

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
November 13, 2018

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. Landowner Assistance Program | Information/action |
| b. NDWCA Conference | Information/action |
| c. NDWCA Membership | Information/action |
| d. Auction Items and Sponsorship | Information/action |
| e. North Dakota Winter Show | Information/action |
| f. Employee Evaluation | Information/action |
| g. Certified Crop Advisor recertification | Information/action |
| h. Workshops | Information/action |
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| i. 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 5, 2018

Period from October 3 to November 5, 2018

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Landowner Assistance Program: Eight landowners submitted applications for the Landowner Assistance Program. A total of 256 acres were sprayed to control various noxious weeds. One landowner submitted an application whereby they used an unapproved herbicide for reimbursement. A list of applicants and costs is enclosed.

Proposed motion: Move to approve payment of Landowner Assistance Program payments.

NDWCA Conference: The North Dakota Weed Control Association will be conducting its annual conference on January 8, 9, and 10, 2019 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 \$91.00/day for a total of \$273.00 for the three-day conference.

Proposed motion: Move to approve sending Mr. Wolf to the NDWCA conference on January 8, 9, and 10, 2019.

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 noxious weed management, be 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.

Auction Items & Sponsorship: The North Dakota Weed Control Association will have a live and silent auction of donated items on Tuesday evening, January 8. The proceeds will go to the association's 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.

ND Winter Show: The NDWCA Area II members moved to have a booth at the North Dakota Winter Show in Valley City in March 2019. As has been done in the past, participating counties will share the cost of the booth. Extension weed identification books will be distributed.

Proposed motion: Move to approve cost share expense for education booth at the North Dakota Winter Show.

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 recertification: Mr. Wolf's American Society of Agronomy's Certified Crop Advisor registration is up for renewal. NDSU Extension provides training sessions and continuing credit hours, usually at no cost, which are credited toward the CCA. The Weed Board has previously 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.

Workshops: NDSU's Wild World of Weeds and Soil & Soil/Water Workshop will be held on January 22 and 23, 2019 respectively in Fargo. The registration costs have not been disclosed at this time. Last year the costs have been \$100 and \$80 respectively. The Board has approved the registration expenses for Mr. Wolf to attend and receive continuing education credits.

Proposed motion: Move to approve the registration expenses for the Wild World of Weeds and the Soil and Soil/Water Workshop.

Monthly Report

Contractor Spraying: Roadside spraying operations were aggressively being conducted up until the rain and snow events at the first part of October. After the snow had melted it was determined that Leafy spurge was frosted and dead. Canada thistle varied from being frosted and dead to somewhat viable. Because of that, spraying operations were suspended for the season. The contractors were allowed to spray out the herbicide remaining in the truck tanks. A summary of the 2018 contractor spraying operations is as follows:

	2018 ROW Spraying		Five Year Average
	Acres	Cost	Acres
J&J Spraying	3867	\$148,062.33	4111
Walker's Lawncare	4322	\$170,306.50	4335
total	8189	\$318,368.83	8447
	budget	\$340,000.00	
	net	\$21,631.17	

State road spraying operations are included in the above acres and costs. Broken out the summary for state roads is as follows:

2018 State Road Spraying		
	Acres	Cost
J&J Spraying	1531	\$59,627.69
Walker's Lawncare	567	\$22,339.80
total	2098	\$81,967.49
DOT reimbursement		\$50,000.00
Cass County Spraying Cost		\$31,967.49

Weed Control Spraying: Weed Control staff sprayed a total of 163 acres, spraying various township roads, flood buy out lots, water resource drains, and other county owned parcels. No private property was sprayed.

Weed Complaints: 35 weed infestation notices were processed by weed control staff. The public called in a few complaints. The rest were properties identified by staff. Most of the property owners were contacted by letter with a couple contacted by phone. The letters were notices of weed infestations to inform the landowner on record that a control action needed to be taken. Included with each letter was an application for Landowner Assistance. No control orders were processed.

Product Spill: A gallon jug of a spray adjuvant developed a leak. The jug was stored in the winter storage unit, a chest freezer. The liquid was mostly contained within the storage unit with some leaking onto the floor. All spilled material was adsorbed by floor dry, bagged and placed in the trash for disposal in the landfill, as per recommendations.

Maple River Dam Grant: The 2018 spring snowmelt caused water to back up in the Maple River Dam water retention area. The flooded area set back the grasses and allowed various weeds including noxious weeds to invade the area. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District in charge of the dam structure asked Weed Control to apply for a US Forest Service Grant. The grant was approved to cost share the expense of controlling weeds in the flood-affected area. On September 10, a helicopter applied Milestone at 7 oz. /acre at a total cost of \$13,334.56. The grant will reimburse \$6667.28, which will be passed through to the Cass County Joint Water Resource District.

County Extension: Cass County Extension does not have an agricultural extension agent at this time. The Extension Service has asked Mr. Wolf to assist in weed identification and follow-up on any Palmer amaranth inquiries. Wolf has followed up on one request for plant identification taking a plant sample to NDSU Extension. The plant sample was identified as waterhemp.

Area II meeting: Mr. Hagen and Mr. Wolf attended the NDWCA Area II meeting on October 22 at the Barnes County Highway Dept in Valley City. Topics discussed were the annual meeting, association website and upcoming legislative issues. Attending counties gave a summary report of weed control activities. Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU Extension, presented a 19-year summary of a Leafy spurge flea beetle introduction study in the Badlands of North Dakota and the new editions of weed identification publications. Chemical industry reps

highlighted new herbicides and potential price increases for phenoxy herbicides, 2,4-D and related versions, of up to 30%. Price increases mostly due to China's increased costs of production.

North Dakota Department of Agriculture stated that Palmer amaranth has been confirmed in McIntosh, Foster and Benson counties. Mr. Wolf requested that county weed officers and weed boards be better informed by the NDDA on the ongoing status of confirmed sightings of Palmer amaranth.

NDSU on 10-26-18 issued a press release stating that Paler amaranth has been found in McIntosh, Benson, Dickey, Foster and Richland Counties.

Drones: A number of UAV drones are capable of spraying pesticides. John Nowatzki, NDSU Extension, is experimenting with a UAV drone that can carry up to 4 gallons of product. Rantizo (rantizo.com) has developed a drone that uses an electrostatic charge in its sprayer. Weed Control has contacted both and is willing to provide sites to determine effectiveness in real world situations.

The Cass County Tax Equalization office has indicated that they may want to have Weed Control use the drone to take aerial photos of some properties.

NDWCA Poster Contest: Distributed invitations for NDWCA Poster Contest to rural county school 5th and 6th grade teachers.

Harmony Solar Project: Geronimo Energy is applying for a permit to construct a solar electrical generation farm in Harmony Township. Last May Geronimo Energy contacted the Weed Control Office regarding weed control and asked for native grass mixes recommendations. They were referred to the Cass County NRCS office for the grass mix recommendation. Geronimo Energy has since submitted its *Vegetation Management Plan for the Harmony Solar Project* to the County Commission's office. Upon review of the plan at the request of the Commission, I added that the grass seed should be sourced or produced from areas that do not have Palmer amaranth.

Upcoming Events:

Northern Ag Expo
NDWCA annual conference
Wild World of Weeds
Soil and Soil/Water Workshop
North Dakota Winter Show

November 27-28, Fargo
January 8-10, 2019, Bismarck
January 22, Fargo
January 23, Fargo
March 5-10, Valley City