

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council - Business Meeting</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>November 6, 2024</b>	<b>Start Time:</b>	9:02 AM
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	<b>Greta Dige</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Dept. of Agriculture, Helena
<b>1. Meeting Objective</b>			
Council Business Meeting / EDRR Program Grant Status Reports			
<b>2. Attendees</b>			
<p><b>Voting Members:</b> Amber Burch, Bill Curran, Brian Ostwald, <b>Virtual:</b> Joel Farkell, Dana Weatherford</p> <p><b>Advisory Members:</b> David Hopkins - BIA; Micheal Hamel - DNRC; Hannah Lewis (Fritz) - APHIS; Jaosn Allen – MDT; <b>Virtual:</b> Robert Thompson – BOR; Adam Sieges – FWP</p> <p><b>Montana Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) Staff:</b> Ian Foley, Jasmine Chaffee, Greta Dige, Josh Wagoner, Sam Yonan – AgCorps, Kima Traynham, Amanda Coyle-AgCorps, Philippe Navauix – AgCorps,</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Kylie Macks- APHIS, Gary Adams – APHIS; Lori Witham - APHIS</p>			
<b>3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Welcome Department Updates</b>	<p>Ian Foley, Agriculture Sciences Division Administrator, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made both in the room and on Zoom.</p> <p>Ian provided the council with department updates starting with announcing that Cort Jensen has left agency so are currently without an attorney. A lot of what we are doing now is session prep and don't have any agency bills. Went to economic affairs and got a commodity dealer reform potentially approved. There are a lot of bills being introduced by legislatures. Will be moving concepts through the process: 1. Eliminate Organic advisory committee was clearly an implementation committee and has been successful. Reducing the members to the alfalfa seed committee from 8 to 5 as there is not that many producers anymore. Working on definitions of related to specialty fertilizers and soil amendments as there has been a lot of changes in the industry. Like liquid microbial products currently lumped as soil amendments so looking to clean up fertilizer law with some new definitions and for beneficial substances. Move forward with agency weight.</p> <p>A lot of AIS law place holders already. Getting ready for convention session. In general, pretty smooth for the department. Going to be losing our AgCorps members in a few weeks and it was a pretty successful first year. Have been approached at NAISMA on how we did it and want to implement in their states. OR and ID and what opportunities for AgCorps in other states.</p> <p>Awarded an EPA pollution reduction grant which is new for us. It is a partnership with DNRC for \$50 Million with Dept. of Agriculture getting \$21 Million of it. Got 3 pieces as loosely related to that: Regenerative grazing \$10 mil, fertilizer use to promote efficiency for \$1 million, and feed lot type project and some kind of nexus to promote range management. DNRC's part is coal seam fires, harmful algal blooms, and urban and community forests for the next 5 years. Only 23 awarded in the nation. Hannah are the agencies working with landowners to participate. DNRC is point for the grant then working with partners to</p>		

	<p>administer. Still working to plan the implementation. The coordinator is <a href="#">Makae Reed</a> and was hired last week.</p>
<p><b>Minutes Review Budgets and Program Updates</b></p>	<p>Ian reviewed the minutes from July 11, 2024, council business meeting. <b>Amber Burch moved to accept the minutes as written, <a href="#">Brian Ostwald</a> seconded; minutes were approved.</b></p> <p>Jasmine asked about the trust fund increase. Ian mentioned he has heard an idea to add more funds into the base, we would award the interest. That is not where the most funds come from that get awarded. The increase would need to be significant. Wyoming looked at creating a \$100 million for range management which had options to be a rainy-day fund. It is not an Agriculture or governor bill so can't support. There will be a surplus this year, but not as much as last legislature.</p> <p>Jasmine reviewed revenue history over time looking at the last 4 years and is looking good.</p> <p>Other program updates: Western Weed Coordinating Committee put in for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to subaward to states for dashboard development to show state and federal awarded projects. Dashboards will be public facing and show treatments, points, and monitoring based on EDDMapS database.</p>
