Jim Gordon, seconded by Dan Jackson, passed.

T11-098 – Whitetop Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$18,000 by Jim Story, seconded by Margie Edsall, passed.

T11-099 – Invasive Hawkweed Biological Control: Moved to fund for \$31,140 by Nico Cantalupo, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed.