

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Date: May 12, 2016**

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Pete Woll, Elise Robocker, Mary Ruby

Members of the Board not in attendance:

All members of the Board were present.

Also in attendance:

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; Michele Haarr, Clerk

Others Present:

Curtis Reber – Citizen

Randy Sundberg – Many Lakes Homeowners Association President

Vance Carolin – Many Lakes Homeowners Association Vice-President

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors for Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana, and continuing to Flathead County Many Lakes Parks on May 12, 2016. The meeting convened at 9:30AM, Chairman Fisher presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 2, 2016 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Jim Buechle moved to approve the May 2, 2016 Board minutes.

Mary Ruby seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chemical Bid – Recommendation for Award

Superintendent Jed Fisher read aloud the lowest prices submitted for the annual chemical bid. The Department has been steadily decreasing the herbicide budget and purchases for the past several years due to sufficient inventory levels. Keeping an inventory has been a Board practice for many years and allows for the greatest degree of flexibility for additional contract work, in addition to the benefits of lower and generic pricing. Superintendent Fisher discussed Commissioner Krueger's concerns with the Department's inventory. The current inventory was previously sent to the Board and is attached for reference.

Herbicides are kept under lock and key with an alarm, but without fire detection and remediation. The Board agreed that a hazard plan and a fire system are needed. Once State standards are finalized those requirements will be incorporated at the Department.

Jim Buechle moved to approve the 2016 Chemical Recommendation as read aloud to the Board.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

The Board encouraged the Department to keep up the good work and continue its efforts in control of noxious weeds. It was agreed to discuss the County Weed Management Plan at the next Board meeting.

Jim Buechle moved to recommend CPS for all herbicides with the exception of Hi-Dep, which is recommended to award to Wilbur Ellis.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

Continuation of Noxious Weed Spraying – Government & Private Property

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the Department's use of herbicides to control noxious weeds has come under scrutiny. In addition, County Commissioner Gary Krueger has called into question the Board's decisions with regard to herbicide storage and use.

Curtis Reber has approximately 30 acres and received monetary assistance from the Flathead Conservation District (FCD) last year in a cost-share agreement. Mr. Reber is again requesting FCD assistance with oxeye daisy located in a field where alfalfa once grew. There is currently no competition to keep the daisies controlled. Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that work performed with funds provided by Flathead Conservation District is intended to be an educational and a short-term solution to get landowners started in weed control efforts. It is not intended to be a continuing or long-term solution. The program was initially intended to assist elderly and disabled citizens with a low income. Consistency in adhering to the program is important.

Private spray jobs have a 15% mark-up, with fiscal year 2015 invoices totaling approximately 19K. There has been one claim in 30 years of this work. This work is not advertised.

The Department's revenue is approximately 175K, with the majority being agency work, of which 30K is profit. One truck per year is purchased with those funds. It was suggested to work with the County Attorney on a form that landowners would sign acknowledging total disclosure and a hold harmless.

Pete Woll moved to have the Weed District continue to perform government contract work and spraying on private property.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

Montana Department of Transportation 2016 Noxious Weed Control Agreement

Superintendent Jed Fisher requested that the County Attorney revise the standard agreement to include indemnification language. Because the MDOT contract goes out to 56 locations across the State, they were not inclined to modify per that request, however they did add text that protects the County in the event of MDOT's negligence.

Elise Robocker moved to approve the 2016 Montana Department of Transportation Noxious Weed Control Agreement.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

Tour of Many Lakes Parks

There has been continuing discussion regarding selling some of the parks in Many Lakes to get them back on the tax rolls and to minimize the cost to maintain them. Randy Sundberg and Vance Carolin led the Board on a tour of 11 County parks in Many Lakes, and also some that were previously sold. Refer to attachment "Flathead County Parks Board Tour of County Parks in Many Lakes Thursday May 12, 2015".

A survey of area homeowners compiled on February 20, 2016 indicated that homeowners desired to keep Swimming Lake Park; Plummer's Lake Park; Double Lake Park; Tamarack Lake Park; and Cree Lake Park. A copy of Randy Sundberg's February 25, 2016 email, and Many Lakes County Parks Survey Results dated February 20, 2016 are attached for the record.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20PM.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

The time and place of the next regular meeting is **Monday, June 6, 2016** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

2016 Annual Chemical Bid Recommendation (read aloud)

Spring 2016 Chemical Inventory

2015 Herbicide Application Summary

Montana Department of Transportation 2016 Noxious Weed Control Agreement

Flathead County Parks Board Tour of County Parks in Many Lakes Thursday May 12, 2015

Many Lakes Tour Map

Many Lakes summary of lots, location, acreage, assessor numbers, and brief notes – Excel document

Randy Sundberg's February 25, 2016 email,

Many Lakes County Parks Survey Results dated February 20, 2016