

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, February 10 2020

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. NRCS Pollinator Program Information/action
 - b. Seasonal Field Aid Information/action
 - c. NDAWN Information/action
 - d. Spray Bid Selection Committee Information/action
 - e. North Dakota Winer Show 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

Weed Control Progress Report

February 10, 2020

Period from Jan 13 to Feb 3, 2020

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

NRCS Pollinator Program: Jeff Miller and Joshua Monson are invited to describe the NRCS Pollinator program. They have expressed interest in utilizing biocontrol agents to control noxious weeds in the pollinator plantings. Their cooperators are interested in cost share programs regarding noxious weed control.

Weed Control staff have collected and distributed Leafy spurge flea beetles at no cost to landowners. Staff have also distributed LS flea beetles on various private lands where Leafy spurge infestations are prevalent.

In 2019, the board has approved the purchase of ten Canada thistle mining weevil releases. These releases were distributed in several locations in the county. Integrated Weed Control of Bozeman, MT is selling 100 insects at \$150.00 per release.

Proposed motion: Move to purchase ten releases of Canada thistle stem mining weevils for \$1500.00.

Seasonal Field Aid: Every year a summer field aid is 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. The Staff Requisition has been signed by Mr. Wolf and forwarded to Commissioner Breitling for his approval and signature. A new hire would start at \$13.78. Jeff Grieve has agreed to work this upcoming season, returning for his sixth year.

Proposed motion: Move to approve hiring a summer field aid to assist in spraying and scouting operations.

NDWAN: The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network operates remote weather monitoring stations and provides up to the minute weather conditions via web connection. The contract sprayers and Weed Control staff utilize the stations within Cass County to determine weather conditions before and during spraying operations. NDAWN has scheduled to install another weather station south of Fargo by the Wild Rice River near I29 this summer. In previous years, the Weed Board has granted \$500 to NDWAN to help cover the costs of operating the remote weather stations.

Proposed Motion: Approve a \$500 sponsorship grant to NDWAN for stations in Cass County.

Spray Bid Selection Committee: A committee of at least two people needs to be assigned to open and review the sealed noxious weed spray bids. The committee will evaluate if the bids are responsive and responsible, check references and provide their recommendation for approval to the Weed Board. Tom Soucy, Assistant County Engineer, has agreed to assist in the spray bid opening and evaluation of bids.

Proposed Motion: Move to appoint Stan Wolf and Tom Soucy to the Spray Bid Selection Committee.

North Dakota Winter Show: The North Dakota Weed Control Association Area 2 counties will be participating in manning an educational booth at the North Dakota Winter Show on March 3-8 in Valley City. The booth costs will be shared shared by the participation counties, expected to be less than \$100.00 each. Literature and handouts will be primarily Extension bulletins. Weed officers and board members will be scheduled to man the booth.

Proposed Motion: Move to approve attendance and expenses for the NDWCA ND Winter Show booth.

Monthly Report

Annual Noxious Weed survey: The ND Ag Commissioner requires all weed boards to complete an annual noxious weed survey. The survey lists the noxious weeds and acres and other weed board information. The reported acres were derived from the sprayed acres in road right-of-way, public lands, and infested private lands made known to the weed officer. A total of 6790 acres of Leafy spurge, 4674 acres of Canada thistle, 50.5 acres of Absinth wormwood, and one acre of Purple loosestrife were entered into the report. A copy of the report is enclosed with this report. Please review your contact info on the first page to ensure accuracy

Fargo weed board: I have reached out to Fargo Public Works to discuss noxious weed control issues and needs within city limits if Fargo decides to disband their weed control board. A meeting has not been planned as of this writing. In addition, the States Attorney was asked to look into current law regarding weed board membership if Fargo disbands their weed control board.

Cass Clay Food Commission: Mr. Wolf has been asked to speak to the Cass Clay Food Commission on March 11. The Commission has asked about the county weed control program, especially weed control on county flood lots. The Commission has also asked the cities of Fargo, West Fargo, Moorhead and county entities to provide an update on their programs and how they interact with the public regarding weed control programs. The Commission might be looking at providing community gardens on public lands in the future.

Cass County Pesticide Recertification: Mr. Wolf will be assisting County Extension with the private pesticide recertification training. A discussion highlighting Cass County Weed Control programs and services will be presented.

Upcoming Events:

Corn/Soy Expo	February 4, Fargo
Cass Co Pesticide Recertification	February 6, Fargo
International Crop Expo	February 19-20, Grand Forks
Cass Co Pesticide Recertification	February 25, Fargo
ND Winter Show	March 3-8, Valley City
International Sugarbeet Expo	March 12, Grand Forks
Cass Clay Food Commission	March 11, Fargo
Cass Co Pesticide Recertification	March 18, Fargo