

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, February 8, 2021

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. Election of Officers Action
 - b. NDAWN Information/action
 - c. Weed Seed Free Forage JPA Information/action
 - d. Weed/Vector Storage Building Information/action
 - e. Other

3. Monthly Progress Report Information

4. Upcoming events Information

Note: The conference room will be arranged to provide appropriate distancing between participants.

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 1, 2021

Period from Dec 8, 2020 to February 1, 2021

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Election of Officers: The chair and vice chair officers are elected for a one-year term; election of officers is required at the start of the year.

Action: Hold election of officers.

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. 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 the Fargo station in Cass County.

Weed Seed Free Forage JPA: The Weed Board has entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for inspecting for Weed Seed Free Forage hay lands. The present agreement expires on April 30, 2021. A renewal agreement has not been offered for 2021 as of this date. Typically, the renewal is sent out within 30 days before expiration requiring the signature of the board chair. Upon renewal the board has assigned the weed officer to conduct the inspections for the board.

Proposed Motion: Move to renew the Joint Powers Agreement with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for inspecting Weed Seed Free Forage and assign the weed officer as the WSFF inspector.

Weed/Vector Vehicle Building: Vector Control is planning to insulate and heat their shop area this year. They are looking at heating with natural gas which will involve trenching a gas line to the building. If that were to happen, we might have the opportunity to have a gas line trenching to the Weed Control Office building for a gas furnace.

Action: Discussion the merits on installing a gas line to the Weed Office building for a future heating source.

Monthly Report:

Township spray maps: The township spray maps have been generated and all township officers and clerks will be mailed copies prior to their annual township meetings. A cover letter will also be mailed detailing the maps and providing other information regarding noxious and invasive weed control in the county.

Spotted Hemlock flyer: Mr. Wolf worked with Kyle Aasand, Cass County Extension, in developing a Spotted hemlock flyer. The flyer will be handed out to interested landowners and will be mailed to the township officers along with the township spray maps.

NDWCA Board Meeting: Mr. Wolf attended the North Dakota Weed Control Association board meeting on Tuesday, January 12. Mr. Wolf was elected as 2nd Vice-President of the NDWCA. He will assume the role of President in 2023. Mr. Wolf presented the letter that was given to the Cass County legislators describing the current situation of Palmer amaranth in neighboring counties and the funding concerns regarding assisting landowners in controlling Palmer amaranth in cropland. Mr. Wolf noted that two legislators responded to the letter with possible interest in writing a bill to assist weed boards. The board discussed the possible outcomes when landowners ask for financial assistance and will be reaching out to NDSU Extension on control options. The board decided to wait and see how the budget for noxious weed control through the ND Dept of Ag looks like coming through the legislative before deciding on how to proceed.

ND Legislature: The North Dakota Legislature is in session. Mr. Wolf is reviewing various bills going through the legislative process, watching for any bills that might have an impact on noxious weed control. To date no bills of concern to noxious weed control have been identified.

Noxious Weed Annual Survey Report: The ND Dept of Agriculture requires every weed board to submit an annual report. The 2020 report has been collated and submitted to the NDDA. A copy has been enclosed for your information. The information for acres has been determined from the actual contractor and weed staff spray reports, weed complaint letters sent out by the weed officer and landowner assistance applications submitted to the weed control office.

Leafy spurge Infestation and Control Graph: The enclosed graph was developed by Dr Rod Lym, former Noxious Weed Research Specialist, shows the actual acreage of Leafy spurge correlated with the development of various herbicide treatments and the introduction of biological control programs.

Summer Field Aid: Weed Control has always hired a summer field aid to assist in scouting and spraying noxious weeds. The additional staff person is advisable as a safety factor when scouting, spraying, or operating the drone. Jeff Grieve will be returning this summer as the summer temporary field aid. This will be his sixth season. His pay rate will be \$17.85/hour. He will need to have his commercial applicators license renewed before starting spraying activities, cost \$140.00.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification: Mr. Wolf will be assisting County Extension with the Private Pesticide Applicator recertification training. Mr. Wolf will be describing the services and duties of the Weed Control Office. The trainings will be conducted by County Extension. Two trainings will be in person and three will be via Zoom webinars.

Computer Trainings: Mr. Wolf has signed up for several computer program trainings as the county is migrating its major programs and data storage to different platforms. These trainings conducted are via Microsoft Teams, similar to Zoom.

Upcoming Events:

Pesticide Applicator training	February 9, Harwood
Pesticide Applicator training	February 18, Zoom
Pesticide Applicator training	February 22, Zoom
Northern Corn and Soybean Expo	February 23 and 24, Zoom
Pesticide Applicator training	March 2, Moorton
Pesticide Applicator training	March 10, Zoom
ND Winter Show	March 10-14, Valley City
Tall Towers Aviation open house	March 26, Page
NDWCA Board meeting	March 30, Bismarck