

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 Main Ave W, West Fargo
Monday, February 12, 2024

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. Weed Officer Job Position | Information |
| b. Landowner Assistance | Information/action |
| c. Spray Contract Bid Committee | Information/action |
| d. Annual Weed Board Report | Information |
| e. NDWCA Resolution | Information |
| f. 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

February 5, 2024

Period from to January 8, to February 5, 2024,

submitted by Stan Wolf

New Business:

Weed Officer Position: Mr. Wolf will present a timeline for posting the weed officer position and potential timeline for interviewing, selection, and start date.

Landowner Assistance: The Cass County Weed Board has provided a Landowner Assistance program that reimbursed up to 80% of approved herbicides and a payment of \$3.50/acre for application for the control of noxious weeds, with a maximum reimbursement of \$1500.00 per applicant. Curtail has been on the approved herbicide list; however, it has been discontinued by the manufacturer with supplies virtually exhausted. Local suppliers may have Curtail available. Question for the board, should we include Curtail on the approved herbicide list.

Proposed motion: Move to maintain the 80% herbicide reimbursement and \$3.50/acre application payment with a maximum payment of \$1500.00 per applicant for 2024 and include Curtail on approved herbicide list.

Spray Contract Bid Committee: A request for bids was placed in the Forum for the 2024-2025 Noxious Weed Right-of-Way Spray contracts. The ad will run on February 7 and 14. The bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope by 1 pm, February 28, 2024, to the Weed Control Office, at which time the bid envelopes will be opened and read aloud. The spray bid packet was also emailed to two spray contractors who expressed an interest in bidding for the contracts. A committee needs to be selected to open and review the submitted sealed bids and make award recommendations to the board at the March 11 Weed Board meeting.

Action: Select at least two individuals to be on the bid opening committee.

Annual Weed Board Report: The North Dakota Department of Agriculture requests all county and city weed boards to complete the annual weed board report. The report asks for board members, acres of noxious and invasive weeds controlled, control mechanism, and financial information. The acres listed for noxious weeds are compiled from the spray reports from the contractors and weed control staff, and various weed infestations investigations.

Please review your contact information and correct if necessary.

NDWCA Resolution: At the NDWCA business meeting the Area II Resolution was read to the membership and was amended to increase the weed board mills to a maximum of 8 mills. The membership passed the amended resolution and moved that the Association Board of Directors move forward to establishing a bill for the 69th Legislative Session. A copy of the resolution has been distributed for board member information.

Monthly Report:

A question on sales tax on chemicals was raised at the last meeting: I contacted my supplier his answer is below.

In most cases the applicators will collect the tax if they have a tax permit to do so, if not then we have to charge the tax to the applicator, any government work that they do should be exempt from taxes, any private work they do should be taxed.

All stores that sell any chemical product does charge sales tax at the time of purchase, the only way is if they have a tax-exempt permit from the purchaser and again that would be some government agency that would be tax exempt.

County Commission update: Mr. Wolf updated the County Commission on the Weed Board's inclusion of Spotted hemlock on the noxious weed list at their Commission meeting on January 16. Mr. Wolf noted that the noxious weed list process did not require any action on the Commission's part and landowners with Spotted hemlock on their property can apply for the Landowners Assistance Program for reimbursement in controlling Spotted hemlock.

US Forest Service Grant: The US Forest Service has grant monies available for controlling noxious and invasive weeds on lands containing a small percentage of trees and woody plants. Mr. Wolf, in cooperation with the NDDA staff, is looking into applying for grant monies to aid in the control of Spotted hemlock in the county. The grant could possibly cover costs associated with travel, labor, herbicide, and educational expenses in controlling S hemlock.

Herbicide Resistance Survey: Zack Bateson of The National Agricultural Genotyping Center, Fargo, spoke at the Commissioner Weed Forum Jan 3, 2024. He presented their work on determining herbicide resistance in submitted samples of Waterhemp, Palmer amaranth and Kochia. Discussion included how to collect a plant sample for analysis and sample envelopes were distributed.

Seasonal field aid position posting. Posting of the position is on hold, the final determination of pay is being debated. The Highway Dept, Vector Control, and Weed Control are requesting the pay be posted at 100% of the pay grade for seasonal employees to attract candidates. Currently Cass County has been paying seasonal employees at 92% of pay grade which would be \$16.84/hr. for a starting wage. The full rate would be \$18.30/hr. for a new hire.

Upcoming Events:

Private Pesticide Certification Training	February 1, Fargo
Private Pesticide Certification Training	February 6, Zoom meeting.
USDA Research Partners	February 8, Fargo
Private Pesticide Certification Training	February 13, Argusville
Private Pesticide Certification Training	February 21, Zoom meeting.
Noxious Weed Spray Bid opening	February 28, West Fargo
Private Pesticide Certification Training	March 6, Zoom meeting.
North Dakota Winter Show	March 6-10, Valley City
Weed Board meeting	March 11, West Fargo