

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council Meeting		
Date of Meeting:	February 27 – March 2, 2017	Start Time:	Feb. 27 - 1:00 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Jerin Borrego	Location:	Wingate, Helena GoToMeeting Conference

1. Meeting Objective	
Business Meeting / Grant Hearings	
2. Attendees	
<p>Council Members: Brian Ostwald, Jack Eddie, Jeanette Nordahl, Jim Gordon, Joel Farkell, Kelliann Morris, Kenny Keever, Linda Eklund, Margie Edsall, Todd Wagner</p> <p>Agency Representatives: Tracy Sterling*, Dan Dobler, Joe Merenz, Mike Miller, Tony Smith, John Gaskin*, Dan Lucas, John Cook</p> <p>Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) Staff: Kim Mangold, Greg Ames, Donna Rise, Dave Burch, Carol Bearden, Jasmine Reimer, Jerin Borrego, Kim Antonick**, Ben Thomas**, Libbi Lovshin** Guests: Shantell Frame-Martin**</p> <p>* Attended Feb. 27 via GoToMeeting, in person March 2 ** Attended March 2</p>	

3. Agenda and Notes,	Decisions, Issues
Topic	Discussion
Welcome & Introductions	Kim Mangold called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Kim announced that Ben Thomas, the Montana Department of Agriculture’s new director, started today and planned to attend a portion of the grant hearings on Thursday.
Review Minutes	<p>Minutes from the January 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Kenny Keever noted a correction in the other business/biological control discussion section. The section stated that researchers are sourcing their insects with CABI and should instead read that they would be sourcing their research through CABI.</p> <p>Jeanette Nordahl moved to approve the minutes with Kenny Keever’s correction. Kenny Keever seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.</p>
Budget Review	Greg Ames reviewed the MDA noxious weed program fiscal year (FY) 2017 estimated grant budget sheet. FY17 grant program budget estimates were explained. Information was given for historic funds from FY09 to FY17 for state special revenue history, other revenue history, grant hearing history, and unspent grant award history. Information was given for grant awards that were unspent and reverted in FY17.

	Estimated funds available for 2017 grant hearings:	
	State Special Revenue Fund	\$1,362,228
	General Fund	\$101,159
	Forest Service Funds	\$113,798
	Unspent past Forest Service Funds	\$3,269
	Reverted Funds	\$28,281
	Total (estimate)	\$1,608,735

- Tracy Sterling asked if evaluation criteria had been updated to match the council evaluation form that is now in use. Dave Burch responded that it was. Mike Miller questioned if any grant has ever been submitted for a weed that wasn't a high priority in the county that the grant was located. Margie Edsall responded that if the weed is a low priority on the state noxious weed list, then they must explain why it is a high priority to their county.
- Margie Edsall moved to accept changes made to the NWTF Statutes and Administrative Rules. Jack Eddie seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Topic	Discussion
Legislative Update	Donna Rise provided details about MDA legislation related to noxious weeds and pesticides. HB 126, HB 170, HB 204, HB 283, HB 410, HB 434, HB 444, HB 540, HB 567, and SB 247 were reviewed for current status.
Other Business	<p>Kim Mangold asked for public comment. None was heard.</p> <p>Other business discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Burch requested that the council consider adjustments to the deadline for grant application submittal and the dates for grant hearings. Changes would allow more time for grant applicants to submit applications and may increase the number of applications received. January 6 was put forward to be the grant application deadline each year and it was suggested that the hearings be held near the end of March. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim Gordon questioned whether it is a common problem every year that people don't have enough time to turn in their applications or if this year was unique due to weather. Jasmine Reimer responded that the weather was a factor this year, but that there are always some applicants who struggle with the deadline. ○ Jasmine Reimer noted that the change to the January 6 deadline would make the fall less congested for the grant program as there are currently many items due around that time of year. ○ Margie Edsall and Todd Wagner requested that the grant hearings be held no later than March 15th as later than that becomes too busy for council members to be able to attend the hearings. <p>Todd Wagner moved that the grant application deadline be January 6 each year and grant hearings held mid-March each year. The motion was seconded by Jim Gordon. All in favor.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Linda Eklund questioned if these deadlines could ever be changed again. Kim Mangold responded that the deadlines can be reviewed by the council yearly and adjusted if needed. ● Dave Burch noted that five council members are up for re-appointment and asked that they send a letter to him as to whether they would like to re-apply for another term. ○ Linda Eklund questioned if council members could request a one year term instead of a two year term if they were uncertain if they could commit to the second year. Greg Ames responded that the council member could apply for a two year term and that if they were unable to continue in their second year, they could resign. <p>Kim Mangold asked for public comment. None was heard.</p> <p>A motion to recess the meeting was made by Todd Wagner and seconded by Jeanette Nordahl. All in favor. The meeting recessed at 3:00 p.m.</p>
Grant Hearings / Wrap	Grant applicant presentations began at 3:15 p.m. February 27 th and continued daily as

Topic	Discussion
Up Discussions	scheduled until 10:00 a.m. March 2 nd . Applicant presentations concluded each day with a council review and discussion of the presentations heard that day.
Grant Award	Grant protocol and council conflict of interest was reviewed. Greg Ames explained the voting process and Robert's Rules of Order were reviewed. Application deliberation order was determined by the combined application review scores submitted by voting council members and agency representatives.
Deliberations	<p>At the conclusion of deliberations, Todd Wagner moved that \$50,000 to \$60,000 be held back until mid-June in case funds were required for a noxious weed emergency. Margie Edsall seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Greg Ames advised the council that their funding recommendations would be given to Director Thomas for final approval.</p> <p>2017 Funding Recommendations are attached.</p>

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Letters are needed from council members who are up for re- appointment. Please send Dave Burch a letter indicating your interest in serving an additional term.	Jim Gordon, Todd Wagner, Linda Eklund, Kellieann Morris, Kenny Keever	As soon as possible	