

Cass County Weed Control Board  
Cass County Weed Control Office  
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo  
Monday, November 14, 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. Landowner Assistance         | Information/action |
| b. 2023 Herbicide Order         | Information/action |
| c. NDWCA Conference             | Information/action |
| d. NDWCA Membership             | Information/action |
| e. NDWCA Education Committee    | Information/action |
| f. Certified Crop Advisor       | Information/action |
| g. Employee Evaluation          | Information/action |
| h. 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](mailto:wolfs@casscountynd.gov)

**Weed Control Progress Report**

November 7, 2022

Period from October 10 to November 7, 2022

submitted by Stan Wolf

**New Business:**

**Landowner Assistance:** The Landowner Assistance Program provides a partial reimbursement for noxious weed control on non-crop and non-CRP lands to landowners/operators in Cass County. The reimbursement rate is 80% of approved herbicides plus \$3.50/acre for application. Three county landowners/operators submitted applications for controlling noxious weeds on 142 acres. The total of all reimbursements is \$2,024.15.

*Proposed motion: Move to approve the nine Landowner Assistance Payments for a total amount of \$2024.15.*

**2023 Herbicide Order:** The 2022 spray operations have ceased on October 5, 2022. Virtually all the state, county, and township roads have been scouted and sprayed where needed. The weather this fall contributed to good spray conditions; the contractors were able to cover a lot of ground in a short time. J&J Spraying had two or three trucks spraying the township roads and two off road units spraying the county ditches. Walker’s Lawncare had on truck spraying this fall. Leafy spurge and Canada thistle were the major weeds controlled with some Absinth wormwood in scattered areas. No landowner complaints were received indicating spray drift damage onto sensitive crops. The contractor acres and costs for the season are:

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Application Cost</u>	<u>Herbicide Cost</u>
Walker’s Lawncare	4379	\$139,033.25	\$54626.88
J & J Spraying	<u>5248</u>	<u>\$125,899.52</u>	<u>\$63,069.42</u>
Total	<b>9627</b>	<b>\$264,932.77</b>	<b>\$117,696.30</b>
Total application and herbicides			<b>\$382,629.07</b>

Both contractors have some herbicides remaining which they will store in their heated warehouse. The carryover herbicides in their storage are:

	<u>Gallons</u>		
	Tordon	Freelexx	Liberate
Walker’s Lawncare	155	180	25
J & J Spraying	98	94	68

The following herbicides and quantities will need to be purchased to cover a projected 10,000 acres of road right-of-way.

	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Gal*</u>
Tordon	1470	\$ 79,674	\$54.20
Freelexx	1030	\$ 30,900	\$30.00
Liberate	205	\$ 5,555	\$27.10
	Total	<b>\$116,129*</b>	

\*Based on 11-1-2022 prices

Cass County Weed Control staff spraying operations will need about \$3700.00 of various herbicides to cover weed control needs.

HighNoon is a new herbicide has been labeled for right-of-way application. This is the same formulation as DuraCor and same main active ingredient of Milestone. DuraCor cannot be used in rights-of-way as the supplemental label for rights-of-way has expired. Previous results using Milestone with Tordon have controlled Leafy spurge and Canada thistle for up to three years. Cost of HighNoon is \$92.00/gallon or \$11.25/acre applied at 16 oz/acre. Mixed with Tordon at 16 oz/acre and Liberate at 3.2 oz/acre the cost per acre is \$18.70. Mr. Wolf recommends that a limited amount of HighNoon be purchased and applied in 2023.

*Proposed Motion: Move to purchase the needed amounts of Tordon, Freelexx, and Liberate for contractor application for 2023 spray season.*

*Proposed Motion: Move to purchase the needed herbicide products for Weed Control staff needs.*

*Proposed Motion: Move to purchase 25 gallons of HighNoon to cover 200 acres.*

**NDWCA Conference:** The NDWCA’s annual conference is scheduled to be held on January 2 to 5, 2023 in Bismarck. The Ag Commissioner’s Weed Forum on Tuesday, January 3 will cover noxious weed topics and programs provided by the ND Dept. of Agriculture. The NDWCA conference will include its annual business meeting along with various speakers covering numerous topics related to noxious weed control.

