

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, February 13, 2023

9:00 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 |
| 2. New Business | |
| a. Climate-Controlled Herbicide Storage | Information/action |
| b. NDAWN | Information/action |
| c. 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

New Business:

Climate-Controlled Herbicide Storage: Cass County Weed Control is currently purchasing the herbicides needed for the summer noxious weed control program shortly after the spraying season. The herbicides are made available to the contractors as they conduct their spraying operations. This has allowed Cass County Weed Control to purchase herbicide products prior to price increases. In 2023, climate-controlled storage in the Fargo area has not been acquired. The herbicide supplier has agreed to hold the products in their warehouse until early spring delivery. In the future, the herbicide supplier may not be able to hold ordered products due to limited storage space. If Cass County Weed Control will continue to order and purchase the herbicides early, Weed Control may need to acquire their own climate-controlled storage. One option would be to insulate and heat the vehicle storage area.

Proposed motion: Move to investigate the costs for insulating and installing a heating system for chemical storage in the vehicle storage area.

NDAWN: 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 stations in Cass County.

Monthly Report:

County Commission Policy – Grasshopper Control: County Administrator Robert Wilson inquired if the County Grasshopper Control Policy is still needed. Mr. Wolf recommended that the policy be removed as the responsibility of grasshopper control has been eliminated from the duties of the weed control officer in the Noxious Weed Law, NDCC 4.1-47

Seasonal Field Aid: The Weed Control Seasonal Field Aid position has been posted on Monday, February 6 on the county website, social media sites and at NDSU.

NDWCA Conference: Mr. Wolf attended the NDWCA conference held on January 2-5. Mr. Wolf was installed as president of the association. Numerous sessions covered various topics including 'Biological vs Chemical control on specific weeds', "Ventenata and other invasive grasses", Venue and other herbicide updates, and use of spray drones for weed spraying.

The association newsletter has been updated to email distribution; regular mailing has been discontinued.

Dodge pickup Sale: The pickup has been listed on PublicSurplus.com online auction site. The sale closes on February 10 at 2 pm.

Spotted Hemlock infestation: Weed Control staff scouted for Spotted hemlock and found numerous infestations in the western townships in the Maple River watershed in 2022. These infestations ranged from single plants to dense infestations alongside or within cattail areas. The areas could not be accessed via side-by-side sprayer or by hand spray. A helicopter or drone sprayer would be the best methods to apply an herbicide. Walker's Lawncare has acquired a spray done and at least one other applicator in the area is considering a spray drone. Mr. Wolf has forwarded a map locating the Spotted hemlock infestations to these applicators with the hope that they can provide an estimate of application costs.

Weekly Legislative meeting: Each Friday afternoon during the ND 2023 Legislative session county department heads meet with the County Commission to discuss bills coming up in various Legislative committees.

Bills Weed Control is watching

SB2009 - NDDA budget, no change in LAP or TAG monies proposed.

HB1099 - Removing procurement to individual weed seed free forage inspector. Removing the language 'signed' from the Agriculture Commissioner's Authority regarding weed complaints.

Other: Assisted Kyle Assand with private pesticide applicator rectification training on Feb. 1 at Argusville.

Upcoming Events:

Best of the West training	Feb 9, Moorhead
ND Winter Show	March 7-12, Valley City
Private Applicator Pesticide Training	Feb 16, Zoom meeting
Private Applicator Pesticide Training	March 8, Mapleton
NDWCA board meeting	March 28, Bismarck