

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, November 13, 2023

9:00 AM Meeting called to order
Roll call of the members
Approve minutes of previous meeting
Approve order of agenda

Agenda

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Budget Report | |
| a. Monthly Financial Statements | Information/action |
| b. Approval of bills | Information/action |
| 2. New Business | |
| a. Landowner Assistance Program | Information/action |
| b. Spotted Hemlock | Information/action |
| c. NDWCA Conference | Information/action |
| d. NDWCA Membership | Information/action |
| e. NDWCA Education Committee | Information/action |
| f. NDWCA Sponsorship | Information/action |
| g. NDWCA Area 2 Resolution | Information/action |
| h. NDWCA EPA letter | Information/action |
| i. Certified Crop Advisor Renewal | Information/action |
| j. Employee Evaluation | Information/action |
| k. 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

November 6, 2023

Period from to October 9 to November 6, 2023

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Landowner Assistance Program: The Landowner Assistance Program provides for a cost share reimbursement to landowners for the control of noxious weeds. Ten landowners have sent in applications. A total of 644.5 acres were sprayed. The total cost of reimbursements comes to \$8130.19.

Proposed Motion: Move to approve payments for Landowner Assistance Program payments to the ten applicants in the amount of \$8130.19.

Spotted Hemlock: Spotted hemlock has been identified and growing in Cass County for several years. Spotted hemlock is highly poisonous in all parts of the plant and can kill animals and people. Spotted hemlock grows along the edge of cattails in ditches, drains, and sloughs. Spotted hemlock was identified in a water course behind a rural residential housing development. It has been suggested that Spotted hemlock be placed on the county noxious weed list alongside the state noxious weed list. The qualifications for a weed to be placed on the county weed list are, a) invasive, b) hard to control, c) injurious to land, livestock, crops, public health, other property, d) county extension approval, e) ND Ag Commissioner approval. Presently approximately 80 acres of ditches, drains, and cattail sloughs are infested. There is concern that Spotted hemlock will expand into additional drains and ditches, especially areas that carry the outflow of drain tile.

Proposed Motion: Move to add Spotted hemlock to the Cass County noxious weed list.

NDWCA Conference: The North Dakota Weed Control Conference will hold its annual meeting and conference on January 2-5, 2004, at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center, Bismarck, ND. The NDDA will conduct its annual Commissioner's Weed Forum on January 3 prior to the NDWCA's annual meeting. A representative from every county weed board is required to attend the Commissioner's Weed Forum.

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. The membership renewal cost is \$285.00.

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 benefit auction in previous years.

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

NDWCA Sponsorship: The noon luncheon entertainment for the conference is the Blue Stems from Elgin, a local family bluegrass group. In previous years Cass County Weed Control has provided sponsorship for various speakers. One half sponsorship of the noon entertainment would come to \$200 and would be shared with Grant County Weed Board.

Proposed motion: Move to provide \$200 sponsorship of the noon luncheon entertainment.

NDWCA Area 2 Resolution: A resolution was presented and approved to submit to the NDWCA board for presentation to the annual business meeting in January. The resolution asks the association to propose legislation that would increase the mill levy for weed boards.

Action: Discussion of the resolution for possible vote at annual business meeting of the NDWCA.

NDWCA EPA letter: The NDWCA was informed that the EPA has put on indefinite hold the registration of a newly labeled herbicide with no explanation or timeline of when the registration will be reactivated. This action by the EPA is against legislative law and procedures. The herbicide is TruRange with the active ingredient aminocyclopyrachlor. The active ingredient is in the currently registered herbicide Method which has been used by many weed boards and landowners on labeled sites. The TruRange label would allow the application on permanent grazed rangelands and pastures. The NDWCA has drafted a letter to the EPA stating that the indefinite hold on TruRange is unacceptable, land

managers have successfully used the active ingredient on labeled application sites, and that additional weed control tools are needed as the current slate of herbicides are not providing long term control of Leafy spurge.

Propose discussion regarding the letter and if Cass County Weed Board should sign onto the letter.

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 run about \$100.00 each. The CCA renewal cost is \$120.00.

Proposed motion: Move to approve \$120.00 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:

Roadside Spraying: The contractors supplied their state road reports for acres sprayed on the state and interstate roads. The total acres sprayed, and corresponding costs are down this year compared to years previous. This is since the I94 right-of-way did not have enough weed pressure to warrant spraying. Typically, the I94 right-of-way can include up to 1000 acres sprayed. The following table shows the state road acres, state reimbursement along with total acres sprayed and costs for the contractors.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>State Acres</u>	<u>State Cost</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
J&J Spraying	493	\$19,574	4825	\$ 180,847.75
Walker	394	\$18,057	4573	\$ 209,606.28
Total	887	\$37,631	9398	\$ 390,454.28

The total reimbursement for state roads is \$37,631. The NDDOT reimbursement rate for 2024 will remain at \$55,000.

Burleigh County update: Recently the Burleigh County Weed Board and weed officer resigned. The latest word is the County Commission has appointed the county commissioners as weed board members.

Extension and Weed Board relationship: The NDWCA distributed at the area meetings *Guidelines for Partnerships Between County Extension Offices and County Weed Boards*. To clear up any misunderstanding between offices.

Board Member Search: The search for a board member from the northwest area of Cass County is ongoing. Mr. Wolf will continue to inquire with area business leaders and township supervisors and others for candidates.

Upcoming Events:

MSUM Career Development
NDWCA Conference

November 15, Moorhead
January 2-5, Bismarck