

MINUTES
Sept 1, 2016

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman
Scott Rogers
Larry Smith
Dick Gould
Tyler Benton

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk
Jim Hicks, JC Commissioner

Chairman Lutterman opened the Public Hearing for the Declared Species list. Rod lead discussion on Moth Mullein, Rocky Mountain Bee Plant and Orange hawkweed. Rocky Mountain Bee Plant is bad on some years and not on others, it is mainly a problem in right of ways and is an annual weed. Moth Mullein blooms from June thru September with yellow flowers, is very invasive, it can have thousands of seed capsules that have 90 year seed viability, bi-annual, only known in one spot in Johnson County in a right of way. Orange Hawkweed is invasive, rapid spreading, will kill other plants and has been identified on Sourdough Creek off Highway 16 West. Chairman Lutterman closed the public hearing at 5:25.

Meeting was called to order at 5:25 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the August 4th meeting were approved with a motion by Scott R. and a second by Larry. Financial Statements for August were reviewed. Tyler moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Commissioner Jim Hicks gave an update on the outlook to the financial state of the County. He reported that the correct mil levy for the county is \$ 509,000,000 and that there are two large protest at the moment. Dick seconded the passing motion. Payment vouchers for August were reviewed. Scott R. 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 gave activity updates. The cleanup by the highway crew has been completed, they did a good job on the spraying; however, their paperwork is a mess and they are working to straighten it out. The four person crew is working on Salt Cedar which looks good in most places and they are ahead of schedule. It appears that they have a couple more weeks left. The helicopter will do some cheatgrass work for BLM and some fall Leafy Spurge spraying. Rod reported that at a meeting in Douglas the Board of Ag had voted to approve the draft SMP Rules & Regulations. It will now go to the Governor.

New Business:

Chairman Lutterman asked Board to make a decision on Declared Species. Larry moved and Scott R. seconded a passing motion to add Moth Mullein; Scott R. moved to add Orange Hawkweed to the Declared Species list and the motion passed unanimously after a second from Larry; a motion to add Rocky Mountain Bee Plant was made by Larry, seconded by Dick and passed. Rod presented brochures from ANB Bank showing the benefits of the District becoming "Preferred Partners". Rod lead discussion on ANB Bank's direct deposit payroll & bill pay programs. The Board decided by general consensus to let Rod and Katie make a decision regarding using these programs. Rod reported that the Area 2 meeting was held here and that two Board members had attended. Tyler stated that it was interesting hearing what other Districts are doing. Rod reviewed a resolution that would be drafted and submitted by Area 2 regarding DOT weeds. Rod reported that he will be attending a meeting on Sept 9th in Casper regarding the Special District Task Force. The purpose of this task force is to make recommendations to legislators, correct Board functioning, set emergency reserve accountability and set regulations for commissioners to dissolve Districts. There is concern by Districts that this gives more power to Commissioners. Rod lead discussion on the need for a small acreage program and it was decided to table this for now. Rod reported that he had received the audit report from the IRS. There was an issue in the way that the "cell phone bonus" was paid to employees, IRS states it should be paid as a "fringe benefit" and is taxable. Also, in question is the reporting of Deferred Comp. Scott R. moved that the District cannot pay a bill that it does not understand and that the County Attorney should be consulted. Motion passed after a second from Tyler.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:40 pm. The next regular business meeting will be September 29th at 5pm.

