

MINUTES

December 3, 2015

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
Kasey Ranh, Buffalo Bulletin

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

Old Business:

Rod reported on the hours worked and the approximate overtime pay that Jeff had as Job Foreman this year. He lead discussion on the benefits of having this position and the excellent job that Jeff has done. Dick moved to give Jeff a 50 cents an hour raise starting in January. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Tyler. Rod announced that there is proposed legislation regarding taxing health insurance. Rod lead discussion on the crew needs for next year. He has left a message with Wayne Landrey regarding working next year; would like to have two ATV crews in Kaycee and he has visited with Jarred regarding Washakie County Weed & Pest taking over the Larkspur program. Rod lead discussion on hiring another Job Foreman that would be a Mosquito Tech for the season and do Salt Cedar in the winter. It was agreed, by general consensus, to talk to the commissioners first regarding the hiring freeze and then to advertise the position. Tyler moved to have a starting range of \$ 15.00 to \$ 18 per hour depending on experience plus benefits. Larry seconded the passing motion. Rod reported that he had attended the meeting in Boise and it was interesting. The focus is to try to develop an action plan for resource improvement for Sage Grouse. Rod reviewed the need for ATV safety protocol. Ideas include not exceeding gross vehicle weight rating, calibrated rate @ 4 mph instead of 5, changing direct flow to electric switches on handle bars, ATV safety training course, and providing personal locator beepers. The Board asked Rod to have a written plan to review at the next meeting.

New Business:

Rod presented information that he received regarding drone mapping. Rod reported that the highway contract would have to be put up for bid because Back Country cannot do it for the same rate. Rod presented a letter that had been received from the County Commissioners regarding increasing transparency within county entities. They are requiring that all special districts provide financial statements and minutes be posted on the county website. They have agreed that they can just provide a link to the District website which will post current financial statements and minutes. Rod announced that his vehicle lease was up for renewal. He told the Board that he could go down to \$650 per month and the Board asked him to provide figures for the next meeting. Rod reported that he had visited with Reculosa Ranch and Brubaker Ranch regarding mulching and treating Salt Cedar. He has estimated the cost of mulching at \$30,000 and to start in January. He is meeting with them in the next couple weeks. Rod announced that there are lots of acres signed up for the ZP Oats Rebate Program. He lead discussion on the retreatments and application on State lands. Dick moved that the rebate would only apply every 3 years, so that they are not getting a rebate on lands being retreated and to have a firm plan for rebates on State lands for next year. Motion passed after a second from Tyler.

Other:

Rod lead discussion on a letter from LGLP suggesting that Districts have a signed disclosure, no action was taken as the Board felt it would not be in the District's best interest. Rod presented an advertisement he had gotten from Warne Chemical regarding selling a 2009 Dodge ¾ ton pickup for \$ 18,900. After discussion, Tyler moved to give conditional approval for Rod to purchase the vehicle pending the outcome of a vehicle inspection by a certified mechanic. Dick seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 4:35 pm. The next regular business meeting will be January 7th at 3 pm.

