**WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING**

**JULY 11, 2022**

**MEETING TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Cass County Weed Control Board was called to order at 9:05am on Monday, July 11, 2022 in the Weed Control office building.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Larry Wilcox, Clayton Brennan, Ken Hagen, Marty Murch and new Weed Control Board member, Chad Zander.

Also present was Stanley Wolf, Cass County Weed Control Officer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, June 13, 2022. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER**

***MOTION, passed.***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the agenda order. Motion carried.**

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

Mr. Wolf went over the expenditures and revenue and answered any questions that needed to be clarified.

***MOTION, passed.***

**Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the financial statements and bills. Motion carried.**

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

The 2023 proposed Weed Control Budget is to be submitted to the Finance Office by July 15, 2022. Inflation and supply issues are the great unknown for forecasting budget numbers. The Finance Office is recommending using an 8% inflation rate for 2023 expenses with a lower rate in subsequent years. The proposed 2023 budget will be presented at the upcoming meeting as there may still be some additional changes being made prior to the meeting.

If it is required, Mr. Wolf may have to go in front of the Cass County Commission for a budget adjustment for anything over budget.

Director of Tax Equalization reported to the County Commission that the current taxable value of Cass County is up 9.5% overall: however, agricultural land values saw a decrease of 4% from 2021 to 2022.

 ***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Hagen moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the Weed Control budget for 2023, but to leave the mill levy as is for one year. Motion carried.**

1. **2022 Landowner Assistance Payment**

An inquiry was made asking if Method could be added to the 2022 Landowner assistance Payment application as an approved herbicide for reimbursement. Method was on the approved list but was removed in 2021 as it is not labeled for grazing or haying areas. However, it is approved for rights-of-way that transect grazing areas. This means if a utility right-of-way crosses through a pasture it can be used in the right-of-way in the pasture and cattle can graze in the treated area.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Hagen moved, and Mr. Murch seconded to include Method as an approved herbicide for reimbursement in the Landowner Assistance Payment program, but with a note that includes an asterisk indicating that Method must only be used on non-grazing pastures only. Motion carried.**

1. **MONTHLY REPORT**

**Vehicle Insurance:** At the previous board meeting, it was asked if the vehicle insurance would cover leasing/lending the 2012 Dodge Ram pickup to other county departments. The insurance policy does not allow for leasing/lending and have the vehicle remain on our name. It was mentioned to keep the truck until after the spraying season.

**Contractor Spraying:** The contractors started spraying on June 22. J & J Spraying started on I-94 and have completed spraying the outside ditches from Tower City to West Fargo. Plans are to have the I-94 median sprayed also. Construction of the safety fence in the median will limit the spraying coverage.

Walker’s Lawncare has started on Highway 18 from the north county line to Casselton. They will be spraying I-29 ditches and median. Wind, rain, and high temperatures have limited our spraying activity to date.

**Leafy spurge flea beetle collecting:** Leafy spurge flea beetles are emerging and collecting has begun in the Brewer Lake area. To date, Weed Control staff have collected enough flea beetles for 17 releases comprising of 7 landowners. A press release was given to the media and the Extension Ag Alert newsletter has included the notice in their June 30 newsletter.

**Spotted hemlock status:** Spotted hemlock has been found in the bloom stage in northern Cass near Erie. Early scouting in areas where spotted hemlock was sprayed last year with DruaCor has not found spotted hemlock plants. Further scouting will be conducted. Spotted hemlock identification cards have been printed and will be mailed to township chairmen to be given to the road maintainer operators. Hopefully, the maintainer operators will be able to see, and report spotted hemlock infestations to the weed office.

1. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 10:26am.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Shasky, Principal Secretary, Highway Department