

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/Project Name:	Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council Meeting		
Date of Meeting:	June 6, 2013	Time:	10:00 a.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Carol Bearden	Location:	Park County Fairgrounds, Livingston, MT

1. Meeting Objective

Business Meeting

2. Attendees

Council Members: Ron de Yong, Jim Story (conference call), Jim Gordon, Jennifer Vermillion, Margie Edsall, Bobby LaSalle, Nico Cantalupo, Jack Eddie, Jim Olivarez, Dick Zoanni

Agency Representatives: Mike Miller, Steve Siegelin, Tracy Sterling, Joe Merenz, Larry Beneker, Steve Shelly, Floyd Thompson

Montana Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) Staff: Donna Rise, Dave Burch, Kim Antonick, Carol Bearden,

Meeting Guests: Tracy Mosley, Park County Extension; Clay Williams, Park County Weed District; Amy Adler, Rosebud County Weed District

3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic	Discussion
Welcome & Introductions	Ron de Yong called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Floyd Thompson attended the meeting representing the Bureau of Land Management in place of John Simons as he has retired. Jim Story and Margie Edsall were thanked for their service to the Council as their terms end June 30, 2013.
Review Minutes	The minutes from the March 4-8, 2013 meeting and grant hearings were reviewed. Margie Edsall moved to approve the minutes as written. Jim Gordon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.
2013 Legislation	<p>Legislative actions affecting the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) were summarized by Ron de Yong. Ron discussed the transfer of Craig McLane and the MDA aquatic program to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department (FWP). Discussion on removal or change of the priority level of Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and flowering rush on the Montana Noxious Weed List was discussed as MDA will not have the resources to control aquatic noxious weeds. Enforcement of prohibited species, including noxious weeds, by FWP was discussed. Consideration of changing aquatic noxious weeds to a Priority 2B level on the weed list was favored by several council members as this would enable counties to specify how they address aquatic invaders in their county weed management plan. The Council was asked to provide input on aquatic weed listing changes to the MDA staff.</p> <p>Ron de Yong advised the Council of changes in the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage (NWSFF) program resulting from the passage of SB 144, including proposed fee increases. The market for certified straw in oilfield areas and federal agency representation on the NWSFF Advisory Council was discussed. Ron reviewed MDA staff reductions and adjustments required by the passage of SB 144 and said he has been seeking additional funding for the noxious weed program from state agencies and others. Dick Zoanni briefed the Council on efforts he is making at Ron's request, to seek funds from oilfield area companies. Dick will check back with his contacts soon and has invited oilfield company representatives to a meeting on June 12.</p> <p>Ron discussed recent water sampling revenue losses of \$350,000 to the MDA analytical lab and pesticide program, which has helped fund the weed program in the past. Ron said he has met with Governor Bullock to discuss the need for general fund dollars of at least \$150,000 for weed program coordination and additional funds needed in case of non-routine program costs or unforeseen noxious weed emergencies.</p>