<p><b>Applications/Program Update Site Visit Review</b></p>	<p>Greta Dige provided the council with application updates and since there none, focused on outreach to increase application numbers. Looked at all colleges and universities then sorted for those that had natural resource programs or equivalent which produced 41 contacts and emailed them. Do sit on the Natural resource grant group and as a result it created a website for natural resource type grants that gives a shopping like experience to help located potential funding opportunities for individuals and agencies. Will be tabling with Jasmine at the Montana Association of Conservation Districts Convention. She gave a field summary report for 17+ visits while highlighting a few projects from education, research, development, and local cooperatives.</p> <p>Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montana Noxious Weed Toolbox</li> <li>• Youth Forestry Program</li> <li>• Fallon County Badlands</li> <li>• Willow Creek CWMA</li> <li>• Lingshire WMA</li> <li>• Lander's Fork-Alice Creek Cooperative</li> <li>• Trout Creek WMA</li> <li>• Painted Robe WMA</li> <li>• Nevada Creek</li> <li>• Blackfoot River VMA</li> <li>• Big Hole/Wise River</li> <li>• North Dry Creek</li> <li>• Solider Creek</li> <li>• Sage Creek and phragmites EDRR species (no grant)</li> <li>• Capital Project landowner meeting</li> <li>• Fishtail Basin</li> </ul> <p>Other adventures:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulling Cheatgrass on Mount Sentinel; WD4C demo to located Dyer's woad</li> <li>• Nature Park – new garlic mustard infestation</li> <li>• Owen Sowerwine – Kalispell for common buckthorn and garden loosestrife</li> <li>• Adopt-a-trailhead sign install and weed pull</li> <li>• AgCorps accomplishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Digitalized grant boundaries</li> <li>○ Created 16 story Maps</li> <li>○ Created 5 How to Guides</li> <li>○ Assisted 7 landowners and agencies to get information into EDDMapS</li> <li>○ Converted paper data into digital data</li> <li>○ Around 800 points entered in EDDMapS</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 5 monitoring locations</li> <li>• 5 landowner meetings</li> <li>• Trainings: 8</li> </ul> <p>Hannah asked about what is used to convert files. Minnesota DNRG for file conversions of various files to assist in file sharing. Discussed Phil converting shape files certified organic.</p> <p>AAT: do we work with seasonal staff at the Forest Service as the only seasonal staff will be fire positions.</p>
<b>State Program Status Report Updates</b>	<p>State Program Status Report Updates (15 min each)</p> <p>Amber Burch - Montana Dyer's Woad Cooperative Project</p> <p>Started with project history for newer members. Discussed objectives for taskforce. Reviewed identification for woad from rosettes, vegetation, flowers and seeds. Measuring success is set within the management plan with 4 goals. The plan is reviewed every 5 years and updated this year. There are 12 active sites that are monitored each year. Snowline this year found 78 plants (47 rosette, 28 flowering, 3 seeding). Border of Montana and Idaho it is not far into Idaho where plants are. Dogs work with Idaho for 210 plants in rosette and 5 flowering plants. Idaho has been working with the dogs because not enough in Montana to train them. Where is the seed is coming from, most likely from railroad traffic. Most seeds dropped right close to the original plant. Flathead zero plants reported. Mount Sentinel found 14 rosettes. A little bit of an increase from last year. Sweet Grass County this year has found 47 plants total. Went out twice this year. Of those plants 41 of them rosettes and 6 flowering. Park County usual site no plants found this year. Had a report of a single plant around East River Road and check on it several times and never found location. Carbon County found a single plant last in a previous location and now reports none found this year. Finds along MDT Jefferson, Powell, Treasure, and Stillwater counties lots of unknown as how these got there. Stillwater near Columbus found none. Silver bow further up from original point it one plant found. Lewis and Clark County was an intentional planting to be considered for eradication. Overall, in MT has had an 98.4% decrease since 2019 with the first being under 200 plants. Plans for 2025 is to update the management plan, continue partnership and utilize WD4C, mapping and monitoring at each site, Flathead look for local surveyor to help manage site, continue to build partnerships with Idaho, and follow-up on EDDMapS reports and historic sites. In the winter is to look online for dyers woad and found site a site that mentioned it was invasive couldn't be shipped to certain states along with another site that will be turned over to the Department of Agriculture for follow up. Couple of EDDMapS for follow-up Flathead County Lost Trail wildlife refuge to verify report and have removed.</p>

