

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, October 9, 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. Drone Remote ID Information/action
 - b. NDDA Technology Grant Information/action
 - c. 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

August 2, 2023

Period from to September 5 to October 2, 2023

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Drone Remote ID: The FAA has ruled that all UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles) must be capable of broadcasting the location of the drone to others in the area. Remote ID acts like a digital license plate which helps the FAA, law enforcement, and other federal agencies find the control station when a drone appears to be flying in an unsafe manner or where it is not allowed to fly. This rule went into effect on September 16, 2023. Enforcement has been delayed to March 16, 2024. Older drones will need a transmitting unit attached to the drone. Several manufacturers are offering units ranging in price from \$140.00 to \$327.00 with varying effective ranges. Newly manufactured drones are Remote ID compliant. Remote ID units are on backorder due to the large demand.

Proposed Motion: Move to research and purchase an appropriate Remote ID unit for drone.

NDDA Technology Grant: The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is offering a funding grant to assist counties in updating their GPS/GIS mapping equipment. The Department will fund up to 75% with the maximum grant award of \$7,600 for two gps mapping units. Applications are due October 15, priority will be given to applicants who can complete installation by June 30, 2024. I will have current costs at the meeting.

Current gps mapping units are several years old, and it is unknown how much longer they will be supported.

Proposed motion: Move to purchase two gps mapping units.

Monthly Report:

Roadside Spraying: Road rights-of-way spraying has been completed for the year. Walker finished spraying on September 12 using one truck to finish township roads. J & J Spraying started spraying on September 8 utilizing two trucks and two Rangers for the ditch bottoms. The Rangers used Tordon with HighNoon as a test to determine the effectiveness of the Tordon/HighNoon combination. The rangers sprayed 200 acres in the north ditch of Hwy 46 and the rest area west of Casselton on I94 J&J has utilized two trucks spraying county and township roads.

The spraying costs are below.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>\$/ Acre</u>	<u>Application Cost</u>
J&J Spraying	4825	\$23.99	\$115,751.75
Walker	4573	\$31.75	\$145,202.28
Total	9398		\$260,954.03

Weed Control Staff spraying: Weed Control staff have been spraying in the Sheyenne Diversion and the County Park at Brewer Lake.

Chemical Storage: Union Storage and Transfer Co has agreed to provide space for 20 pallets of controlled climate chemical storage for five years. Storage rates will be their normal rate for the number of pallets delivered. This will provide Weed Control with the ability to purchase and have delivered herbicides at any time.

Solar farm in Buffalo area: It was brought to the County Administrator's attention that a solar farm is being proposed in the Buffalo area. The solar farm may include up to 3000 acres. I informed the Administrator that I would like to see the developer's plan for noxious weed control. This is a common practice for gas and petroleum pipeline developers to submit their noxious weed control plan to the Weed Control Office prior to any new pipeline installation.

Biocontrol: We have not received any biocontrol agents from Integrated Weed Management as they were not able to secure and ship biocontrol agents this year.

Landowner Assistance Applications: To date we have received five applications and there has been interest from several others in the program. All applications need to be in by October 31, 2023. The applications will be reviewed by the board at the November 13 meeting.

Equipment:

Honda Sprayer has been serviced and winterized. Everything looked good on unit. Cost \$155.43

The building's entry doors were installed with a digital lock on the main door. Cost \$2500.

Board Member Search: Mr. Wolf has inquired with several agronomy services people for recommendations for the weed board. Several candidates have been recommended. Mr. Wolf has contacted several candidates, some are considering. Will follow up after harvest.

Upcoming Events:

NDWCA Area meeting
NDWCA Conference – 40th Anniversary

October 23, Valley City
January 2-5, Bismarck