**WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING**

**april 11, 2022**

**MEETING TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Cass County Weed Control Board was called to order at 8:57am on Monday, April 11, 2022 in the Weed Control office building.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Larry Wilcox, Clayton Brennan, George Grossman, Ken Hagen and Marty Murch.

Also present was Stanley Wolf, Cass County Weed Control Officer, Sarah Heinle, Cass County Accountant and Jerry Jenson, Cass County Accountant. Also attending was a student from Minnesota State University – Moorhead to observe a board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the meeting minutes Monday, March 14, 2022. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER, passed**

***MOTION, passed.***

**Mr. Hagen moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the agenda order.**

1. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BILLS**

***MOTION, passed.***

**Mr. Hagen moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the financial statements and bills.**

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **Bio-control Agents**

Cass County Weed Control has collected Leafy spurge flea beetles and distributed them to landowners every year since the LS flea beetles were available. The LS flea beetles have been very successful in most areas where introduced and landowners are still interested in acquiring LS flea beetles. Weed Control will continue to collect LS flea beetles and provide to landowners free of charge. Mr. Brennan asked if Mr. Wolf puts the flea beetles right on the plant. Mr. Wolf said that the adults are placed on the plants, the females lay the eggs at the base of the plant, the eggs hatch into larva and enter the roots and overwinter as pupa. The adults emerge the next summer.

Weed Control has purchased Canada thistle stem mining weevils for several years and distributed them in several areas within the county. Weed Control is planning to scout the introduction sites for evidence of establishment. Establishment of CT stem mining weevils has been variable in North Dakota, usually taking several years to determine effectiveness. Weed Control will closely monitor the release sites this summer to determine establishment of CT stem mining weevils.

Spotted hemlock defoliating moths were purchased in 2021 and released in several Spotted hemlock infestations. This summer the release sites will be monitored to determine establishment rates. Mr. Wilcox asked how many acres of Spotted hemlock is there. Mr. Wolf showed a map of the county where Spotted hemlock was growing. Weed Control staff walked approximately 20 miles of drains and road ditches spraying Spotted hemlock plants.

Mr. Wolf said farmers should not cut hay with Spotted hemlock as that is fatal to farm animals the graze on the hay. Livestock producers who cut ditch hay alongside cattails need to be aware of Spotted hemlock, as it is not easy to see with the presence of Spotted hemlock with a casual glance at the cattails. Mr. Wolf’s concern with Spotted hemlock is the possible spread into ditches and drains with the expanding presence of tile drainage dumping water into the ditches and drains. In 2019 two livestock producers had Spotted hemlock in their hay meadows. The Weed Board approved a onetime herbicide application to the infested areas to assist the livestock producers to control the hemlock. Mr. Wolf will monitor the infested areas to determine level of control. People will also get severely ill if they touch the Spotted hemlock with bare skin.

The MSUM student asked what Weed Control can do to control the spread of noxious weeds. Mr. Wolf explained that he is the only person that can go onto property without a warrant to look for noxious weeds. He has a duty to encourage the landowner to control the weed, he can issue a control order, then an enforcement order, The Weed Board can levy a fine if required, this is spelled out in the NDCC 4.1-47, the Noxious Weed Law.

CT stem mining weevils and S hemlock defoliation moths are again available from Integrated Weed Control of Bozeman MT. Weed control staff recommend purchasing 10 collections of CT stem mining weevils and 4 collections of S hemlock defoliating moth to be released within the county.

The proposed costs are:

Quantity per Price per Quantity

Bio-control release release purchase Total

CT stem mining weevils 105 $175.00 10 $1750 S hemlock defoliating moth 150 $150.00 4 $ 600

Total $2350

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Hagen moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded to purchase 10 Canada thistle stem mining weevil releases and 4 Spotted hemlock defoliating moths releases for a total of $2350.00 plus shipping costs. Motion carried.**

1. **Pickup accessories**

The 2022 Ford F-150 pickup was delivered on March 24 in good shape. Additional accessories are requested to outfit the pickup to provide proper and secure storage of field equipment. The requested equipment from Radco is listed below:

Front and rear mud flaps $ 71.92

Under rear seat storage unit $ 180.95

Front floor liner $ 98.96

Tonneau box cover $ 477.95

Install of Tonneau cover $ 50.00

Total $ 879.78

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Hagen moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded to purchase requested accessories for 2022 F-150 pickup as listed for $879.78. Motion carried.**

1. **MONTHLY REPORT**

**Correspondence:** Received an email from a township supervisor asking for clarification regarding Spotted hemlock, was it found in Clifton Township. Replied that none was found in Clifton Township when we scouted but that does not mean it is not present. He thanked us for the communication and information that is sent out every year. Mr. Wolf attended the annual Township Officers meeting on April 7.

**NDWCA Board Meeting:** June is Invasive Species Awareness month. The Association is planning on developing several talking points to be issued to weed officers who will then forward on as press releases to local media. Hopefully, media outlets will then contact the weed officer for an interview.

The NDWCA is planning on holding a Weed Symposium August 23-25, 2022 at the Washburn Campground. The training would include weed identification, control measures, equipment, and communication. The event will be open to weed officers, weed spray staff, and other agency personnel conducting noxious and troublesome weed control efforts.

1. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Township Officers Meeting April 7, Casselton

Dale Carnegie Training May 18, Fargo

Sprayer School May 24, Carrington

NDWCA Board meeting June 28, Bismarck

NDWCA Board meeting September 27, Bismarck

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Shasky, Principal Secretary, Highway Department