**Johnson County Weed & Pest Control**

**MINUTES**

**March 2, 2023**

**4:00 PM**

Absent Nathan and Tyler

Guest Rod Litzel; Thane by phone;

The meeting was called to order by Scott at 4:09.

Because Rod had to leave early Scott requested that Rod’s business

Will begin with Old Business.

Russian Olive Project/Salt Cedar Project – Allen has been progressing and they are happy with the progress. Dick anticipates This will be a three to four year project and this has been the thickest part. Dick discussed the slag piles and that the ground needs to be frozen or dry for it to be cleaned up. The ditch filled with water temporarily and they hope to move the debris out of the ditch before irrigation season. Kevin is happy as well, for as thick as everything was it has cleaned well. It will be sprayed by the Ditch Rider to maintain it.

SAC Grant – Rod discussed the process with the SAC Grant with Thane’s input. Legislature passed legislation last session to take funding from OSLI and have the Department of Ag administer funding for State Lands weed control. However funding for it was cut in half and now requires a 1:1 match. As of right now WDA has turned the process over to SAC to determine allocations to Districts and match requirements. The special management programs had been receiving priority under the State but that could change. Funding needs for the County were discussed based on previous history and the board needs to decide if they will provide the 1:1 match if SAC does not. Thane’s current SAC grant request is for $95K which includes a cushion for state lands. Rod believes it will require roughly $60K to cover the areas needed, therefore JCWP should be prepared to match $30k from the budget. If SAC provides the match, The law does allow cost sharing on state lands and BLM, so it is possible to expand the program to augment BLM and State Lands work if the District also receives full award of the $95k requested in the Grant.

SAC is going on when THANE will be in Buffalo, and Rod ask the Board if they would like him to help Thane represent this area with our Special Management Programs. He would like to visit with Larry to ask that he fights for the SMP. They will listen to State Lands meeting. Rod feels there needs to be a voice of experience to help protect the interests of the District and what been done over the years. Randy moved to commit to matching the $30k if SAC does not and allow Rod to represent the District at the SAC meeting, along with Thane, will not charge travel expenses. Dick Second.

Janelle Gonzales, - provided an overview of a proposed project for the Stock driveways West of Kaycee. She has been the weed lead for the BLM. Their initial bid in the private sector came in way over budget and in the process of working with the District to narrow the scope of the project to hopefully fit within their budget, the possibility of the District doing the work was proposed. The district has been and will be covering that road within the ROW program and it wouldn’t take too much in additional resources because it is contiguous to the area and there would be some cost savings to both entities. The District is being asked to coordinate the contractors, manage the work flow and administer the additional funding through the current weed agreement. This should alleviate problems that the BLM has in getting coverage for this area. Parts of it require backpack crews because of topography. The weeds list will be coordinated and there will need to be a treatment/inventory reporting. It will add an estimated additional week of time to the ROW treatment. There was a discussion of the timing to ensure that the timing is good for diffuse knapweed’s lifecycle. It is anticipated to cover it over 4 years, with some flexibility for continuing the good work. She would like an estimated cost amount for the project.

Dick moved to enter into an agreement to cover the Kaycee Stock Drive Way, in addition to our current weed agreement with the BLM, which will include inventory work for the additional agreement. Randy seconded and motion carried. Janelle also notified that there will be some logging going on just past Pass Creek, a thinning project which may affect future weed stands.

CPA Discussion – Scott asked if it is necessary to bring on a CPA. Possibly to bring in a CPA to review occasionally. Swett Equity offered to overview the books occasionally, rather than have them do payroll etc. He would prefer that Rod not be called on to correct the financials. However, Rod indicated that he needed to be helpful in making sure that the expenses and incomes need to be coded to the correct account category. Thane agreed that it needed a 3rd party to overview the books. They could provide, at an hourly rate, help with QB questions and occasional cursory audits. Scott will pursue with the local CPAs, hopefully an hour per month. Randy moved to send out a letter to local CPAs to look over the QBs monthly and provide occasional assistance on an hourly basis as well as have Val fill in the gaps with payroll, reporting, etc., Dick seconded the passing motion.

Rod left the meeting.

Minutes: Correct KOCH for Talbot Coe’s name, Randy moved to approve the minutes with a second by Dick.

Financial Reports- Dick moved to approve the financial statements as presented, with a second by Randy. The board reviewed the Farm Bureau Insurance declarations page.

Vouchers – Randy moved to approve the vouchers, with a second by Dick. Motion carried.

Talbot Coch- He helped the District by providing the equipment to help remove the skid steer that fell into Powder River. Dick moved to give Talbot Koch a credit of up to one’s days spraying. Randy seconded motion carried.

Thane’s compensation for extra trips. Is any of Thane’s time, above and beyond the agreed upon amount of the $1000 for the Spring Break. Reimburse mileage at the Federal Allowance and an hourly rate for the day spent in the office in February.

Allen’s progress: Salt Cedar has been successful, as has the project of Russian Olives near the High School. The DOT is required to pick up the trees, but people are cutting it up and taking it away.

Summer personnel – one crew member will return and has lost two of last year’s crew. He is looking forward to a busy season. Allen will give a talk at the High School to attempt to attract student applicants.

Next meeting is April 6th to 4pm. Adjourned at 5:47.