**Johnson County Weed & Pest Control**

**Minutes**

**06/30/2023**

Start time; \_\_6:00\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stop time; \_\_\_7:31pm\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Next meeting; \_7/13/23 5pm

Attendees: Scott Rogers, Board Chairman Dick Gould

Tyler Benton, Vice Chairman Randy Hepp

Nathan Williams (ABSENT)

Thane Zickefoose, District Supervisor

Allen Buff, Assistant Supervisor

Valerie Spanos

**Agenda**

* Minutes of the last meeting: Randy moved to approve the minutes for the last meeting with a second by Tyler. Motion carried.
* Approve financial statements- Thane and Valerie discussed the financial statements. A discussion was held, and the board would like to have Rod check over the YTD budget. Dick moved to approve the financial statements with a second by Randy. Motion carried.
* Payment vouchers – Tyler moved to pay the presented vouchers with a second by Randy. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

* Accts receivable – The list of outstanding invoices was presented and discussed.
* Activity Report – Thane discussed challenges with the pilot shortage. Inclement weather has also been a challenge. There were some missed days due to the helicopter pilots being stuck. Thane was able to help. Larkspur has been a challenge, due to snow in the higher elevations which delayed spraying. 307 Aviation is just getting started.

Allen reported also that the weather has been challenging. The rivers have been too high to cross safely. He reports that this season’s backpack crew is phenomenal. The crew lead has taken on some additional responsibilities and has shown excellent leadership skills.

* Boom Sprayer- JCWP has a small 100 gallon pull behind sprayer unit with a Honda pump and a 30’ boom. A sub-contractor would like to purchase this unit. It has not been used in a year. The board was interested but wanted more information on the costs of replacing it. They also wanted to know if he would consider leasing it. Tabled.
* Hoppers – Grasshoppers have been more of an issue than anticipated. The Barnum area has been treated. 6000 – 7000 acres being sprayed by Big Horn Airways. Thane has been down to conduct a count. Bruce Shambow with USDA has been helpful. The current cool weather has slowed their growth a bit. There have not been many reports of Mormon Crickets.
* Totes – Allen gave an update on the generic chemical used in the totes this year. The chemical in the totes is used by the backpack crew. It has been a success so far with less sludge remaining in the totes. He reports that the crew is on schedule to use about the same amount of chemical as last year. He is happy with the results.
* Weed Bounty – There was a good turnout for the Weed Bounty Kick-off. A vendor provided T-shirts to participants which were a big success. Allen estimated over 1000 lbs collected so far.

**New Business:**

* Reno Air Service – Thane reports that because of some pilot issues, Frontier, which usually sprays spurge and thistle had to finish two weeks earlier than anticipated. Thane has talked to Reno Air Service and they are willing to increase the number of hours, and has been very accommodating. Thane would like to increase the compensation for Reno Air Service from $1200 to $1300 per hour at least for July. The board discussed and asked questions regarding Reno Air’s equipment size and also discussed a priority list for spraying spurge in the Fall. Dick moved to increase the compensation to $1250/hour with a second by Randy. Motion carried.
* Field Margin – Thane introduced a software program which he hopes would assist with the various stand-alone software programs that are used in the office currently. He would like a program with an app which would allow the applicators to input their items in the field. He believes there may be a way to customize a program for JCWP. Scott discussed the history with AgTerra, and there was some discussion on costs. He suggested Thane talk to the county’s tech person.

**Next Meeting.:**

The next meeting will be the Budget Hearing to be held on 7/13/23 at 5pm