

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 West Main Ave, West Fargo
February 13, 2017

10:00 AM Meeting called to order
Roll call of the members
Approve minutes of previous meeting
Approve order of agenda

Agenda

1. Budget Report
 - a. Monthly Financial Statements Information/action
 - b. Approval of bills Information/action

2. New Business
 - a. Election of Officers Information/action
 - b. NDWAN Information/action
 - c. NDWCA Poster contest Information/action
 - d. Other

3. Monthly Progress Report Information

4. Upcoming events Information

For information on any of the agenda items or the need for special accommodations contact: Stan Wolf, 701-298-2388, wolfs@casscountynd.gov

Weed Control Progress Report

Feb 6, 2017

Period from Dec 12, 2016 to Feb 6, 2017

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business

Election of Officers: The chair and vice chair officers are elected for a one-year term; election of officers is required at the start of the year.

NDWAN: The North Dakota agricultural Weather Network operates remote weather monitoring stations and provides up to the minute weather conditions via web connection. The network is adding stations that can identify temperature inversions across the state. The contract sprayers and Weed Control staff utilize the stations within Cass County to determine weather conditions before and during spraying operations. In previous years the Weed Board has granted \$500 to NDWAN to help cover the costs of operating the remote weather stations.

Proposed Motion: Approve a \$500 sponsorship grant to NDWAN in Cass County.

NDWCA Poster contest: The NDWCA poster contest winner for this year is Anna Hauge of Carson, ND. The Education Committee awards the winning artist with a plaque and the class with tee shirts featuring the winning poster. I have attended previous award presentations and conducted a short PowerPoint presentation to the class or school describing reasons for controlling noxious and invasive weeds. I have been asked to present the upcoming award in late March or early April. I am asking the board for permission to travel to Carson, ND, approx. 500 mile round trip. The NDWCA will reimburse the state mileage rate for the trip.

Proposed Motion: Approve travel to Carson, ND for NDWCA poster award presentation.

Monthly Report

County owned properties: Visited with interim county administrator Darrel Vanyo regarding weed issues on county flood buyout lots and other properties including the Red River diversion project. Essentially the County Commission, Highway Dept. and Weed Control need to coordinate more effectively with maps and information regarding status of weeds on the flood buyout lots and other properties. Also discussed was the need to prepare reclamation sites properly before seeding to ensure noxious and other weeds are controlled prior to seeding on County and Diversion Authority lands. Mr. Vanyo will discuss these issues with the Diversion Authority and the Highway Dept.

FM Diversion Authority: Connected with Paul Breen and started discussion for coordination of weed scouting and control measures on Diversion properties.

2017 NDWCA conference:

Business meeting: The 2017 NDWCA conference was held in Bismarck on Jan 10-12. Several issues were brought up at the business meeting. The question was raised if the weed boards had the legal authority to charge fees when inspecting gravel pits and providing letters of compliance to the gravel pit operators. Many gravel pit operators are asking for the compliance letter in response of buyers requesting aggregate material from inspected pit operations. The consensus was that this needs to be researched and if necessary a resolution be drawn up requesting the authority for the next annual conference. Wolf volunteered to head the research.

Three resolutions were presented from the area meetings and voted upon:

- One resolution asked that Palmer amaranth be added to the state noxious weed list. Brian Jenks from the Minot Research Center spoke in favor of adding, Dr. Rod Lym, noxious weed specialist, NDSU spoke against adding. After much discussion the vote to add Palmer amaranth to the noxious weed list failed.
- Another resolution was to add Houndstongue to the state noxious weed list as most counties are reporting infestations of Houndstongue. The vote in favor of adding Houndstongue passed unanimously.
- The third resolution asked the NDWCA request that the North Dakota Ag. Dept. request a Section 18 from the EPA for the use of the chemical Method 240SL for use on haying and grazing acres. This passed unanimously.

Also discussed was securing a grant from the ND Ag. Dept. for new banners to replace the show booth displays in each area. The banners discussed are the pull up type, ~30 inches by 6-8 feet tall, they could be placed on the floor or on a table top. Individual counties are invited to request a banner displaying the specific programs they provide. Cost of a banner is ~ \$240. I would like a banner for Cass County programs to be displayed at county meetings and possibly placed in various locations in the county.

Mr. Wolf presented the Cass County Weed Management Plan, several county and city programs are looking at adopting a similar policy.

ND Ag Commissioners Forum: Topics discussed included enforcement actions and procedures. Cost share grants including LAP, TAG, and Forest Service Grants for weed control, equipment, supplies, scouting and educational expenses.

Conference sessions: Topics covered included Yellow toadflax and Leafy spurge biocontrol, Prairie dog control, Toxic plants in ND, Dow chemical updates, Scouting with drones, ATV safety.

Valley Expansion Project pipeline: Connected with WBI Energy who is working on the proposed natural gas pipeline from Mapleton to Felton MN and talked about their weed management plan on the pipeline route. I sent them the Cass County Weed Management Plan and they will incorporate the best management practices into their program. We will be receiving a copy of their weed management plan.

Township spray maps: Township spray maps were mailed out to all township officers and clerks. Included with the maps was a copy of the Cass County Weed Management Plan form and county policy and asked each township to consider adopting a similar weed management plan.

County City Mayors: A letter was sent to all city mayors in Cass County with exception of Fargo and West Fargo describing the Cass County Weed Management Plan. I described the need for the weed management plan and encouraged each city to adopt a similar weed management plan for development sites within their jurisdictions.

Cass County Crop Improvement meeting: Attended the Cass County Crop Improvement meeting and discussed the need to be vigilant in scouting for Palmer amaranth in crop lands and recent CRP plantings. Talked with the Cass County Soil Conservation personnel at the meeting regarding Palmer amaranth. Will meet with Soil Conservation and FSA personnel to develop a coordinated program to scout and control.

Upcoming Events:

Soybean Expo	February 7, Fargo
CornVention	February 8, Fargo
Private Applicator Recertification	February 15, Casselton
Private Applicator Recertification	February 28, Kindred
North Dakota Winter Show	March 4-11, Valley City
Private Applicator Recertification	March 7, Buffalo