	<p>Libby dam it is right in the middle and most likely not correct. WD4C great organization and have seen a huge decrease with this partnership. How do you hire WD4C, through contracted services. When used it is timed right when there is expected to lower number of plants. Are the dogs keying on the scent, yes.</p> <p>Kellieann Sweeny - Ravalli County Rush Skeletonweed</p> <p>Contractor has had over 100-man days on this project. Not finding any large patches. Where they are treating with 4-wheelers and are not finding many plants compared with backpacks where we are finding more outside of the buffer. Instructed to widen the buffer when using backpacks. They are doing a great job. Education and making sure following protocols. Will need to come before the trust for a new grant as the new infestation added a significant expense. Showed mapping of EDDMapS. While at a site found a missed plant which was clipped and bagged then treated. Making progress because the infestation was found. One seasonal has a drone and had a donation and was able to purchase 4 little drones for recon as it is easy to spot.</p> <p>Kellieann Sweeny - Skalkaho Rush Skeletonweed</p> <p>Patch found last season and is a new project that was funded last year. Initially treatment was by scrapping as much funding together to do work. Were able to treat 400 acres aially last year and found less than 100 compared to thousands. Today is because another 400 acres is being treated just east of last year's treatment. Will be going there after presentation to take photos. These locations are being looked at all the time. Over 3,000 points have been entered in EDDMapS. Great time to work on rush skeletonweed right now and look forward to getting reports to you. Sent outdoor knockers and have mailed and put on doors of known areas. Resulted in one new site all others were negative. Am testing with contractors new puppy to learn how to locate rush. Working very well. New mascot at the office a griffon and will be learning to be trained on rush. Plan on meeting with all landowners to discuss rush and to find out what has been done and where we need to go.</p> <p>Kellieann Sweeny - Ravalli County Bugloss</p> <p>Have been keeping to the Grantsdsale area with one a little in the Sleeping Child area. Crew tries to get to the location every two weeks with only finding a few plants. Only one landowner had 50-60 plants and helped him clip, bag and treat it. Making progress.</p> <p>Kellieann Sweeny – Blueweed</p> <p>Doing very good and successful. Our river contractor this year from Darby to county line and has not found plants. Talked with Lane with Missoula County and found 2 plants in the Lolo area on gravel bars which are now treated. Less than half the plants than last year. Had a county gravel pit that reopened a couple of years ago and still is looking good. CB ranch south of Darby has been working like crazy for many years they still have a lot. They are changing to fall treatments and is producing less nontarget damage natives. They have hired a drone company of Lake County to treat 125 acres and doing a fantastic job. Have started to see damage within a couple of days. CB ranch vegetation manager is happy with success of blueweed and rush.</p>
--	--

	<p>Over 45,000 acres was traveled on and most by ground crew. Super excited about results and over 3,000 points between blueweed and rush.</p> <p>Brian found blueweed at a park in Missoula. Missoula is aware of those species. We have an incinerator and have had truckloads of bags with rush seeds from Missoula, Sanders, Lake, and the tribe all brought to the incinerator. Will need to watch the 93 corridors for plants. Most double and triple bagged their plants when they were brought to us. Things are in a good spot. One more year under for our regular.</p> <p>Bill: are you spraying rush today? Yes, and have not have a hard frost yet so still spraying and continue for the next or so.</p> <p>Jasmine: The extra 400 acres how many other acres were surveyed, or do you think there is more? Found a couple plants on the eastern edge and because of the nature of the plants. Did you survey the other sides of that? Yes, and have not found any. 2 days last week and no new plants have been found. Josh mentioned Lincoln County has a curtain burner and Sanders built one with filters. The tribe should investigate one. Amber found one Blueweed plant at from mile marker 5 from Beaverhead.