

MINUTES
April 5, 2018

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman
Larry Smith
Scott Rogers
Dick Gould
Tyler Benton

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the March 1st meeting were approved with a motion by Scott R. and a second by Dick. Financial Statements for March were reviewed. Tyler moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Larry seconded the passing motion. Payment vouchers for April were reviewed. Larry moved to pay the vouchers and to allow the clerk to write utility, salary, salary related assessments and staff benefit checks as needed. Motion passed after a second from Scott R.

Old Business:

Rod gave a report on his hours for March. Rod reported that they had quit cutting Salt Cedar & Russian Olive on March 23rd even though it was not as far as they would like to have gotten. Last year the cost was just under \$700 per acre cleared and this year was just under \$780 per acre cleared. Treatment costs were more than cutting cost. There is \$29,000 budgeted for SC/RO projects and for three months of work costs were \$26,000. Rod reported that Kelvin is helping him in the shop for a couple of weeks to get things caught up. Rod reported that there were 76 SMP letters and agreements mailed out and there have been 31 returned. He has not had any negative comments or complaints so far. Rod reported that there has been no real interest in the vehicles that are for sale. He has then parked out with signs to generate interest. Board agreed by general consensus to leave the prices the same. Rod told the Board that he had Kelvin do some repairs to the 2005 PJ trailer and lead discussion on fixing verses selling. The Board agreed by general consensus to sell the trailer for \$1,000 "as is". Rod asked the Board to review the website for needed changes and to take a look at the "story books" that the council has put together from various Districts. Rod announced that he had received a second request from American Transparency; they want employee information in electronic format. He has replied in the same manner as the Board's response to the first request; unfortunately, he has heard they are reporting this to the Legislature as a "non-response". He has contacted the County Attorney regarding the matter and has not heard back if we are responding appropriately.

New Business:

Rod reported that he has not completed the prairie dog surveys for the ZP rebate program; there are 4600 acres enrolled and he plans to do surveys next week. He lead discussion on how to complete the surveys timely since there are a high number of acres to be surveyed and the weather conditions causing such a delay in the surveys. Rod also reported that historically he had no issues with either of the applicators that had completed the work confirming their billed acres. Dick moved to survey the towns for control and if they pass, then okay the acreage on billed acres and pay the rebates more timely. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Tyler. Rod reported on the new packaging requirements for Fumitoxin. In order to sell individual canisters they must be boxed separately which raises the price greatly. It was agreed by general consensus to cost share the canisters and charge the full amount for packaging. Rod lead discussion on the skid steer and how it was used for the SC/RO project. While the tires that were on it were older, new front tires had to be purchased but for the future a skid steer with tracks may be more appropriate. This machine is also only rated for 1700 lbs which may lead to safety issues when unloading shipments like prairie dog bait. The Board decided to budget for a skid steer that is the right machine for the jobs and will look into replacing it in the fall. Rod reported that he had attended a meeting on the possible formation of a Wyoming Special Districts Association. The goal is to educate boards, distribute other information for the common interests of all Special Districts in the State. There are 28 special district classes. The next meeting will be April 17th. Rod reported on the workshops that he attended in April. He lead discussion on a safety program that he attended, workers comp safety inspections and WPS, for example a grower is required to notify 30 days after application for reentry, will have an impact for him with hay certifications. Rod presented a request he received from the education committee asking for donations. Scott R. moved to donate \$500 and motion passed after a second from Larry. Board tabled the discussion on Bio Control. Rod presented the Board with the list of returning crew members and their previous pay rates. Scott R. moved to pay the following rates: Sam 4th year \$16.50, Tanner 4th year \$13.50, Pake 3rd year \$16.00, Mason 2nd year \$12.50, Gerry and Seth 2nd year \$12.00, road crew wage will be set when Rod hires. Passing motion was seconded by Larry. Katie reported that there would be a large increase in the health insurance this year and that the District no longer qualifies for the "grandfather" status under a group policy. She reported that she had looked into individual coverage and qualifies for a lesser premium with same coverages. Scott R. moved to not renew the group policy and reimburse Katie for her individual policy. Motion was seconded by Larry and passed unanimously. It was agreed by the Board to postpone the Virtual Tour until the next meeting on May 3rd. Larry Smith tendered his resignation from the Board effective this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:45 pm. The next regular business meeting will be May 3rd at 5pm.

