

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, March 9, 2020

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. Noxious Weed Spray Bid Award | Information/action |
| b. Drone License Renewal | Information/action |
| c. Flood Fight Assistance | Information/action |
| d. Plant Tissue Analysis | Information/action |
| e. Joint Powers Agreement | Information/action |
| f. A/C replacement | Information/action |
| g. 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 2, 2020

Period from Feb 10 to March 2, 2020

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Noxious Weed Spray Bid Award: A bid opening was held on Monday, March 2 at 1 pm. Blain Laaveg, Cass County Highway Dept. and Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Control Officer were present to open and review the bids. Two contractors submitted bids for spraying noxious weeds for the 2020-2021 spray seasons, Walker’s Lawncare and J&J Spraying. The bids for the Tordon/Freelexx 2,4-D herbicide mix were as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>\$/applied acre</u>
Walker’s Lawncare	North	\$39.40
J&J Spraying	South	\$36.39

Both bids were complete and responsive with no irregularities.

Action item: Discuss the bids and award contract for the North unit and the South unit.

Drone license renewal: Mr. Wolf’s FAA part 107 drone pilot license will expire on May 4, 2020. A valid drone pilot license is required for an operator to fly the Board’s drone for scouting purposes. The renewal process will involve taking a written test, costing \$150.00.

Proposed motion: Approve Mr. Wolf to renew drone license, cost \$150.

Flood Fight Assistance: The Cass County Highway Department may ask for the use of the drone and pilot to conduct preliminary flood damage evaluations of county roads. Mr. Wolf would provide video or still shots to the county engineers.

Proposed motion: Move to allow Mr. Wolf to use drone to provide video or pictures of county properties and road rights-of-way to the Cass County Highway Department.

Plant Tissue Analysis: Almost every year we receive calls from landowners or farm operators stating that our spray operations have affected their adjacent crops. Many times, it appeared that the crop response might be due to dry conditions, adjacent farming operations, or other crop by environment interactions. The only way to determine if crop response is due to herbicide drift is to conduct a tissue analysis. The cost of tissue analysis for 2, 4-D, dicamba and Tordon is ~ \$150.00.

Proposed Motion: Move to approve tissue analysis of possible herbicide drift.

Joint Powers Agreement: The current Joint Powers Agreement with the ND Department of Agriculture to conduct Weed Seed Free Forage inspections will expire on April 30, 2020. As what has happened in the past, a twelve-month renewal of the agreement is expected to be forthcoming in early April. The renewal will allow the Weed Board to continue to be an agent of the NDDA and assign an inspector to conduct and certify hay land and straw mulch fields as Weed Seed Free Forage. Cass County Weed Control has entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with the NDDA since 2009 and has been renewed every year since.

Proposed motion: Move to accept and sign the Joint Powers agreement and assign Stan Wolf, Weed Officer as WSFF inspector.

A/C Replacement: The small window A/C unit situated in the back room has not worked last summer. The unit is used to cool the office and keep the humidity down. Replacement cost approx. \$200.00

Proposed Motion: Move to purchase replacement A/C unit for back room.

Monthly Report

Noxious Weed Spray Bid Opening: The Noxious Spray Bid Opening was held on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 1 PM at the Weed Control Office. Blain Laaveg, Cass County Highway Dept and Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer, were present as the selection committee to open the bids. Also present was Ryan Walker, Walker's Lawncare.

Fargo weed board: Met with Ben Dow, Fargo Public Works on Monday Feb 10. Fargo is considering on disbanding their weed board but no changes in city weed control operations are planned. Fargo will continue to control weeds on road rights-of-way and river front floodways by either mowing or spraying. If Fargo does disband their weed board, Cass County Weed Control will be required to perform noxious weed control orders, similar to the agreement with West Fargo. Also discussed was the county Weed Control Management Plan, recommending that a similar form be inserted into the city permit process.

West Fargo code enforcement: Met with Travis Johnson, West Fargo code enforcement, to discuss upcoming season weed control within city limits. The city is in the process of upgrading their policies and procedures for supervising and enforcing weed issues on new development sites. The city will enforce weed and tall grass control on owners/developers. Cass County Weed Control will be called if an owner/developer does not control noxious weeds. Also discussed was the county Weed Control Management Plan, recommending that a similar form be inserted into the city permit process.

Township Spray Maps: Mailed out to all township officers and clerks spray maps of their townships. Included with the maps was a cover letter summarizing the 2019 spray and scouting operations, Palmer amaranth information and identification and reporting protocol. 197 letters were mailed, costing \$236.40.

Noxious Weed Specialist position: NDSU has posted the position announcement for a Noxious Weed Specialist position, which was vacated after Dr. Rod Lym retired in 2019. Mr. Wolf has accepted to be a member of the search committee to review applicants and conduct interviews.

Upcoming Events:

ND Winter Show	March 3-8, Valley City
Cass Clay Food Commission	March 11, Fargo
International Sugarbeet Expo	March 12, Grand Forks
Cass Co Soil Conservation	March 17, Fargo
Cass Co Pesticide Recertification	March 18, Fargo