</p> <p>Jasmine: How about your Idaho counties? Kellieann contact has been a struggle. Work with Amber to work to improve communication with Idaho. Jasmine mentioned about making the spring task force meetings in Idaho. Amber mentioned Idaho does a lot on mapping so a lot of information out there. Jasmine said she talked with a few Idaho guys and they were unaware that we had taskforces and strike teams.</p> <p>Melissa Maggio - Montana Biocontrol Coordination Project</p> <p>Brief program history discussed most recent program assessment with the top 3 of focus were education, collection days and distribution, and conducting monitoring for established and collectability of common systems updates. Current focus areas are insect collection and distribution, education, and monitoring with the priority on newer systems. Went over objectives and planned activities for the 2024 season. Events 19 in-person educational program/workshops and 4 virtual. Helped coordinate the NAISMA biocontrol strand and fieldtrips for the conference.</p> <p>Educational materials: distributed posters and reprint field guides, and resins complete and distributed, stickers and tattoos, and how to videos on hold. Insect collections and distribution: 44 days collecting over 370 participants, 6 species collected. Over 1.6 million insects distributed, 35 counties, 2 reservations, and 15 other states received biocontrol agents. Monitored 97 sites for houndstongue, st. johnswort, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle rust, yellow and dalmatian toadflax, flowering rush, whitetop mite. In the process of starting the program assessment with the assistance of the Montana HELPS Lab closed in May with 79 responses. In last assessment houndstongue, cheatgrass, whitetop, and Canada thistle were the top four weeds people wanted targeted for development. The 2023/2024 results were interesting as it listed knotweed complex, Canada thistle, whitetop, cheatgrass, and yellow starthistle as the top 5 weeds for development. Will look into results to see what the reason for the results could be. Discussed preliminary results of monitoring houndstongue root weevil. Still reviewing data to determine results. Flowering rush and finding potential release sites at Flathead Lake and have built rearing ponds at the Missoula extension and ecology office.</p>
--	--

	<p>Jasmine mentioned that the resins were a hit at NAISMA conference and people were looking for instructions to do their own.</p> <p>Hannah asks on Montana requests for needs, has Melissa received for education out of state. – No, it has been mainly Joey Milun with Idaho has done training on SIMP.</p>
<b>AAT and Education Program Updates</b>	<p>Sam Yonan, AAT and BSWC</p> <p>AAT events wrapping up with installation in the Bozeman area. Went to Two-Moon Park and installed an AAT signed there. Went to MT educators conference and tabling at the Gardenwerks events. Working with GrowWild and the Forest Service to get those installed and complete. Sam will be returning to run the program as an AGCorps member.</p> <p>Lori Leaf, Education Specialist</p> <p>Most of summer was spent following weed staff on field visits to increase photo library of weeds to use on social media and for outreach materials. She has been running the new Facebook page. Working to get kids items: coloring pages, crosswords, and finger puzzles.</p>
<b>Updates, Issues, Successes</b>	<p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Hamel: DNRC – season just wrapped up and going over data and seeing increase of reports by acres going down. Will be having the Ag working group in December where we be talking about noxious weed identification.</li> <li>• Jeff Brennan: Ag Corp – Observing a lot of noxious weeds in the Harlow and Musselshell area especially houndstongue. On Ag side looking at potential herbicide resistance on cheatgrass side. Looking at possible issues with water quality. Problem looking at herbicide resistances on Ag side and need to look at modes of action and product rotation. Seed distribution from bin run seed and spreading common and noxious seed.