

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

10:00 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 |
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| 2. New Business | |
| a. LAP Payments | Information/action |
| b. NDWCA Conference | Information/action |
| c. NDWCA Membership | Information/action |
| d. Auction Items & Sponsorship | Information/action |
| e. North Dakota Winter Show | Information/action |
| f. Display Banner | Information/action |
| g. Truck purchase | Information/action |
| h. Employee Evaluation | Information/action |
| i. Certified Crop Advisor Certification | Information/action |
| j. Other | |
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| 3. Monthly Progress Report | Information |
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| 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

November 6, 2017

Period from October 2 to November 6, 2017

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business

LAP Payments: Six landowners have applied for LAP reimbursements. A total of \$3,940.28 has been requested for 320 acres controlled. The list of applicants is attached.

Suggested motion: Move to approve Landowner Assistance Payments for the six applicants totaling \$3,940.28.

NDWCA Conference: The North Dakota Weed Control Association will be conducting its annual conference on January 9, 10, and 11, 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. The board has approved sending the weed officer to the conference in past years with the invitation extended to weed board members. Registration is \$130.00 (before December 20). Room rate \$81.90/day for a total of \$245.70 for the three day conference.

Proposed motion: Move to approve sending Mr. Wolf to the NDWCA conference on January 9, 10, and 11, 2018.

NDWCA Membership: Cass County Weed Control has been a member of the North Dakota Weed Control Association every year since inception. The objectives of the NDWCA are: to provide leadership, education and awareness for weed management. To provide the liaison among city and county weed boards, weed officers, organizations and agencies with weed management programs. To assist the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in the development of effective and efficient weed management programs. To develop and promote appropriate legislation pertaining to weed management and to encourage and support research on weed problems. The cost of membership is \$275.00.

Proposed motion: Mover to approve renewal of NDWCA association membership of \$275.00.

Auction Items & Sponsorship: The North Dakota Weed Control Association will have a live and silent auction of donated items on Tuesday evening, January 9. The proceeds will go to the association education committee which uses the proceeds for sprayer schools and other educational activities. The Weed Board in previous years has approved \$50.00 for the purchase of items to be donated to the auction. The Weed Board has also previously approved \$50.00 to be applied for a partial sponsorship of a conference break.

Proposed Motion: Move to approve \$50.00 for the purchase of auction items and \$50.00 for a partial sponsorship of a conference break.

North Dakota Winter Show: The NDWCA Area II members voted to again attend and man an education booth at the North Dakota Winter Show on March 3-10, 2017. The area director's county, Cass, has been tasked to make the arrangements and pay the initial cost for the booth. It was also voted to purchase a weed identification book as a daily giveaway. The other nine counties in the area will reimburse Cass county for their share for the booth and books. The cost of the booth is \$385, book cost is unknown at this time.

Suggested motion: Move to approve paying for North Dakota Winter Show booth and weed identification books, with attending Area II counties reimbursing Cass County Weed Control for their share of the costs.

Display Banner: The NDWCA has purchased several display banners for each area. The displays show the state noxious weeds which can be placed at grower events or ag shows. Each county can purchase a display banner at cost of \$150.00. A display could be made highlighting the Cass County Weed Control programs and placed in various locations around the county over the course of the year.

Proposed motion: Move to approve the purchase of a display banner in the amount of \$150.00

Truck Purchase: The ¾ ton pickup truck is slated to be replaced. The 2018 budget has \$33,000 for a one-ton dual wheel, 4x4 drive truck. A state bid sheet for a replacement vehicle is enclosed for your review.

Proposed motion: Move to approve purchase of replacement one-ton pickup truck.

Employee Evaluation: Mr. Wolf's annual performance review is due. A copy of last year's review and performance objectives are enclosed for your reference.

Action: Review and sign employee evaluation.

Certified Crop Advisor Renewal: Mr. Wolf's Certified Crop Advisor registration is up for renewal. The certification is provided by the American Society of Agronomy. Continuing credit hours of training and seminar are needed to maintain the certification. The training is provided by NDSU Extension and other training sessions, usually at no cost. Previously the Weed Board has paid for the certification renewals. The renewal cost is \$105.00.

Proposed motion: Move to approve \$105.00 to renew Mr. Wolf's Certified Crop Advisor certification.

Monthly Report

Spray Contractors: Road right-of-way spraying concluded on October 17. Both contractors finished spraying when they reached their acre limit as set by the spraying budget. Weather conditions would have allowed for continued spraying as there were some additional township roads that could have been covered. Canada thistle seemed to be more prevalent this year, Leafy spurge was about the same density as last year.

J&J Spraying had up to three trucks and two UTV sprayers operating during the months of September and October. They sprayed additional areas on Hwy 46 and Hwy 18 with the UTV sprayers which increased the state road acres considerably. They covered the county roads first then spent their time on township roads.

Walker's Lawncare continued to spray township roads with one truck this fall.

The acre and cost breakdown are as follows:

2017 Total Acres Sprayed and Cost:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
J&J Spraying	4735	\$172,306.65
Walker's Lawncare	<u>4195</u>	<u>\$152,698.00</u>
	8930	\$325,004.65
Net		(\$ 4.65)

This is the highest number of acres sprayed for any one year. We are fortunate that the contractors are experienced working within the county and know where the weed infestations are located which makes their time more efficient.

For your reference the five year average for contractor spraying all roads is as follows:

Five Year Average (2013 to 2017)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>
North	4320
South	<u>3912</u>
Total	8231

The State Road acres spray costs were higher than the NDDOT reimbursement rate of \$50,000. Both contractors thoroughly covered the interstate and state roads. The acres and costs are listed below.

2016 State Road Acres and Costs:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
J&J Spraying	1395	\$50,746.05
Walker's Lawncare	<u>555</u>	<u>\$20,202.00</u>
	1950	\$70,948.05
Reimbursed		<u>\$50,000.00</u>
	net	(\$20,948.05)

All in all it was a successful year for contractor spraying. All state and county roads and a significant number of township roads were well covered considering the weather, wind, adjacent susceptible crops and haying and ditch mowing activities.

Weed Control projects completed: 333 acres were covered by weed control staff. Areas sprayed include county flood buyout lots, water resource properties, county park, township and county road ditches.

Upcoming Events:

Private Pesticide Recertification training	November 14, Casselton
ND Ag Expo	November 28-29, Fargo
RRVARC Research Partners	December 14, Fargo
NDWCA Conference	January 9-11, Bismarck
Wild World of Weeds	January 16, Fargo
Soil and Water Workshop	January 17, Fargo