**WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING**

**june 13, 2022**

**MEETING TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Cass County Weed Control Board was called to order at 9:03am on Monday, June 13, 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 and Jerry Jenson, Cass County Accountant.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, April 11, 2022. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER, *amended***

***MOTION, passed.***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Grossman seconded to approve the agenda order with the addition of a discussion of a pickup bed step (section 2g).**

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

Mr. Jenson went over the bills and answered any questions that needed to be clarified.

***MOTION, passed.***

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

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **2023 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Wolf went over the proposed budget. Inflation and supply issues are the great unknown for forecasting budget numbers, so there are a few budget numbers that have not been determined.

The 2023 proposed Weed Control Budget is to be submitted to the Finance Office by July 15, 2022. The Finance Office is recommending using an 8% inflation rate for 2023 expenses with a lower rate in subsequent years*.*

Mr. Wolf also went over the projected budget for 2024 through 2028.

*.* ***MOTION, tabled***

**This action is tabled until the July 11, 2022 meeting in order for the board members to review the budget for approval to submit to the Finance Office.**

1. **Pickup sale**

The 2012 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup will no longer be needed for day-to-day operations. The pickup has 88,000 miles and is in good shape. The county sells all surplus equipment and vehicles on the Public Surplus online auction site. The Kelly Blue book price is $18,000.

The discussion was to possibly keep the truck in case there are issues with recalls or parts for the new truck as parts could take many months to obtain. The county would still be paying liability insurance on the old truck if keeping until the end of the spray season. Mr. Brennan mentioned that if there is a recall, the dealership will have the parts available, although some parts may not be immediately available.

Mr. Jenson was going to look to see if there are any issues if Weed Control wanted to lease the vehicle to other county entities.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to keep the truck until the end of the season.**

**Motion carried.**

1. **Palmer Amaranth Mailing**

Palmer Amaranth was identified growing within the city limits of Grandin during the summer and fall of 2022. Numerous Palmer plants were hand pulled and disposed of. Weed Control staff will be scouting the town and nearby area for Palmer Amaranth for the next several years to ensure the infestation is contained and hopefully eliminated. To ensure that all Palmer Amaranth plants are collected and destroyed a mailing is proposed for all residents and business in Grandin. The mailing will include a letter explaining the need to control Palmer amaranth and include an identification handout. The expected cost of the mailing will be approximately $112.36 and be sent out the first part of July.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve mailing a Palmer Amaranth informational letter to the city of Grandin residents.**

**Motion carried.**

1. **Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium**

The North Dakota Weed Control Association will be sponsoring the Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium August 23-25 at the North Dakota 4-H Camp, Washburn, ND. Various topics will be covered concerning noxious and invasive weeds and invasive species, chemical and biological control options, drone sprayers, GPS equipment and operator safety. Registration is $250/person.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Murch moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded Mr. Wolf to pay registration to attend***.*

**Motion carried.**

1. **Continuity of Operations**

All county departments are asked to complete a Continuity of Operations template. The COOP template outlines how a department will respond to various emergency conditions, i.e. temporary disruptions, loss of workspace, and workforce disruptions. Alternate work locations and second level of management will be listed to aid Emergency Services and County Administration to develop appropriate responses. A draft template was shown to the Weed Control commission members. No action is needed.

1. **Spotted Hemlock ID Cards**

Mr. Hagen brought up the idea of providing identification cards for Spotted Hemlock to be given to township and county road maintainer operators. The cards would have a picture of Spotted Hemlock, a short description of where Spotted Hemlock may be found and contact information to report sightings. A prototype was presented at the meeting. There was a discussion was to make the identification cards magnetic and also to send a card to all townships, possibly to the maintainers in each township.

No action is needed at this time.

1. **MONTHLY REPORT**

**Weed Board member:** The Weed Board and County Commission thanked George Grossman for his service to the Weed Board. West Fargo has appointed Chad Zander to represent West Fargo on the Weed Board. Mr. Zander is the City Forester.

The County Commission also thanked Mr. Brennan for his 12 years serving on the Weed Board so far.

**ND DOT Noxious Weed Agreement:** The ND DOT has sent out their annual Noxious Weed Agreement for controlling noxious weeds in the state and federal road right-of-way. The agreement will reimburse up to $55,000 for noxious weed control expenses. Mr. Wolf signed the agreement as has been done in past years.

**Spraying Mishap:** When spraying the Cass County Jail lawn on May 23, the sprayer malfunctioned, and several trees may have had the lower branches and trunks sprayed with herbicide. County maintenance personnel were notified of the incident and to watch for any dieback on the trees.

**Field Aid:** The person who previously worked as the summer field aid will not be working this summer as he has taken a different full-time job. Barry Olsen has been hired. Mr. Olsen attended the Carrington sprayer school on May 24 and has taken the Commercial Applicator License test.

**Venue Herbicide:** A sample of Venue herbicide was received to try in several places for the control of Leafy spurge. Venue can be applied in tree belts, roadsides, wildlife areas, CRP, Set-aside acres, and other non-crop sites.

**TAG Grant:** The North Dakota Department of Agriculture has a Targeted Assistance Grant that weed boards can apply for reimbursement of monies spent for weed control efforts. Reimbursements up to $5000.00 can be applied for. An application was sent in for the purchase of the new Ford F 150 pickup and $5000.00 was received from the NDDA.

**Herbicides:** The last of the herbicides for roadside spraying operations were delivered to Union Storage on April 20. The contractors are in the process of picking up their allotted herbicides.

**Noxious Weed List:** The Commission Office published the North Dakota noxious weed list as required annually.

**Remote Pilot Certificate:** Mr. Wolf has completed the FAA Safety Team Aviation Learning Center Online Course for Part 107 Small UAS Recurrent – Part 61 Pilots certification to fly the scouting drone. Mr. Wolf’s certification is good for two years.

1. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

NDWCA Board meeting June 28, Bismarck

NDWCA Summer Symposium August 23-25, Washburn ND

NDWCA Board meeting September 27, Bismarck

NDWCA Area meeting October 24, TBD

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01am.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Shasky, Principal Secretary, Highway Department