</li> <li>• Jason Allan: MDT – Spent about \$2 million on ROWs this year for common weeds. Blueweed spent quite a bit of extra funds especially in Sanders County. They have really stepped up this year. Have seen an increase in rush skeletonweed this year especially in Mineral County in part due to a good contractor being able to locate it. Unfortunately, on the safety side of MDT has torn up the area near Torah so that will need to be watched closely. Ventenata we worked with Wyoming for an aerial treatment and helped them with traffic control. This will provide a buffer keep medusahead from moving north out of Wyoming. Found ventenata as far west as Belgrade. Jasmine asked how far into Montana it was treated in Montana by the Wyoming aerial contractor, Jason mentioned about 2 miles. Wyoming has been very proactive with attacking cheatgrass and they treated 650 acres. Hannah asked about the biopesticide at MWCA is that an option or is it effective. Jeff had a project where they were looking at it and didn't find that it did a very good job. Bill says there were several strains of fungus and tried to develop projects and hasn't been effective. Some being marketed as a fertilizer rather than an herbicide. Wyoming is using indaziflam and/or imazipic. Discussed the potential of bioherbicides or options for cheatgrass and the licensing and registration. Monica was asking about it and the council is not approving grants with it.</li> </ul>

- Amber Burch, Beaverhead County: MWCA Representative – Had fall managers training in Dillion and had close to 50 people. Getting close to finalizing the agenda for annual conference. We are taking nominations for awards so get those in. There board positions open so if interested look for the nomination. Beaverhead County has found blueweed and during the fall training found white bryony at the golf course. Drove around and found this plant in more places around town. She will be learning more about this species as surrounding states have it listed. Jeff mentioned that these have large tubbers.
- Brian Ostwald: Luckily had a long fall so was able to catch up. Working with drone piolet to treat saltcedar. Has great potential and can pre-map. Drone contractor is working to identify using spectral imagery.
- Bill Curran: At-Large Member – Involved with a group called GROW and a group called Take Action and they do a poster every year with modes of action. Can order for free or look at PDF. Have been thinking about resistance, but not thinking about as much in range. What concerns him is the use of indiaziflam as it lasts a long time and worried about long-term impacts. Who is a part of this GROW? It was initially USDA and this one started of as resistance and has morphed into other groups. Focus is developing education materials.
- Gary Adams- APHIS Role for on the ground for weeds is minimal. Reminder, we have a regulatory function at the international port of entry where we regulate new things coming in as mentioned with online purchases. We also do the permitting for the biological control agents Melissa mentioned so that what is released don't become pests themselves. We support the biocontrol community with funding as well as staff if they are available. Work with Jeff Littlefield with whitetop and oxeye daisy and David Weaver with yellow toadflax through cooperative agreements. Hannah the season has wrapped up and no more seasonals. Othe entities within agency are developing a biocontrol monitoring platform for our agency; not sure when it will be published but it is coming. Gary will be retiring after the MAWC conference as he has been asked to speak about what happens at the borders. Lori Witham will be acting in Gary's place and Kylee will be filling Hannah's role on the council with her in her absence. Uncertain about grasshoppers for next year. Gary mentioned about high-level people visiting so ask for anyone to attend.
- David Hopkins: BIA – Have spent a lot of time at Fort Belknap pulling saltcedar in saline seeps as it is nice and soft in the spring. Thought I found ventenata but was a bent grass. In August 2020 established a couple of indaziflam plots and went back to them this to find about 3 feet of encroachment to them. Finding more Japanese brome that cheatgrass. After Kellieann mentioned that Flathead needs an incinerator, he messaged a coworker in Portland to ask for funds for an incinerator for them. It is officially his last meeting as he is retiring at the end of this year. Bob Demery most likely replacement. Jasmine asks of the BIL funds coming through are any of the tribes taking advantage for vegetation work? Running into so archeological walls that is making it not cost effective. The Crow has NRCS contracts and funds to do indizflam for treatments and are seeing a reduction but there is still a lot of it out there.

