

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, August 14, 2023

9:00 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. Weed Office Building | Information/action |
| b. 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

August 7, 2023

Period from to July 7 to August 7, 2023

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Weed Office Building: The three entry doors to the Weed Office need to be replaced. The door frames are rotting out and rainwater leaks in. The main entry door doesn't seal very good and has at times been hard to lock in the winter. We are in the process of getting bids for replacing the doors. No bids have come in as of this writing.

Proposed Motion: Move to replace the doors.

Monthly Report:

Budget Presentation: The 2024 proposed budget was presented to the County Commission on July 26, 2023. The Commission approved the budget as presented. A question was raised regarding the drawdown of the cash reserve fund, if the drawdown continues will the mill levy need to be raised?

Roadside Spraying: Roadside spraying has been slow considering weather conditions. The haying of I94 has begun, J&J Spraying will spray those ditches in the fall. To date a total of 2082 acres have been sprayed, totaling \$89,969.00 in application and chemical costs. It is expected that spraying operations will pick up in earnest in September.

Spotted hemlock: Spotted hemlock spraying has been completed in the county. The Water Resource Districts have hired a contractor to spray S Hemlock in their legal drains. Weed Control staff have scouted and sprayed road ditches in the western townships where S hemlock was identified in 2022. Several additional locations were identified including a residential development area outside of West Fargo. The development has a water channel in the back yards of many of the homes with S hemlock growing profusely. Mr. Wolf visited most homeowners in the evening to inform the residents of the weed and how to handle it, most notably not to touch or handle it.

Purple Loosestrife: Weed Control staff have scouted and sprayed for Purple loosestrife in north Fargo several times. The Purple loosestrife continues to maintain its presence in the two drains.

Biocontrol: Biocontrol agents were ordered for Canada thistle mining weevils (eight releases) and Spotted hemlock defoliating moth (7 releases). These will be distributed in several locations in the county. The cost for these releases will come to \$2450 plus shipping. No control agents have been delivered yet.

Highway Bridge Guardrail Spraying: The Cass County Highway Dept asked to have the bridge guardrails sprayed on the county highways. Weed Control staff applied a mixture of Roundup QuikPro SC and Plateau as a soil sterilant to 31 bridge guardrails over the course of three days. The cost of herbicides and mileage comes to \$1117.35 which will be charged to the County Highway Dept.

Board Member Search: Mr. Wolf has inquired with several agronomy services people for recommendations for the weed board. Several candidates have been recommended. Mr. Wolf will contact the individuals after the grain harvest.

Herbicide Test Plot: A side by side test plot was conducted this spring on June 12, 2023 in Hunter Township. The site is a pasture on sandy loam with a heavy stand of Leafy spurge. Several herbicide combinations were applied, Tordon/Overdrive, Freelexx, Venue/Freelexx, Facet L, Tordon/Freelexx, Tordon/HighNoon, and Tordon/HighNoon/Freelexx. All applications did kill or burndown the Leafy spurge with the Venue/Freelexx combination showing slightly more burning and results were seen earlier. The results of the test will be next year to see what the level of control and regrowth looks like.

Upcoming Events:

NDWCA Board meeting
NDWCA Area meeting
NDWCA Conference

September 26, Bismarck
October 23, Valley City
January 2-5, Bismarck