

Cass County Weed Control Board
Cass County Weed Control Office
1201 West Main Ave, West Fargo
November 14, 2016

10:00 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 Program Information/action
 - b. NDWCA conference Information/action
 - c. North Dakota Winter Show Information/action
 - d. Certified Crop Consultant Renewal Information/action
 - e. Honda Extended Warranty Information/action
 - f. Maple River Dam Grant Information/action
 - g. Employee Performance 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

Weed Control Progress Report

November 3, 2016

Period from October 3 to Nov 7, 2016

submitted by Stan Wolf

Agenda Items

Landowner Assistance Payments: Sixteen landowners have applied for Landowner Assistance Payments totaling \$8,278.73 covering a total of 487 acres. Two applications need to be addressed by the board. One has applied a non-approved herbicide but the active ingredient is the same as Curtail, an approved herbicide. The other application claims to have applied the herbicide but evidence of control was not apparent.

Proposed motion: Move to approve Widematch herbicide for Landowner Assistance Payments.

Review application for Constellation Development

Proposed motion; Move to approve payment of Landowner Assistance Payments to approved applications.

NDWCA Conference: The North Dakota Weed Control Association will be conducting its annual conference on January 10, 11, and 12, 2017 at the Ramada Inn, Bismarck. On Tuesday, Jan 10 a beer and brat social will be held followed by an auction of donated items. The proceeds of the auction will go to the Education Committee which hosts the sprayer schools, poster contest, etc. In prior years the Cass County weed board has approved \$50.00 for the purchase of items to be donated to the auction. Area 2, which Cass County is a part of, is the host of the conference. Last year the weed board approved \$50.00 for a partial sponsorship of a break.

Proposed motion: Move to approve \$50.00 for the purchase of auction items and \$50.00 for a partial sponsorship conference break.

North Dakota Winter Show: NDWCA Area II counties will be sponsoring a booth at the ND Winter Show in Valley City, March 4-11. Each county will share in the cost of the booth and daily weed id book drawings. Cass County Weed Control will be acting as the host county initially paying for the booth and books. The other nine counties will reimburse Cass County Weed Control for their share of the costs and will also man the booth as per a schedule. The initial cost of the booth and books will come to \$660.75 with each participating county reimbursing Cass County Weed Control \$66.08

Proposed motion: Move to approve \$660.75 for an information booth and books for the North Dakota Winter Show.

Certified Crop Consultant renewal: Mr. Wolf's Certified Crop Consultant registration is up for renewal. The certification is provided by the American Society of Agronomy. Continuing credit hours of training and seminar are needed to maintain the certification.

The training is provided by NDSU Extension and other training sessions. Previously the Weed Board has paid for the certification renewals. The renewal cost is \$95.00.

Proposed motion: Move to approve \$95.00 to renew Mr. Wolf's Certified Crop Consultant certification.

Honda Extended Warranty: Honda is offering a three year extended warranty for \$620.00. The Honda Power Protection warranty extends the full manufacturer's warranty for an additional three years past the original warranty. Considering the terrain the unit travels through and the work the unit is required to do this will provide assurance that repair costs are kept to a minimum.

Proposed motion: Move to approve purchase of Honda Power Protection extended warranty in the amount of \$620.

Maple River Dam grant: In mid-August a helicopter was hired by the Cass County Joint Water Resources District to apply herbicides to their various water control structures. Cass County Weed Control secured a 50% matching grant to off-set the costs of controlling noxious and invasive weeds, up to \$5000.00, in the water retention pool area of the Maple River Dam. The helicopter application costs came to \$10,838.15 plus an additional \$178.31 for controlling Common tansy and Canada thistle conducted by Cass County Weed Control on 6-2-2016. The total costs submitted to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture came to \$11,016.46. The NDDA will provide a reimbursement of \$5000.00 to Cass County Weed Control which will be turned over to Cass County Joint Water Resource District.

Proposed motion: Move to approve payment of \$5000.00 to the Cass County Joint Water Resources District for noxious weed control in the Maple River Dam pool area as a reimbursement from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, grant 16-137.