	<p>Jason mentioned where the council pulled the scotch brome in July really helped. It only took 3.5 gallons at the location with only one plant going to seed.</p> <p>Gary mentioned that Jasmine discussed a few years ago about APHIS seasonals helping with identify weeds that we would like to see more distribution for. Talking about a first detector network for the state.</p>
<b>EDRR Program Updates</b>	<p>Josh Wagoner gave a brief program and field summary. Discussed rush skeletonweed Lincoln County finding new sites, but more old sites are becoming inactive. Sanders County has been difficult in years past, but with Rory being hired things are improving with receiving help from other strike teams. Find more on highway 200 and north of Plains finding in hay fields. Sanders put the grant awarded to really good use. Flathead is difficult to communicate with and has a small infestation that we know of. Lake County was awarded a grant to hire strike team that is finding lots of locations with good and knowledge seasonal staff. Mineral county founds lots along the interstate but is way understaffed. Missoula is finding more along the interstate and had a location that was graded. Ravalli you heard about. Lewis and Clarks East Helena site not plants and the fort site what was sprayed had nothing, but had plant show up at unsprayed locations just outside of treated areas. After speaking in Missoula got a call from the MPG Ranch and they have it. Lincoln County is having difficulties with remote forest service sites and being able to treat them. In the past, could take ATVs off road, now that is not the case. Some sites access is difficult where drones would be great, however they are not approved for use in forest service in this area. They are looking for other alternatives so if there are ideas it would be much appreciated. Tansy ragwort in Lincoln and Flathead counties are improving. The town of Lincoln is northeast of is doing good but found a new patch northwest of town.</p> <p>Josh discusses blueweed in Sanders County as its along roadways and they're doing their best with the help of Lincoln County. Found a new site near Anaconda on some private land that is the furthest east we have had it report.</p> <p>Phragmites in Bozeman is positive in the plants are smaller. A coordinator for Idaho mentioned Scotch brome along the highway in Sanders County with the other place being in Lincoln County.</p> <p>Dyer's woad site in Flathead County has the guy who has been monitoring this site will be leaving. Discussed ways to cover regular inspections using AgCorps and Montana Conservation Corps to assist with monitor for plants. Garden Loosestrife Flathead County is down, and Ravalli is up this year. Found a large site of Purple Loosestrife north of Big Timber. White bryony found at MWCA fall training by a guy from Idaho. It is not listed in Montana but is Idaho. Amber dug up this is a big root and all plant parts are poisonous. Leaves look like clematis and fruits look like wild grapes. It is an escaped ornamental. Mentioned discussions with Jasmine to reorder weeds on state list. Garlic mustard has three sites in Helena. Kellieann has a positive site in Victor, and some found in Bozeman.</p>



	<p>Whitefish and Glacier have reports that need to be investigated. Kellieann and Josh discussing whether to add to county list.</p> <p>Gary: Is there an obligation for people to report weeds? Why should they make reports? What really makes a taskforce and where does it come from and what is officially a taskforce. Josh states that taskforces are grant funded. Jasmine states taskforces are weeds (rush skeletonweed, blueweed, dyer's woad) then we have different strike teams within counties that work on them. There isn't any outside of the grant. We have ones that are outside of the trust fund but those function as a working group where focus is education. Reporting these species allows Josh to work with them and help with treatment. Amber mentioned discussing this at the new coordinator training. Is there a requirement for them to map species in the \$7500, No. Hill county has the main infestation and takes on responsibility for treatment of this species in neighboring counties as communication can be difficult. There is so much to do.</p>
