

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
March 11, 2019

10:00 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. Palmer amaranth Action Plan | Information |
| b. NDAWN | Information/action |
| c. Work order | Information/action |
| d. Palmer amaranth summer tour | Information/action |
| e. 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

March 4, 2019

Period from Feb 11 to March 4, 2019

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Palmer amaranth Action Plan: The NDWCA has worked with the ND Dept of Ag and NDSU Extension in developing a preliminary draft of a Palmer amaranth Action Plan. The draft was been sent to the NDWCA Palmer Outreach committee for comments. Please review the Action Plan and offer any comments. Mr. Wolf plans to attend the upcoming NDWCA board meeting on March 26 where the board will address the Action Plan with the ND Ag Commissioner and NDSU Extension.

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 in Cass County.

Work Order: Weed Control has conducted noxious weed control efforts for various county, city and other local government agencies, billing the agency for time and materials. Weed Control requests the government agencies to complete a work order describing location and weed control efforts. The work order lists the various charges on a per hour basis. The current rates have been in effect for several years. Equipment and labor costs have increased over the years. It is recommended that the rates be changed to reflect the North Dakota Department of Ag's in-kind rate chart.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	
UTV sprayer with Labor	\$50.00	\$55.00	includes trailer, GPS, and average Labor - \$26.21/hr.
Hand sprayer with Labor	\$25.00	\$30.00	
Mileage – water truck	\$0.74	\$0.75	
Mileage – pickup		\$0.58	
Herbicides	at cost	at cost	
Commercial applicator	at cost	at cost	

Proposed Motion: Move to accept proposed labor and equipment rates for outside government agency weed control work.

Palmer amaranth summer tour: The ND Soybean Growers Association will be sponsoring a Palmer amaranth tour to Nebraska sometime this summer. NDSU staff, County Extension personnel and other interested people are invited to participate. Attendees will get firsthand knowledge of Palmer amaranth problems and control methods in Nebraska.

Proposed motion: Move to approve Weed Officer participating in the Palmer amaranth tour.

Monthly Report

Corn/Soy Expo: Mr. Wolf attended the Corn/Soy Expo on February 12 and sat in on the Palmer amaranth discussion. Dr. Joe Ikley, NDSU, presented Palmer amaranth history, identification, and control options. Attendees asked numerous questions regarding control options in cropland, how to prevent spread of seed on machinery and planting seed sources. Little was said regarding Palmer amaranth being added to state noxious weed list.

NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist: The NDWCA drafted a letter supporting the filling the Noxious Weed Specialist position at NDSU. Twenty-one organizations signed onto the letter.

Canada thistle stem mining weevils: An order was placed for 10 Canada thistle stem mining weevil releases. The releases will be available sometime in late August to October.

Private Pesticide Applicator recertification: Mr. Wolf assisted Extension with private pesticide applicator recertification on February 21.

Cass County Crop Improvement: Mr Wolf and Kyle Assand, Cass County Extension, coordinated a Palmer amaranth presentation. Mr. Assand presented Palmer amaranth identification, history of expansion, and possible control methods. Mr. Wolf explained how Cass County Weed Control would work with Extension and landowners in controlling Palmer amaranth, if a landowner develops a plan and works the plan to control the weed, Weed Control will not issue a control order.

Township Officer's letter: All Cass County township directors and clerks were mailed a copy of the 2018 township spray maps along with a letter describing the addition of Palmer amaranth and Houndstongue to the state noxious weed list. The townships were asked to add the Weed Management Plan to the township permitting process and to purchase their road gravel from gravel operations that have been inspected to be noxious weed free. Enclosed are the township letter, weed bulletins and Weed Management Form sent to the townships directors.

Legislative Update: HB 1149, a bill that will allow weed boards to charge for inspection and providing a letter of compliance stating that a gravel mining operation is compliant with the noxious weed law. The inspection would be voluntary and only done if asked for by the gravel supplier. The bill passed through the House and is now being considered by the Senate. There was no testimony against the bill in either House or Senate committees. The Cass County Highway Department and a supplier of gravel to Cass County provided letters of support for the bill.

Upcoming Events:

North Dakota Winter Show	March 5-10, Valley City
Private Pesticide Recertification training	March 22, Fargo
Private Pesticide Recertification training	March 26, Harwood
NDWCA Board meeting	March 26, Bismarck
Commercial Pesticide Recertification	March 28, Moorhead