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

Monthly Report

Road ditch spraying: Road rights-of-way spraying was completed on October 12 as daytime temperatures were in the low 50's and night time temps were getting into the low 30's. J & J Spraying had two Rangers spraying the interstate and county road ditches and covered the township roads with one to two trucks. Their operations started in September and made good progress working alongside maturing soybean fields. Walker's Lawncare had two UTVs and a truck spraying during the summer into the fall.

2016 Acres sprayed and cost:

| Contractor | Acres | Cost |
|------------|-------|---------------|
| J&J | 4230 | \$ 154,227.15 |
| Walker | 4390 | \$ 159,823.30 |
| | 8620 | \$ 314,050.45 |

State Highway Spraying: The contractors have sprayed more acres in the interstate and state highways this year. The final cost was \$29,614.28 above the ND DOT signed reimbursement rate. I have asked for any additional funds to help offset the overage spent.

2016 State Road Rights-of-Way Acres

| Contractor | Acres | Cost |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|
| J&J | 1717 | \$ 63,962.28 |
| Walker | 430 | \$ 15,652.00 |
| | 2147 | \$ 79,614.28 |
| State Reimbursement | | \$ 50,000.00 |
| net | | \$ (29,614.28) |

We received two spray complaints this year. One was received for work done on a no-maintenance township road last year. The applicator sprayed into a seeded field but the area sprayed was within the road right-of-way, thus no reimbursement settlement was needed. The other complaint was from a home owner that complained that we sprayed his native forbs in the road ditch alongside his property. The area did have Canada thistle where the spray was applied. The home owner wanted to bring this to our attention and wished that we be more careful in the future.

Palmer Amaranth: Palmer amaranth has been identified in many new locations in Iowa and southern Minnesota. It is believed that the new infestations are due to P. amaranth seed being in the grass seed mixes for new CRP plantings. It was determined that several North Dakota CRP and NRCS planting may have seed sourced from areas where P. amaranth is growing. One CRP field is located in Richland County belonging to a Kindred landowner. I inspected the CRP field on November 3 and did not find any P. amaranth. The landowner was notified and we will scout the field next year.

NDWCA Area II summary: The NDWCA Area II meeting was held on October 26 at Valley City. A couple of items to note from the meeting:

Herbicide prices will mostly stay the same for 2017 with exception of some Bayer products. Haying and grazing label for Method and Perspective is still on hold. State Dept. of Ag could put in a request for Section 18 or Special Local Needs request to EPA.

Dow products: Forefront will be renamed as Grazon X. Grazon X with 2,4-D will control Leafy spurge in wet areas. Freelexx will be introduced, it is their new Choline acid based 2,4-D.

NDSU is researching pulse sprayer technology on a small UTV sprayer for spray droplet size and efficacy on noxious weed control.

Palmer amaranth has been found in 10-12 counties in Minnesota and numerous additional counties in Iowa. The new infestations are thought to be due to P. amaranth seed being in CPR grass seed. Some people in NDSU Extension Service are talking about requesting that Palmer amaranth be placed on the state noxious weed list.

The ND Dept. of Ag has some grant money available for noxious weed programs and early detection/rapid response programs which would include P. amaranth scouting.

Valley Expansion Project: WBI Energy Transmission, Inc. owns and operates a natural gas transmission pipeline system and associated above ground facilities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. WBI Energy is proposing to construct the Valley Expansion Project which will consist of an electric-driven compressor station near Mapleton. A 16-inch natural gas pipeline will be installed between Mapleton and interconnect with the existing Viking Gas Transmission Company near Felton MN. An open house was held at Harwood on November 2. Staff stated that they work with landowners and weed boards to make sure that no weeds are introduced and the work site is controlled for weeds. They expect the pipeline to be installed in summer of 2018.

Upcoming Events:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| WBI Energy open house | November 2, Harwood |
| Northern Ag Expo | November 29-30, Fargo |
| NDWCA Conference | January 10-12, Bismarck |
| Wild World of Weeds | January 17, Fargo |
| Soil & Water Workshop | January 18, Fargo |
| North Dakota Winter Show | March 4-11, Valley City |