NWFM Program Updates	<p>Jasmine Chaffee discussed program summary starting with revenue. 30 counties participated just over 5,000 acres certified right on par with last year. The numbers have been joining down. Either people aren't using it or bigger producers are selling more and not as spread out. Brian mentioned producers were getting just as much as their regular hay don't participate. Put up billboards on 93 and just outside of Great Falls. Have put articles in magazines and social media. All information on the website is updated. Hay prices are high and so they are not getting the premium. Jasmine reports getting lots of calls and very specific requests. For enforcement some are really in to it while others don't because they don't know much about it. The new age hunter doesn't like the cold so not going as far back as they used to. First cutting was huge, while second and third cutting dropped or were very low. The program just lives in the red and will keep doing education and outreach. MDA is the inspector for pellets and cubes they have to be inspected by Jasmine. She is working with counterparts in those states to do inspections to save travel time. Do we really need to have them inspected as they process the use heats the product to 170 so is it an issue. Jasmine has done 8 gravel pit inspections this year and will be training counties next. Just talked with Yellowstone Park to get a process in place for them. Showing numbers for revenue. Had a few pellet plants that caught with payments from past years. Changed this position to get Megan on board while Jasmine has taken over the duties. Open to suggestions/recommendations. Kellieann reports lots of inspections with very few passing mainly due to obnoxious weeds rather than noxious. Jasmine reported that ventenata being a big issue with forage inspections which caused denying big chunks of fields because of it. Joel asked if Jasmine has had anyone contacted her from Glacier Park about concerning about the gravel pits in Glacier County. They are looking to work on the Mini Glacier Road and are looking to find clean pit near Browning. He reports the one he was involved with was 35 acres of knapweed. They are looking on this side of the divide or the other for clean pits. The other push is to get more DOT pits certified.</p>
Program Updates - Education	<p>Jasmine will give Lori's update for Education Outreach Specialist for Weeds and Pesticides. She is finishing up an EDDMapS Pro version booklet to hand out. She is working on an activity book for kids to have at our tables to have at events. Tabling at NAISMA was HUGE and we were listed weird, or we would have won the competition. She lately has been doing a lot of training for pesticides. On Facebook will be doing a weed a week with day have a new tip about the weed then the do a professional spotlight to highlight what we do. We will be looking into Instagram. Lori reports the social media was good.</p>

	<p>Megan Invasive Species Education Program: Discussed mission and working on a strategic plan and will be having a meeting to go over planning. Is a member of CEMINST and did a training. Working a lot with conservation districts and has been great. The Montana educators both and it was a hit. Got to go help identify saltcedar with WD4C. Saw 1200-1400 students at the NILE. Was asked to assist with rangeland as someone was sick. Went to the Weed Whacker ball and highly recommend everyone going. Did present at NAISMA in the last session. Just got done with the bucket buckthorn. Had 20-30 volunteers on the Thursday/Friday. Saturday had 74 volunteers where we planted native plants and marked next year's project area. Continue planning for next. Buckthorn Bandits is expanding around the state so am excited for that. Have had an absolute pleasure working with AgCorps program whether AAT program, mapping and monitoring, and the education. Have had a great time getting to know coworkers and finding my fit and very pleased to be working with them. Summary of events so far: 56 hours providing invasive species education and have reached 2,941 people. Jasmine mentions that Megan is working on her strategic plan and then will be meeting with MISC and other education program, so it is big to see this many people working on education. Megan reports that her and Pam will be talking with OPI to put invasive species awareness and effects of biodiversity in school the school stat standards. Right now, in the progress of reading the state standards to get a plan together. Hannah mentioned talking with an educator and incorporating this into history class. Everyone seems to be excited about it.</p>
<p><b>Other Business/ Public Comment</b></p> <p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Kima Traynham , ASB Bureau Chief</p> <p>Jasmine asked that we have two vacancies for Recreation/Wildlife group and Noxious Free Materials so please spread the word as the positions are open till filled.</p> <p><b>Brian Oswalt motioned to adjourn, Bill Curan seconds; meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.</b></p>
	Next council meeting August/September Yellowstone Saltcedar project TBD for exact dates

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Provide name of the Pollution Reduction Grant Coordinator to Council	Jasmine	March, 2025	Complete
2	Setup Yellowstone Saltcedar visit for next fall	Greta	Late Summer 2025	Working on
3	Plan spring EDRR Meeting in Idaho to promote communication in regard to increasing collaborative efforts between Idaho and Montana	Josh/Jasmine	Spring 2025	