

Cass County Weed Control Board  
Cass County Weed Control Office  
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo  
Monday, December 14, 2020

10:00 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. LAP payment Information/action
  - b. Biocontrol Insects Information/action
  - c. 2021 Meeting Schedule Information/action
  - d. Other
  
3. Monthly Progress Report Information
  
4. Upcoming events Information

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

For information on any of the agenda items or the need for special accommodations contact: Stan Wolf, 701-298-2388, [wolfs@casscountynd.gov](mailto:wolfs@casscountynd.gov)

**New Business:**

**LAP Application:** A landowner called on November 11, 2020 asking if he can apply for LAP reimbursement. He had just received his invoice from the applicator. The location was sprayed on September 15. He was told that the deadline for submitting the application was October 30. I did mention that if he wanted to submit an application, he was welcome to do so with the explanation that he just received the invoice. No promises were made that the board would consider the application. The reimbursement would come to \$165.00, bringing the total for 2020 LAP reimbursements to \$10,331.41 if approved.

*Proposed Motion: Move to approve the LAP application in the amount of \$165.00*

**Biocontrol Insects:** Canada thistle stem mining weevils were purchased in 2019 and 2020 for distribution in various Canada thistle infestations sites in the county. The release sites in 2020 were either near 2019 sites or new sites. This upcoming summer the sites will be scouted for CT stem mining weevil establishment.

Spotted hemlock was identified in the county and spray control operations were undertaken in some areas. A biological control insect is available for Spotted hemlock, the hemlock defoliating moth. The hemlock defoliating moth consumes the leaves, stem tissue, flowers, and seeds causing stress on the plant. If a high enough population of moths is present, they could kill the plant. Hemlock defoliating moths may already be present in the area either through natural movement or by previous introductions.

Integrated Weed Control of Bozeman, Montana can supply both insects. Expected costs for 2021 are:

Canada thistle stem mining weevil	\$150.00/release
Hemlock defoliating moth	\$125.00/release

*Action: Discussion related to purchase releases of Canada thistle stem mining weevils and Hemlock defoliating moths.*

**2021 Meeting Schedule:** Enclosed is the proposed 2021 Weed Control Board meeting schedule. The proposed schedule continues to conduct the meetings on the second Monday of each month. Please review to see if there will be any conflicts with your schedules.

*Proposed Motion: Approve 2021 meeting schedule.*

### **Monthly Report:**

**NDWCA Conference:** The annual NDWCA conference along with the Ag Commissioners Weed Forum have been canceled due to COVID. There will not be a virtual conference or an annual business meeting; however, a mail in ballot will be provided to voting members to conduct elections for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president and industry rep. The association board is planning to meet in person on January 12, 2021 in Bismarck to review the voting and conduct the quarterly business meeting.

Mr. Wolf has been nominated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position. If elected this would be a three-year commitment as the office moves up to the president's position in 2023.

**Commissioner Portfolios:** Commissioner Jim Kapitan has been assigned the portfolio for the Planning and Operation Services which includes the Highway Dept, County Planning, Weed Control, and Vector Control.

**Iwen Property Update:** On November 16, 2020, the Post Office returned the letter containing the invoice listing the charges for the Enforcement Action undertaken on 8-27-2020. The returned envelope was marked as "Return to Sender, Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward". The invoice was mailed on September 1, 2020. Payment for the \$180.00 Enforcement Action has not been received. The returned invoice has been placed in Mr. Iwen's file along with the two Return Receipt Certified letters containing the Control Order and Enforcement Order.

**Contractor Roadside Spraying:** The GPS spray data from the roadside spray contractors and weed control staff spraying has been combined into a county wide map and individual township maps. The township maps will include areas marked where Spotted hemlock has been identified. The township maps will be sent to the township supervisors prior to the township annual meetings.

**Weed Control Staff Spraying:** Cass County Weed Control staff conduct weed spraying operations for county government entities as a service to those entities. Weed Control charges for time, mileage, and actual costs for herbicide. The total acres and revenue generated for spraying by weed control staff for county government entities in 2020 is shown below.

Owner	Acres	Dollars
Cass County Commission	58	\$ 1,424.69
Cass County Park Board	13.8	\$ 1,834.16
Water Resource Districts	226.7	\$ 6,599.48
City of West Fargo	27	\$ 624.45
City of Fargo	0.35	\$ 417.62
City of Tower City	0.5	\$ 139.21
Arthur Hunter Park JPA	20	\$ 823.76
Control Order	0.2	\$ 180.00
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Total	346.6	\$ 12,043.37

**Leafy spurge flea beetle videos:** Two videos portraying how to establish and manage Leafy spurge flea beetles have been loaded onto the Cass County Weed Control website, *How to Raise Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles* and *Integrated Pest Management on Control of Leafy Spurge*. The videos were produced in the mid 90's but are still relevant.

**Spotted hemlock:** Mr. Wolf is working with Extension to develop an educational handout on Spotted hemlock in Cass County. The handout will include the plant description and poisonous characteristics, where found, and control options. The handout will be mailed to the township officers and made available to county producers, landowners, and the public.