*Proposed motion: Move to approve registration, travel, and motel expenses to attend Ag Commissioners Weed Forum and NDWCA conference for weed officer and board members.*

**NDWCA membership:** Membership in the NDWCA will expire after the annual conference. Membership affords voting rights for NDWCA business, one vote for each member. Also, Mr. Wolf will be the association president and must be a member in good standing to serve his term. Membership renewal cost is unknown, last year it was \$275.00.

*Proposed motion: Move to approve NDWCA membership renewal and assign a person as voting member for association business.*

**NDWCA Education Committee:** The NDWCA Education Committee will hold a benefit auction with proceeds going to education expenses such as the spring sprayer schools for weed officers and sprayer staff. Attendees are asked to contribute items for the auction. The board has approved funds to purchase items for the auction in previous years.

*Proposed motion: Move to approve up to \$75.00 to purchase items for the NDWCA Education Committee auction.*

**Certified Crop Advisor:** Mr. Wolf's American Society of Agronomy's Certified Crop Advisor registration is up for renewal. NDSU Extension provides training sessions and continuing education credit hours, usually at no cost, which are credited toward the CCA. The board has previously paid for the certification renewals and registration expenses for day long workshops. Daylong workshops include the Wide World of Weeds Workshop and the Soil and Soil/Water workshops. Registration costs for these two workshops are unknown but have run about \$100.00 each. The CCA renewal cost is \$110.00.

*Proposed motion: Move to approve \$110.00 to renew Mr. Wolf's Certified Crop Advisor certification and upcoming registration expenses for day long workshops.*

**Employee Evaluation:** Mr. Wolf's annual performance review is due. A copy of this year's review and performance objectives are enclosed for your reference.

*Action: Review and complete employee evaluation.*

**Monthly Report:**

**Dodge pickup sale:** The Dodge pickup will be delivered to the Finance Office for sale after the November 8 election. The unit will be consigned to the Public Surplus online auction website.

**NDDOT reimbursement:** The acres sprayed in state road rights-of-way in 2022 was the highest ever. The outside ditches of I 29 and I 94 were covered along with the median of I 29 north of Fargo. The acres and costs came to:

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Application Cost</u>	<u>Herbicide Cost</u>
Walker's Lawncare	738	\$23,431.50	\$ 8,900.28
J & J Spraying	1874	\$44,957.26	\$22,600.44
Total	<b>9627</b>	<b>\$68,388.76</b>	<b><u>\$31,500.72</u></b>
Total application and herbicides			<b>\$99,889.48</b>
5-year average	1923 acres		\$73,535.42

The NDDOT will reimburse \$55,000 as per the contract signed in the spring.

**Tree Spraying:** The Cass County Highway Department asked if some trees could be sprayed along county highways. The trees are in the right-of-way and can cause snow to drift onto the highways. Mr. Wolf and one highway road staff spend a day applying a basal treatment spraying the tree trunk with an herbicide mix.

**NDWCA Area II meeting:** Mr. Wolf and Mr. Hagen attended the NDWCA Area 2 meeting on Monday, October 24, at Valley City. Every attending county provided a report describing their noxious weed control activities for the season. Palmer amaranth was found in Traill County in a soybean field along with repeat occurrences in Barnes and Cass Counties. New Palmer amaranth infestations were found in Hettinger, Kidder, Stark, and Williams Counties. The upcoming NDWCA conference in January 2-5, 2023 in Bismarck was discussed, listing the speakers, entertainment, and social activities. No resolutions were offered for the annual business meeting.

**Cass County Legislative Meeting:** The Cass County Commission has invited the Cass County legislative members and county department heads to discuss upcoming legislative concerns and pending bills. The department heads will be given time to present their concerns to the legislators prior to the upcoming legislative session. The meeting will be on December 2 at the Cass County Courthouse.

**Upcoming Events:**

Northern Ag Expo  
Cass County Legislative Meeting  
NDWCA Annual Conference

November 29-30, Fargo  
December 2, Fargo  
January 2-5, 2023 Bismarck