

Cass County Weed Control Board  
Cass County Weed Control Office  
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo  
February 11, 2019

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. Seasonal Field Aid Information/action
  - b. State Noxious Weed List Information
  - c. Biocontrol Information/action
  - d. Vehicle Building Information
  - e. Noxious Weed Specialist Information/action
  
  - f. 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](mailto:wolfs@casscountynd.gov)

**New Business:**

**Seasonal Field Aid:** Seasonal Field Aid: Every year a summer field aid has been hired to assist the Weed Officer in scouting, mapping and controlling noxious and troublesome weeds. An additional consideration for hiring the field aid is safety when field operations are conducted in rough terrain or remote areas. Having an additional individual in the area to quickly assist in the event of a sprayer upset is important to minimize environmental damage or to provide medical assistance if needed. To start the process, a Staff Requisition needs to be signed by the board then forwarded to the portfolio commissioner.

*Proposed motion: Move to approve hiring a Summer Field Aid and sign the Staff Requisition.*

**State Noxious Weed List:** Doug Goehring, ND Ag Commissioner has added Houndstongue and Palmer amaranth to the state noxious weed list. Houndstongue has been on many county noxious weed lists and is found in over 40 counties across the state. Palmer amaranth was identified in five counties in several fields in 2018. Palmer amaranth is an annual weed originating from the desert Southwest. It is highly invasive, producing 100,000 to 1 million seeds per plant. It can germinate anywhere from early May to late September and needs only 30 days from germination to produce viable seeds. It can infest cropland, rangeland, pastures, wastelands, and road ditches. NDSU is in the process of writing a Palmer amaranth control bulletin for landowners and county weed boards.

**Biocontrol:** Canada thistle stem mining weevils will be available for purchase from Integrated Weed Control, Bozeman, MT. The cost will be \$150.00 per release of 105 insects each. Two releases were purchased last year.

Last year the board approved to sell six two Leafy spurge sweep nets at \$25 each. Two Leafy spurge sweep nets were sold last year.

*Proposed motion: Move to purchase four Canada thistle stem mining weevil releases and to sell up to four Leafy spurge sweep nets at \$25 each.*

**Vehicle Building:** Vector Control, Highway Dept., County Maintenance, County Administrator and Weed Control met to start discussions on building additional vehicle storage space. The space would be 50 feet by 50 feet, dedicated to weed control. Options are tying onto existing building or building a standalone building to the south of the current building.

**Noxious Weed Specialist:** Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist, has retired and the position is now open. With Palmer amaranth added to the state noxious weed list, it is vitally important that the position be filled to conduct research in rangeland, pasture, native prairie and roadside areas. The NDWCA has drafted a letter of support for filling the position and has solicited support from commodity groups, organizations and agencies across the state.

*Proposed motion: Move to support filling the NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist position.*

### **Monthly Report**

**Wild World of Weeds workshop:** Attendees were primarily crop scouts, crop consultants, and agronomist. Topics discussed centered around invasive weeds including Palmer amaranth. Palmer discussion included plant identification and control options. Perplant and preemerge herbicides can provide control of Palmer if applied when plants are less than 4 inches tall. Another discussion point was for the attendees to get to know the local weed officer. With Palmer amaranth on the noxious weed list the issue of controlling Palmer is going to be very important for their clients.

Private conversations with several attendees indicated that concern regarding Palmer is high, they wanted to know what programs will be available to assist the land manager when controlling Palmer. Others indicated that Palmer may be more widespread but not identified. Numerous fields were seen infested with pigweeds, mostly likely waterhemp with Palmer mixed in.

Extension has been providing information on Palmer identification and control options for several years. I talked to several Extension agents and researchers stating that a Palmer amaranth control bulletin needs to be written to provide weed officers and land managers. Dr. Joe Ikley and Dr. Brian Jenks will be working on providing a bulletin hopefully before spring planting.

**NDWCA Noxious Weed Specialist support letter:** I was asked by the NDWCA board to draft a letter requesting NDSU Plant Sciences and NDSU Ag Experiment Station to fill the vacant Noxious Weed Specialist position. The letter was drafted and sent to commodity groups, North Dakota state agency, and interested organizations asking them to sign onto the letter as a sign of support for the position.

**Cass Co Extension Agent:** Kyle Aasand has been hired as the Extension Agent for Cass County. He will start on Monday, February 14.

**Upcoming Events:**

Corn/Soy Expo  
Pesticide Recertification training  
Cass County Crop Improvement  
North Dakota Winter Show  
Pesticide Recertification training  
Pesticide Recertification training  
NDWCA Board meeting

February 12, Fargo  
February 21, Fargo  
February 26, Casselton  
March 5-10, Valley City  
March 22, Fargo  
March 26, Harwood  
March 26, Bismarck