

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Tuesday, November 12, 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. Landowner Assistance Program Information/action
 - b. NDWCA Conference Information/action
 - c. Bio-Control Information/action
 - d. Certified Crop Advisor Information/action
 - e. Workshops Information/action
 - f. Employee Evaluation Information/action
 - g.
 - h. 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

Oct 31, 2019

Period from Sept 9 to Oct 31, 2019

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Landowner Assistance Program: Seven landowners applied for LAP. 331 acres were sprayed with expected reimbursements come to \$4168.52. Enclosed is the

Proposed motion: Move to approve Landowner Assistance Program payments totaling \$4,168.52.

Discussion action:

One landowner is requesting reimbursement of \$280.00 for the application cost on 80 acres where he applied 2,4-D herbicide. The area is a pasture with access to cropland for fall grazing. He has concerns regarding grazing restrictions of other herbicides on cropland. He feels that he is getting good control of Canada thistle and Absinth wormwood using 2,4-D in the spring. The board has not approved 2,4-D herbicide as an approved herbicide for reimbursement.

Discussion: Do we reimburse application cost for non-approved herbicides?

NDWCA Conference: The annual NDWCA conference will be held on January 6 to 9, 2020 at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck, ND. Conference registration is \$150, \$130 if paid prior to December 20, 2019. Membership renewal is \$275.00, which is good for one year.

Proposed motion: Move to pay conference registration, \$130.00 and membership renewal, \$275.00.

The Education Committee will hold a benefit auction with proceeds going to education expenses such as the sprayer schools held in the spring. Attendees are asked to contribute items for the auction. Previously the board has approved funds to purchase items for the auction.

Proposed motion: Move to approve \$60.00 for auction items.

Bio-Control: Cass County Natural Resources has asked if bio-control options could be utilized for Pollinator CRP plantings. They have three pollinator sites with Leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Mr. Wolf replied that we are making available Leafy spurge flea beetles to landowners at no cost and have purchased and released Canada thistle stem mining weevils. Last year the board approved the purchase of 10 releases of Canada thistle stem mining weevils, which were released in several locations, including at least one pollinator planting.

Discussion item: Will the board pay for Canada thistle stem mining weevils to be introduced into Pollinator CRP planting or cost share with landowner?

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: The Wild World of Weeds and Soil and Soil/Water Workshop will be held in Fargo on January 21 and 22 respectively. Mr. Wolf has attended these workshops in the past with the weed board paying the registration. The registrations costs have not been released but have been \$100 and \$80 respectively.

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

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.

Monthly Report

Contractor roadside spraying: Wind, rain and snow hampered fall spraying activities in October. Contractors were diligent in spraying when conditions allowed. Spraying operations concluded on October 24 with the contractors covering nearly all roads. Ditch bottoms had water standing but road shoulders and in slopes were covered.

The 2019 total acres covered are as follows:

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>
J&J Spraying	4571	\$173,652.29
Walker	4319	\$169,378.90
Total	8890	\$343,031.19
Target Budget		<u>\$340,000.00</u>
Remaining		\$ (3,031.19)

Costs were \$3031.19 above target budget, contractor spraying budget is \$390,000.

The total acres covered compare favorably with previous year's activity. Below is the 5 year acreage average.

Year	North	South	Total
2015	4023	4142	8165
2016	4390	4230	8620
2017	4735	4195	8930
2018	4322	3867	8189
2019	4319	4571	8890
average	4358	4201	8559

Canada thistle and Leafy spurge were found across the county. Absinth wormwood was mostly found in the southwest region of the county. Weed expression varied across the county over the summer. Areas where applicators have consistently applied herbicides every year weed density and plant height was mostly reduced.

TAG Grant: The North Dakota Department of Agriculture has released the 2019-2021 TAG Notice of Grant Award. All county weed boards are eligible for a \$5000.00 grant providing a match of 25% from the weed board. Mr. Wolf has signed and turned in the grant award to the NDDA. The grant monies can be used for anything that supports noxious weed control efforts from spray equipment, herbicides, repair parts, computer software and mapping equipment. An invoice is required to receive grant monies.

Noxious Weed Control Development Fund: The NDWCA board has approved to move ahead with the Noxious Weed Development Fund and asked Mr. Wolf to solicit support of the concept from the ND commodity groups. Mr. Wolf will present the proposed Development Fund to the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education on November 15. SBARE consists of NDSU Administration, NDSU Extension, ND Dept. of Ag., and numerous commodity groups. SBARE provides matching funds for various research projects for ND commodity products.

Palmer amaranth reports: Cass Co Extension has received several plant samples thought to be Palmer amaranth. Genetic testing determined the samples to be Waterhemp. Palmer amaranth was identified this summer in Morton, Grant, Emmons and possibly Souix Counties.

Canada thistle rust: NDDA staff evaluated two Canada thistle sites for Canada thistle rust introductions. Early observations at the Miller site indicate that the natural rust infestation is higher than first thought, with no additional rust introduced there. The site north of Kindred was not deemed to be adequate for a test site.

ND Winter Show: NDWCA Area II counties will have an educational booth at the ND Winter Show in Valley City. Show dates are March 3-8, 2020.

Other activities:

Maple River Dam and various Water Resource Drains have been sprayed for noxious weeds. Assistance was given to Dakota Helicopters in determining what areas are to be sprayed in the Maple River Dam project area.

Co 17 Cemetery: The cemetery along Co 17 at 52 Ave has been sprayed for Canada thistle and other weeds. The Highway Dept. will be cleaning up the site, removing the timber fence. We will keep an eye on the site for weed infestations.

West Fargo lagoons were sprayed for Canada thistle and Leafy spurge.

Spray equipment has been winterized. The addition to the Weed/Vector vehicle building has started with concrete pouring of the foundation and floor.

Distributed NDWCA Poster contest applications to rural county grade schools.

Upcoming Events:

SBARE presentation	November 15, Fargo
Northern Ag Expo	December 3-4, Fargo
Palmer ID Workshop	December 19, Carrington
NDWCA Annual Conference	January 7-9, Bismarck
Wild World of Weeds	January 21, Fargo
Soil/Soil Water Workshop	January 22, Fargo
Best of the Best Workshop	February 6, Moorhead
ND Winter Show	March 3-8, Valley City