

MINUTES

September 6, 2018

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Rogers
Dick Gould
Tyler Benton
Nathan Williams

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm by Vice Chairman Rogers. Minutes for the Aug 2nd meeting were approved with a motion by Tyler and a second by Nathan. Financial Statements for July and August were reviewed. Dick moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Tyler seconded the passing motion. Tyler 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 Nathan.

Old Business:

Rod gave an activity update: Aerial spraying for Long Draw and Redman Draw Leafy Spurge and Cheatgrass projects has been completed by Frontier helicopters, as well as, a small cheatgrass project for Camp Comfort. Salt Cedar spraying was started in the middle of August; it looks really good this year. Rod may do some on TTT and Michelena's this fall. The last of the crews finished on the 21st of August. The crews accomplished a lot this season and they were willing to work hard and put in extra hours to complete jobs. Rod has been receiving lots of concern about the Grasshopper populations across the county. APHIS has done some survey work; but, there is some concern with the results and there is no data back from them yet. From landowner reports and what Rod has seen it looks like there will be a need to have a winter meeting and a plan of attack for the spring. Big Horn Airways sprayed the Ventenata on the mountain with plane and the area on the northern end of the county with a helicopter. Rod has secured some help with the payment of this project from NEWIGWIG.

Vice Chairman Rogers put the business meeting on hold at 5:30 and began the public hearing regarding adding Hoary Alyssum to the Johnson County Declared list. There were two Johnson County residents in attendance. Rod lead discussion on the guidelines required to declare a species. Rod had completed the required risk assessment and Hoary Alyssum scored a 23 out of 65. Rod reported where he had found the invasive weed and its negative impacts. After discussion, the hearing was closed and the regular meeting resumed at 6:00. Tyler moved to submit the proper documentation and proceed with adding Hoary Alyssum to the Johnson County Declared List. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Dick. Rod announced that he had a request from Back Country Spraying asking the Board to consider awarding the performance completion bonus as detailed in the highway contract since he was only a "few days late" on completing the spraying. The contract date for the bonus is July 18th and BCS finished on July 24th. It was agreed by general consensus that the Board must stick with the contract date. Rod reported that he had given the appraisal to Victor Goni on the property next door. Victor Goni said that he needed to think about it but wasn't sure he could go that low on his price. The Board asked Rod to approach him about splitting the property and leasing or selling just the lot on the east. Rod attended the Area 2 meeting in Sundance and it was very good. Crook County submitted their County Attorney as the Area 2 nomination for the Harold Alley Award. Rod lead discussion on the progress of the Special District Association and the meeting he had attended online with Campbell County Supervisor. The association is made up of 28 member classes and each class has one representative on the Board with 20 pages of Bylaws. They are in the process of a membership drive; establishing dues and would like to hire an Executive Secretary. There was a lot of discussion on the Association by the Board but generally felt it would be prudent to hold off becoming a member at this time.

New Business:

Rod reported that he would like to nominate Sam Reinke as the Outstanding Seasonal Employee this year and read the letter he had written. It was agreed by general consensus to nominate Sam. Rod reported his hours to the Board for the month of August.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 7:00 pm. The next regular business meeting will be September 27th at 5:00 pm.

