

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
September 11, 2017

8:00 AM Meeting called to order
Roll call of the members
Approve minutes of previous meeting
Approve order of agenda

Agenda

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|---|--------------------|
| 1. Budget Report | |
| a. Monthly Financial Statements | Information/action |
| b. Approval of bills | Information/action |
| 2. New Business | |
| a. Diversion Construction Weed Management | Information/action |
| b. 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

September 5, 2017

Period from July 10 to September 5, 2017

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business

Diversion Construction Weed Management: With the start of construction on the Red River Diversion channel there will be some land parcels in the construction zones that will not be cropped but most likely be left fallow. Such a parcel has been identified near Horace in the inlet construction site where the land was not tilled or cropped and various fields weeds were growing unhindered. Preliminary consultations with the Diversion Authority Engineer initiated a land use policy discussion where these parcels are to be planted to a cover crop. That parcel has been tilled and seeded with oats. A recent survey of that parcel shows that non-noxious weeds are continuing to grow and set seed. Canada thistle was also found on the parcel. This shows that continuing monitoring of the orphan parcels needs to be conducted and weed control options need to be applied. Some options would be mowing, tillage, or herbicide application.

I am asking the Board for advise on what procedures for non-noxious weed control on the orphan land parcels can be submitted to the Diversion Authority for a land use policy.

Monthly Report

Weed Control budget approved: The budget was presented to the County Commission on July 27. There were questions regarding the overhead door installation and the purchase of the drone for weed scouting. The budget as presented was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Spray Contractors: Noxious weed spraying continues across the county. J&J spraying has finished spraying the interstate ditches utilizing their UAV sprayers. They will start spraying the county and township roads using two trucks as they have done last year. Walker has continued to spray and has mostly finished up the wide state and county ditches with the UAV sprayers. He is concentrating on township roads. Spraying costs are as follows:

	Acres	Cost
Walker	2944	\$107,161.60
J&J	<u>1180</u>	<u>\$ 42,940.20</u>
Total	4124	\$150,101.80

Spray Complaints: We have received several inquires from farmers asking if we had sprayed the road ditch adjacent to their soybean fields. The soybeans were showing signs of herbicide drift damage. At several locations the contractors had not sprayed in the area. Three farmers indicate that leaf crinkling exhibited in their soybean fields, one being a seed production field. I have visited with three farmers in their fields and have

walked the three fields with the contractors. The leaf crinkling seems to be minor, not impacting the reproductive ability of the soybeans. All fields were flowering and filling seed from the bottom to the top. No field was exhibiting stunting of the plants. All growers indicated that they wanted this brought to our attention. The farmer with the soybean seed field is concerned with possible seed germination next spring as previous research indicates that dicamba damage may lower seed germination by spring seeding. We are continuing to monitor the fields.

Weed Control projects completed: Several flood lots were sprayed for Canada thistle. Sprayed trees in the township right-of-way for Davenport Township.

Inspections of several CRP, pastures, and privately owned parcels around the county were found to be infested with Canada thistle. The owners were notified of the infestation. To date 30+ notices of infestation have been sent to landowners.

Dakota Helicopters conducted spray operations in the county drains and dam structures. Several landowners contacted the applicator to spray their private properties for weeds.

Weed Complaint: We received a signed complaint from the Dreamfields Home Owners Association near Horace. Three lots were infested with Canada thistle. The owners were contacted by phone and letter. One lot was mowed down and the other lots were sprayed for Canada thistle. Several applications were required to control all Canada thistles on the sprayed lots.

Sheriff request: the sheriff's office has asked to use the weed office building in their recertification of the drug dog and handler on August 9.

Operation Safe Send: Unused old herbicides were taken to Operation Safe Send in Valley City on July 26.

County FEMA Flood Lot Committee update: The committee met on August 21 and agreed to the general provisions for leasing FEMA flood lots to include: adjacent land owners will get priority, lease holders must control noxious weeds, alternative uses (community gardens, farming, haying) may be allowed. Next meeting will review draft language of lease agreement..

Vehicle Safety Recall: A safety recall notice for the 2004 ¾ ton pickup regarding the front passenger airbag inflator was sent out. The unit will be scheduled for service when spray work is completed.

Upcoming Events:

FEMA Flood Lot Committee
NDWCA board meeting
FEMA Flood Lot Committee
NDWCA Area 2 meeting

September 18, Fargo
September 26, Bismarck
October 16, Fargo
October 25, Valley City