<p>Education Campaign Application Review and Deliberation</p>	<p>Donna Rise summarized the four applications received for the Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign funding opportunity. The Council was advised that the applicants could be contacted during the meeting if questions or clarifications were needed. Discussion followed and Amy Adler and Jane Mangold provided input on their proposals when requested by the Council. Kelliann Morris was not available to respond due to a family emergency.</p> <p>Margie Edsall moved that application 10726, “Augmenting Montana’s Public and Agricultural Professionals Knowledge of Ecologically-based Integrated Weed Management of Noxious Weeds” submitted by Gadi Reddy from Montana State University (MSU), not be deliberated on as it did not fit the funding opportunity. The motion was seconded by Jack Eddie and approved unanimously. The Council deliberated on the remaining three applications. Jim Olivarez moved to fund application 10724, submitted by Jane Mangold at MSU, at the requested amount of \$67,068. The motion was seconded by Dick Zoanni. Nico Cantalupo asked that the motion be amended to increase funding to \$75,000, allowing the salary to match the current education coordinator salary, and to provide additional funds for travel, and other expenses. Jim Olivarez and Dick Zoanni agreed and accepted the amendment. The amended motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Nico Cantalupo moved to fund application 10671 from Rosebud County at \$0 as the project was awarded to MSU. Jim Olivarez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</p> <p>Margie Edsall moved to fund application 10667 from Ravalli County at \$0 as the project was awarded to MSU. Jim Gordon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Update</p>	<p>Changes to the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage (NWSFF) program were discussed, Donna Rise said the process for fee rule changes was underway and was hoped to be implemented in early July. Council members were encouraged to provide comments during the rule making process. The impact of fee increases, the certified straw market, and the need for public and agency NWSFF education was reviewed. Proposed fee changes:</p> <p>Field Inspection: Currently \$2.50 / acre - increase to \$4.50 / acre (50:50 split between MDA and Inspector) Tags: Currently \$0.10 / tag - increase to \$0.50 / tag Twine: Currently 37.55 / box - increase to \$50.00 / box Labels: Currently \$0.10 / label – increase to \$0.40 / label</p> <p>Facility Inspection: Currently \$20 / hour – increase to \$44 / hour</p> <p>Nico Cantalupo encouraged providing information on the increases to producers as far in advance as possible. Ron de Yong suggested press releases be developed about certified straw market opportunities and connecting buyers and sellers via the MDA Hay Hotline.</p>
<p>Council Term Limits</p>	<p>Donna Rise reported that the comment period for the rule change eliminating wording that limits Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council terms to a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms ends June 6, 2013. Comments from the Council were encouraged and Donna discussed comments that had been received.</p> <p>Ron advised the Council of the Secretary of States desire to standardize council terms and discussed the benefit of removing the term cap for this council due to the small pool of qualified applicants for some positions. Donna offered copies of the rule change document which she said could also be found on the MDA website.</p>
<p>Weed Program Update</p>	<p>Dave Burch reported that MDA fiscal year 2014 funding from the US Forest Service is expected to total \$138,000 with approximately \$117,000 of that amount being available for Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) grant awards. Dave noted that the total funding amount is less than the \$282,000 received in fiscal year 2013.</p> <p>Suggestions of updates to the WebGrants application forms were requested. Joe Merenz asked that more detail related to integrated weed management be required on the applications.</p> <p>Grant application evaluation forms were reviewed with several favorable comments on the improvements that have been made. Dave said that as requested at the 2013 hearings, council and agency representative scores will be combined to determine deliberation ranking order for future grant hearings. The agreement at the 2013 hearing to not share reviewer evaluation form comments was discussed. Larry Beneker would like his comments shared if he is not able to attend the hearings. Donna Rise noted that written comments are considered public information.</p> <p>Expenditure reductions for council meetings were reviewed. Dave advised the Council that meetings will need to be limited to the five day hearings in Helena and webinars or conference calls for the January and June meetings. Dave hopes to find a meeting room at the Capitol, at no charge, for the 2014 grant hearings. MDA staff will check the availability for the proposed hearing dates of February 24-28 or March 3-7, 2014.</p>

	<p>Dave advised the Council that the Montana Noxious Weed Management Plan update will not be completed as quickly as had been hoped due to the reduction in MDA staff. Members of the Noxious Weed Summit Advisory Council have asked to participate in the re-write, which Dave hopes can be completed within a year. Draft updates will be made available for review and comments.</p> <p>Ron de Yong advised the Council of the May 2013 Noxious Weed Summit Advisory Council (NWSAC) meeting with Governor Bullock. Ron discussed the Council which was formed by Executive Order from Governor Schweitzer and could be modified by Governor Bullock. NWSAC meetings will be reduced to one meeting per year as all costs for the Council are now included in the MDA weed program's allowable administrative percentage.</p>
Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service Overview	<p>Tracy Sterling, Department Head and Professor with Montana State University (MSU), and Steve Siegelin, Western Region Department Head for the Montana State University Extension Service, provided a report of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Montana State University Extension Service activities. The history and benefits of the partnerships between Extension Service and the Experiment Station were discussed. A written report was provided which included highlights of MSU's 2010–2012 NWTF grant projects, 2013 NWTF grant awards, funding amounts from other sources, research and education impacts, activities, and current publications. Funding challenges facing the Center for Invasive Species Management (CISM) and the Schutter Diagnostic Lab were discussed.</p>
Other Business	<p>Ron de Yong asked if there was other business to discuss.</p> <p>It was agreed that the January meeting agenda will include a budget update. Public comment was asked for by Ron de Yong. No public comment was made. Discussion turned to the funding recipient change needed for grant application T13-001, Memorize, Recognize, Prioritize: Noxious Weed Education Action Program, submitted by Shantell Frame-Martin. The application had been recommended for funding to MDA at the March hearings, however Impacts from SB 144 prohibit awards to MDA. Jack Eddie moved that funding for the project be awarded to MSU as the Noxious Weed Education Campaign would be housed there. Jim Gordon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.</p>

4. Action	Items			
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Provide comments on aquatic weed listing changes to MDA staff.	Council		
2	Provide comments during the rule making process for NWSFF fee changes.	Council		
3	Provide fee increase information to producers as far in advance as possible. Develop press releases about certified straw market opportunities and connecting buyers and sellers via the MDA Hay Hotline.	MDA Staff		
4	Provide comments during the rule making process for council term limit changes.	Council		
5	Revise grant application forms to require more detailed information on biocontrol use in project areas.	MDA Staff		
6	Include a budget update on the January meeting agenda.	MDA Staff		