

MINUTES

December 1, 2016

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman
Larry Smith
Dick Gould
Tyler Benton

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the November 3rd meeting were approved with a motion by Larry and a second by Dick. Financial Statements for November were reviewed. Tyler moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Larry seconded the passing motion. Payment vouchers for November were reviewed. Dick 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 Tyler.

Old Business:

Rod lead a discussion on the Special District Board Member Training that 4 Board members attended online in November. The consensus was that there are very few things that the Board is not already doing but was still informative. Rod reported that there was \$25,000 in the budget for mulching Salt Cedar this winter. Most of the mulching will be on the east side Powder River from Brubaker's bridge to tie in where they quit last winter and there is one or two other small locations. Rod presented the figures for the Russian Olive pilot project to tie in with the Salt cedar project above the Brubaker Bridge. Titon Machinery out of Gillette has a mini excavator with a shearer attachment which they will rent for \$ 2,800 per month that will cut 10-12 inch trees; Rocky Mountain Equipment would have to purchase a head to go on a skid steer and rent it to the District for \$ 4,000 per month. Tyler moved to rent the mini excavator with a shearer attachment from Titon Machinery for the monthly rate of \$ 2,800 for the pilot project and the District will do the cut stump treatment and the landowner be responsible for the slash piling the cut trees. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Dick.

At 4:20 Chairman Lutterman adjourned the business meeting to Executive Session. At 4:30 pm Chairman Lutterman reconvened the regular business meeting. Tyler moved to accept the resignation of Jeff Corbett as Job Foreman. Motion passed after a second from Larry.

New Business:

Rod lead discussion on employee needs for next year. The issue will be that the EPA standards will not allow the hiring of anyone under the age of 18. Rod presented the idea of having Sam Reinke as the Crew Boss for the Kaycee crew; he worked under Jeff in Kaycee the past two seasons, can read maps, is a hard worker, understands the need for safety and has mechanical skills. It was agreed by general consensus to offer Sam Reinke the Crew Boss position for Kaycee crew with a starting wage of \$14.00 and a raise to \$15.00 after he gets his licenses and that he get \$.25 per hour as a per year credit. Rod announced that he will be doing employee performance reviews for the fulltime employees. Rod reported on grasshopper predictions for 2017 by showing maps from APHIS. It looks as if there will not be a wide spread problem; but, maybe a few "hot spots". Rod announced that it was time to renew the highway contract and that Field Services had done a good job spraying. Dick moved to renew the contract for highway spraying with Field Services. Larry seconded the passing motion. Rod reported that Weston Weed Control would like to renew their contract with the District and use a 3 person crew for the upcoming season. It was agreed by general consensus to renew Weston Weed Control's contract. Rod presented the Board members with a packet of documents intended to use to comply with the new SMP rules & regulations for their review including The SMP Resolution, District SMP Rules and the Landowner Agreement. Rod lead a discussion on trading in the GMC dually. It was agreed that Rod would research the needs, costs and potential trades. Rod reported on the potential use of "Pursuit" on Canada Thistle in alfalfa and asked if the District should offer it to landowners under cost share. After discussion, it was agreed by general consensus to not cost share the use of Pursuit in alfalfa.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 5:40 pm. The next regular business meeting will be January 5th at 4pm.

