

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, October 10, 2022

9:00 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. Sale of Dodge pickup | Information |
| b. Other | |
| 3. Monthly Progress Report | Information |
| 4. Upcoming events | Information |

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

September 30, 2022

Period from Sept 7 to September 30, 2022

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Sale of Dodge pickup: At a previous meeting, the board decided to wait until after spraying and scouting operations were completed before deciding to sell the 2012 Dodge pickup. The unit could be consigned to the Public Surplus online auction website. The Finance Office handles all online sales of excess county equipment.

Proposed motion: Move to sell the 2012 Dodge Pickup via Public Surplus online auction through the Finance Office.

Monthly Report:

Contractor Spraying: The contractors are continuing weed spray operations finishing up county roads and moving onto township roads. Canada thistle is the prominent weed with Leafy spurge a close second. Fall spray operations are proceeding well as field crops are maturing and weeds are growing above the grass in previously mowed ditches. The contractors provide daily spray reports which include acres sprayed and GPS points showing where herbicides were applied.

To date the acres and costs are as follows:

	Acres	Application Cost	Chemical Cost	Total Cost
J&J Spraying	3795	91,042	45,647	136,689
Walker's Lawncare	3617	114,839	44,964	159,804
Total	7412	\$205,811	\$90,611	\$296,493
Budget remaining				\$ 93,506

Weed Control Staff Spraying: Several county owned flood lots were sprayed for Canada thistle. The Horace and West Fargo Diversion channels were sprayed for Leafy spurge and Canada thistle. This completes staff spraying operations for the year. Summer field aid's last day was Monday, September 26.

Canada thistle stem mining weevils: Received 10 containers of Canada thistle stem mining weevils from Integrated Weed Management. The weevils were distributed to six sites on various CRP fields. Previous distributions of the stem mining weevils have shown a decrease Canada thistle population on a couple of locations. Cost of the stem mining weevils was \$1840.00

Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium: Mr. Wolf attended the Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium on August 23-25, 2022. The symposium featured several speakers regarding North Dakota noxious weeds, both chemical and biological control options. A new invasive weed, Phragmites, was presented and described. Invasive Phragmites is an exotic subspecies of native phragmites, a beneficial wetland plant. Identification and control options will be presented at the North Dakota Weed Control Association conference on January 3-5, 2023. A spray drone demonstration was conducted showing the operation and effectiveness of a spray drone. This was very informative, several contractors are considering acquiring spray drones.

Canada thistle hawkmoth: A farmer in the Leonard area called to report an insect is defoliating Leafy spurge in his pasture. Upon inspection it was determined that large numbers of Leafy spurge hawkmoth caterpillar were indeed attacking the Leafy spurge. Up to six hawkmoth caterpillars were on a single Leafy spurge plant. It was estimated that hundreds of caterpillars were in the 20-acre pasture. One could visually see where the hawkmoth caterpillars were working vs unaffected spurge areas. The Hawkmoth was released in the late 1970's as a bio-control agent against Leafy spurge. The hawkmoth never has increased in large numbers to provide effective control. This is the first time I have heard of a large population of hawkmoth doing an effective job of defoliating Leafy spurge. We have usually found a few hawkmoth caterpillars when we are collecting for Leafy spurge flea beetles.

Palmer amaranth: Scouting for Palmer amaranth in Grandin has been undertaken a couple of times since our last meeting. Several Palmer plants were pulled and disposed of each time. CHS staff have been walking the plant grounds every week and removing suspicious plants.

Red River Regional Dispatch: Brian Zastoupil, Radio Systems Coordinator, contacted Weed Control to inquire about providing weed control at the three radio tower sites at Alice, Buffalo, and Gardner. The sites are within the enclosed area around the radio towers and have a gravel base. It is requested that the sites be kept bare ground, free of weeds. The sites do not need special clearance or certification to enter as no high voltage is in the enclosed area. A determination of the herbicide mix would be needed to provide bare ground coverage, costs of herbicide, and application. This information will be presented to Mr. Zastoupil for 2023. Present weeds will be cut and removed by Mr. Zastoupil.

NDWCA Area II meeting: The North Dakota Weed Control Association will hold area meetings during the week of October 24 to 28. The Area 2 meeting will be held on Monday, October 24 at Valley City. County weed officers and weed board members are invited to attend. Updates from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, industry, and county weed boards will be presented. Association business topics will be covered also.

Upcoming Events:

NDWCA Area 2 meeting	October 24, Valley City
NDWCA Annual Conference	January 2-5, 2023 Bismarck