

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
July 8, 2019

8:00 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 |
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| 2. New Business | |
| a. 2020 Proposed Budget | Information/action |
| b. Other | |
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| 3. Monthly Progress Report | Information |
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| 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

July 1, 2019

Period from May 6 to July 1, 2019

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

2020 Proposed Budget: The 2020 proposed county budgets need to be submitted to the Auditor by July 15 with budget hearing scheduled for July 24. It is expected that no new equipment is needed with exception of the office computer. We will also have to purchase a software license for a Collector program, which is used on the computer and smartphone. The software allows one to look at property boundaries and property owner's name on the smartphone. This is needed when collecting data in the field to address a weed complaint and sending out a letter to the property owner. The program can also draw an infestation site or GPS mark a location for biocontrol introductions.

Action: Discuss proposed 2020 budget, move to approve proposed budget.

Monthly Report

Roadside spraying started: Walker's Lawn care has started spraying in the north half of the county. They started spraying the I29 median with Method. They have switched to Tordon/Freelexx 2, 4-D for all road ditches. They are currently working on county road ditches. To date 2088 acres have been sprayed costing \$19,225.50.

Board reappointment: Mr. Wilcox has been re-appointed to the Weed Board for a four-year term ending July 2023.

FM Diversion inlet sprayed: The farmer operating next to the FM Diversion inlet area south of Horace has asked that the diversion property be sprayed to control weeds adjacent to his cropland. The area was sprayed with 2, 4-D on June 18 & 19, 2019 to control Canada thistle and other broadleaf weeds. The Diversion Authority was billed for the work performed, cost \$423.72.

Weed Seed Free Forage inspection: An inspection of hay land was performed on June 14 covering 42 acres. 25 acres passed inspection and a portion of that area was cut. Inspection fee totaled \$179.80.

Inspecting Gravel Pit outside Cass County: The Clay County Administrator and Clay County Ag Inspector, which conducts gravel pit inspections in Clay County, expressed concern regarding inspecting gravel pits for North Dakota noxious weeds. Gravel producers in Clay County may bid to supply gravel to the Cass County Highway Dept., which requires the pit operations are compliant in controlling ND noxious weeds. Several of the ND noxious weeds are not on the MN noxious weed list. Clay County felt that they did not have the authority to

certify the presence or absence of weeds not on the MN noxious weed list. Consulting with Birch Burdick, Cass Co State's Attorney, it was determined that the Cass County Weed Officer could inspect a gravel pit in Clay County and offer an opinion regarding the presence or control of ND noxious weeds in the pit area. The opinion would then be forwarded to Cass County Highway Dept. Clay County officials agreed that they would inspect the pit areas for MN noxious weeds and inform Cass County Weed Control of the pit location and provide a copy of the inspection. Cass County Weed Control would then inspect the pit for ND noxious weeds and share the inspection report/opinion. This arrangement would satisfy the Cass Co Highway Dept requirement that the pit operations be inspected and comply with ND noxious weed law prior to supplying gravel products.

Canada thistle stem mining weevil and CT rust: Inspections of 2018 Canada thistle stem mining weevil sites indicate that at least stem mining weevils overwintered at the Kindred site. The sites were scouted for possible rust inoculations later this summer. One site west of Ayr looked like it had rust on a couple of Canada thistle plants. These sites will continue to be monitored for rust and stem mining weevils.

Hwy 38 ditch: An adjacent landowner called on about June 19, to inquire if we had sprayed anything in the north bound ditch north of Interstate 94. The Impacted area started at I94 north to Co 4. Our contractor had not sprayed anything at that time. Looking at the area on June 26 it appears that the grass is starting to recover. No idea as to what happened.

Hemp oil production: A CBD hemp oil production nursery has been developed north of Leonard. The operator has stated that he did not want any herbicides sprayed in the area. He has agreed to mow the ditches to control the weeds for one mile around the production area.

Palmer amaranth found in state: The NDSU Extension Crop and Pest Report has reported that Palmer amaranth has been found in Benson and Nelson Counties in cropland.

Other activities: Weed Control staff have been scouting for Downy brome, mapping sites for spraying next spring. Numerous private properties were noted as infested with Leafy spurge, letters were sent to landowners.

Upcoming Events:

Budget hearing	July 25, Fargo
Project Safe Send	July 26, Valley City
Nebraska Palmer amaranth tour	August 12-15