

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, April 10, 2023

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. NDDA Technology Grant Information/action
 - b. Spotted Hemlock Spraying Information/action
 - c. Landowner Assistance Application Information/action
 - d. Weed Control Work Order Information/action
 - e. 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

April 3, 2023

Period from to February 13 to April 3, 2023

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

NDDA Technology Grant: The North Dakota Department of Agriculture has offered to county weed boards the 2023 NDDA Mapping Technology Grant for updating GPS/GIS mapping equipment. The equipment is to be used for mapping weed infestations and sprayed areas. Funding will provide a cost share of 75% with the county paying 25%, maximum reimbursement will be \$7,600. Applications are due April 15, 2023, with equipment purchased and installed by June 30, 2023.

Action: Discussion of current equipment and grant.

Spotted hemlock spraying: Spotted hemlock has been found in numerous locations in Cass County within cattail areas located in drains, ditches, streams, and cattail sloughs. Spotted hemlock being a very poisonous plant should be controlled. Approximately 80 acres are invested, 50 acres in various road ditches and cattail sloughs, 30 acres in Water Resource drains. The Water Resource districts will be controlling S. hemlock on their properties via helicopter or ground units. Weed Control has inquired with one spray drone contractor out of Bismarck, ND. His estimate for costs to control the sites in road ditches and cattail sloughs would be \$175 - \$200/acre. He normally charges \$400/hour for specialty work which includes travel time between locations.

Walker's Lawncare acquired a spray drone this winter. Mr. Walker has not returned any cost estimates as of this writing.

Action: *Discussion regarding controlling Spotted hemlock*

Landowner Assistance Application: No changes to the 2023 Landowner Assistance Program are recommended. Venue is a new herbicide for controlling Leafy spurge; however, no long-term control data is available. Therefore, there is no recommendation to add Venue to the approved list.

Action: *Discussion on 2023 Landowner Assistance Program.*

Weed Control Work Order: Cass County Weed Control provides noxious weed control on various public properties and at times with private property owners. A Weed Control Work Order is submitted to Cass County Weed Control by the property owners. The work order defines the work area, control methods used, had pulling, biological, or herbicide application, and defines the costs which will be billed to the owner. The cost rates for 2023 are as follows;

ATV sprayer with labor	\$55.00/hr.
Labor with hand sprayer	\$30.00/hr.
Mileage – truck/trailer	\$ 0.90/mile
Mileage – pickup	\$0.655/mile (current state rate)
Herbicides and additives	at cost
Commercial applicator	at cost

Action: Discussion on Weed Control Work Order

Monthly Report:

Climate-Controlled Herbicide Storage: Inquires into developing a climate-controlled facility within the Weed Control vehicle storage area have been started. Gene Gartner, Cass County Maintenance Supervisor, will contact contractors in April to get cost projections for insulation, heat source, installing insulated overhead doors, etc. Checked with Vector Control on costs of insulating their shop area, spray foam insulation cost \$20,000 plus furnace and insulated overhead doors. Inquired with Union Storage, they will make an exception for Cass County Weed Control to reserve approx. 20 pallets of space, cost approx. \$1500.00 for next year.

Seasonal Field Aid: The Weed Control Seasonal Field Aid position has been posted on Monday, February 6 on the county website, social media sites and at NDSU. A notice was sent to the Wahpeton State College Agricultural Studies for posting. So far, no applications have been received.

Weekly Legislative meeting: Each Friday afternoon during the ND 2023 Legislative session county department heads meet with the County Commission to discuss bills coming up in various Legislative committees.

Bills Weed Control is watching.

SB2009 - NDDA budget, no change in LAP or TAG monies proposed.

Other: Assisted Kyle Assand with private pesticide applicator rectification training on February 16, March 8 and 20.

Consulted with Cass County Water Resource Districts regarding weed control herbicides in drains and controlling Spotted hemlock.

Attended Best of the West training in Moorhead, Corn/Soy Expo, and International Sugarbeet Institute in Fargo.

Participated in the NDSU Job Fair with Cass County Highway Dept.

Manned Educational booth at the North Dakota Winter Show.

Attended Tall Towers Aviation open house, April 4.

Upcoming Events:

NDWCA board meeting, rescheduled
NDWCA Sprayer School

April 27, Bismarck
June 1, Carrington