

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, August 10, 2020

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. Water hemlock infestations | Information/action |
| b. Other | |
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| 3. Monthly Progress Report | Information |
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| 4. Upcoming events | Information |

Note: The conference room will be arranged to provide appropriate distancing between participants. Face masks will be available.

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 3, 2020

Period from July 13 to August 3, 2020

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Spotted hemlock: Last month it was reported that Water hemlock was identified in a hay meadow in southern Cass County. Since that meeting another landowner called to request identification of a similar plant and it was confirmed to be hemlock. The plant has been correctly identified as Spotted hemlock. Spotted hemlock is related to Water hemlock, deemed to not be invasive but is only slightly less poisonous. Spotted hemlock has been identified in several township road ditches and in Water Resource drains in southern Cass County, namely in the southern tier townships on either side of Highway 18. Spotted hemlock was identified in two hay meadows totaling about 15 acres operated by different landowners. It has been recommended to both producers to not harvest the hay for feed, but to cut and destroy the hay. The infestation area should be sprayed in the fall targeting the regrowth. Last month the board approved weed control staff to conduct a spray operation to control hemlock on the one known hay meadow. The second producer asked if the same consideration will be offered for his infestation.

Scouting operations are being conducted in southern Cass County looking for additional water hemlock sites and conducting appropriate control measures. Cass County Extension sent out an Ag Alert stating that Water hemlock has been identified in the county, describing its poisonous nature and how to identify the plant.

Proposed Motion: Move to extend the offer to other producers whereby Cass County Weed Control will conduct and pay for a one-time spray application to control water hemlock infestation.

Monthly Report:

Spraying Activities:

Contractor right-of-way spraying: High temperatures, wind, and rain have hampered spraying of road right-of-way operations during July. J&J Spraying has sprayed I94 and I29 medians with Method, I29 ditches on both sides, and I94 ditches between Tower City to Buffalo, Mapleton to West Fargo with the Tordon/Freelexx mix. Remaining ditches will be sprayed in the fall. Walker's Lawn Care has covered most of the county roadways and I29 with the Tordon/Freelexx mix. To date a total of 1941 acres have been sprayed costing \$75,593, leaving a spray budget balance of \$264,407 to cover approx. 6900 acres.

Weed Control Staff: Weed Control staff spraying has also been limited. County 17 south of I94 to Horace and the West Fargo tie back levy south of I94 have been spot sprayed for Canada thistle. Several flood lots, a site along the railroad in Mapleton, and an area west of the West Fargo lagoons on city property were sprayed for Canada thistle and Leafy spurge.

Staff scouted and sprayed for Purple loosestrife in two locations in Fargo and Briarwood.

Spotted hemlock was sprayed in several township road ditches in Davenport Township with DruaCor. Discussions with NDSU weed specialists have indicated that 2,4-D and other herbicides will control Spotted hemlock in other states.

Budget Presentation: The Weed Control proposed budget was presented to the County Commission on July 22 and was approved by unanimous vote.

Weed Seed Free Forage Inspection: Received \$102.10 from the North Dakota Dept of Agriculture for Weed Seed Free Forage inspection of a hay field on June 22, 2020.

Weed Control Order: A formal complaint regarding noxious weeds in a residential yard in Page has been received and investigated. A large patch of Canada thistle was found in the back yard of the property. On June 12, 2020, a notice of infestation has been mailed to the owner with no control response by the landowner undertaken. On July 17, 2020, a copy of a Control Order was delivered to the Cass County Sheriff's Office, to be hand delivered to the property owner. The Control Order stated that the weed infestation had to be controlled by either mowing or spraying by July 27, 2020. To date no control actions were undertaken by the owner. We are working with the State's Attorney and the Sheriff's Office to determine how to proceed with a Control Enforcement on the property since it appears no one is presently living on the premises.

NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist search: Second round of candidate interviews were held the week of July 27.

Hoary alyssum: A landowner submitted pictures of a weed which was identified as Hoary alyssum, an invasive weed and poisonous to horses. Will be investigating the property to determine the extent of the infestation and determining control methods.

Cass County FSA office has sent requests to inspect three CRP sites for noxious weeds.

Ongoing activities:

Scouting for Canada thistle sites for CT stem mining weevils.
Scouting for Spotted hemlock sites.
Sending out notices of infestation letters to property owners.

Upcoming Events: