

# Johnson County Weed & Pest Control

## MINUTES

### Feb 8, 2024

Start time 4:00 pm Stop time 6:09 pm

Next meeting March 7, 2024

Attendees: Scott Rogers, Board Chairman Tyler Benton, Vice Chairman  
Randy Hepp Thane Zickefoose, District Supervisor  
Allen Buff, Assistant Supervisor Crystal Cundall, District Clerk

Absent board members: Nathan Williams  
Dick Gould

### Agenda

- Minutes of the last meeting – Randy moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting after the year was corrected to 2024, with a second by Tyler. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of financial statements – Crystal and Thane gave an overview of the financial statements for the month for each company, as well as the budget to actual statement. Tyler moved to approve the statements with a second by Randy. Motion carried.
- Payment vouchers – No concerns were expressed regarding the payment vouchers. Randy moved to approve the vouchers as presented with a second by Tyler. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

- Activity Report – Thane reported January 9<sup>th</sup> was Crystal's first day and has been here a month. Thane and Allen went to Sheridan County's Weed and Pest board meeting January 11<sup>th</sup> and stated it was quite different than JCWP board meetings. Sheridan's mil levy has increased dramatically the last couple years and they have spent a significant amount on spurge beetles. Sheridan County was interested in JCWP's use of contractors. Thane and Allen would like to attend Campbell County's Weed and Pest board meeting next. January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the state auditor assigned to Johnson County was at JCWP. There were zero findings but she had management comments. She said JCWP was doing well even considering the change in leadership. The auditor suggested a change in tracking revenue and expenses related to Federal funds and said this was a county wide issue and not just JCWP. Thane contacted neighboring counties that also get BLM funds but they had little insight into their tracking. It was discussed possibly setting up a separate checking account or simply creating budget line items. Thane and Crystal will begin working on mitigating the auditor's suggestions Monday. January 19<sup>th</sup>, Thane and Allen met with Ryan Mader at the Buffalo High School to set up a location for the ATV safety training by their transportation area for the Spring Workshop. January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Buffalo Computers came and installed the new main computer which tremendously

increased the efficiency of all the computers. The greatest issues have been losing files and not having the ability to open map files. Some files were lost in the transfer but overall, the efficiency of the system has been greatly improved. Allen reported he and Thane met with State Lands January 31<sup>st</sup> because there was a concerned citizen reporting Cottonwoods being cut down on State lands. Upon further inspection, the trees cut down were Russian olives in the housing development. Once Dave Archer from State Lands reassured the concerned citizen, this interaction opened up renewed joint interest to cut down all of the Russian Olives on the state lands in that area. February 2<sup>nd</sup> was the private applicators' renewal in Kaycee in which Thane and Allen attended. They also met with NRCS people to have JCWP recommend and orchestrate aerial spraying of Ventenata on 3698 acres in September on Dan Ballock. February 7<sup>th</sup>, Thane and Allen went to HF Bar ranch to get the backpack sprayers that were repeatedly promised to be returned and hadn't been, yet. February 8<sup>th</sup>, Thane and Allen met with the Buffalo City Road, Bridge, and Trails to get their wish list for spraying this year. Thane also reported Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> was the Buffalo renewal class for Private Applicators at the Fairgrounds from noon to 4pm. Thane then reported on the letter Governor Gordon wrote regarding invasive annual grasses on private and state lands requesting funds. Other Wyoming Weed and Pest entities have made recommendations who they feel should be disbursing the funds and what the focus should be on. The JCWP Board chose not to have any letters of recommendation on the matter.

- F-450 Value/Flatbed – Mark Iberlin approached JCWP about interest in purchasing the flatbed for \$1200. Thane told him he'd present it to the board. Allen reported the F-450 was still having issues and it was a good idea to move forward on selling it as well. The board agreed to sell the flatbed and the F-450. The flatbed would be sold for no less than \$1200 and the F-450 would be sold for no less than \$20,000. Both would need to be advertised publicly for at least two weeks in at least three public locations and go to the highest bidder.
- Garage Door Replacement project – Allen provided the second estimate as requested. The Overhead Door company of Casper came in cheaper, but Allen was required to provide all of the measurements to them just to get the estimate. The Board agreed the Vertical Door Solution of Sheridan would be easier to work with in the long run and in the case of any repairs. Tyler moved to approve using the Sheridan Company for the garage doors with a second by Randy, motion carried. Allen said he'd contact the door company on Friday, February 9, 2024.
- Closing Chase card/Opening Chase card – Resolution tabled until February due to Audit and Salt Cedar completion.
- Clerk Position Candidate – Thane reported position successfully filled.
- Discussion of fuel cards – Per the last board meeting, the fuel cards were cancelled by Val.

### **New Business:**

- Victor Goni –Thane and Allen were approached by Victor about possibly leasing or selling the property next door. He will be moving his fencing business south to Kaycee now that his dad has passed away. No numbers were provided by Victor but he knew

previous District Supervisor, Rod Litzel, had expressed frequent interest in the property. The board members in attendance encouraged updates when more information was available.

- Supervisor use of district vehicle – Thane requested to use the Silver JCWP Dodge instead of the board paying him \$700 for a lease of his vehicle. The board members agreed to Thane using it to and from work and in a professional manner.
- Education Committee Article – Thane reported the Salt Cedar Article in the Sheridan Press was interesting as it included Johnson County in a very short blurb. The article was recognized as very underreported for the extent of the work Johnson County has done. This subject was for informational purposes only.
- Russian Olive partnership – Thane reported there are four entities that have started talks about partnering in an effort to obtain more grants for Russian Olive removal in Johnson County. Zach with CCCD, Anita with PRCD, JCC, and JCWP could partner together to request \$1 for \$1 matching from WWNRT (Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust) and potentially have an additional \$210,000 for the FY 2024/2025. Thane proposed JCWP pledge \$30,000 plus \$30,000 from SAC monies. CCCD would pledge \$30,000, PRCD possibly \$5000, and JCC possibly \$10,000. PRCD would most likely request the funds and the chemical would be handled by JCWP, the equipment by CCCD and JCC. The board members in attendance were interested in participating in this partnership and more information will be forthcoming as it develops.
- Rocky Mountain Cutting Head – Allen reported the Cutting head used this season in the Salt Cedar/Russian olive project may be for sale as Rocky Mountain has purchased a new one. The possible price is unknown, and a new one would be \$44,000. This subject is for informational purposes only and tabled until further information arises regarding the Russian Olive partnership and if the cutting head will be needed.
- Definition of a Contractor – Thane asked if the board was still willing to meet with the contractors. The special meeting with the contractors is to be tentatively scheduled for the first week in March prior to the next board meeting. The contractors are to meet with the board and have an opportunity to “air their grievances” to the board, collectively. The date is TBD. All board members present thought they could be available that week for a special meeting. The intention of the meeting is to set parameters and define the contractors since they aren’t to be using district equipment as they have in the past.
- Fumitoxin Cost share – Thane and Allen reported several questions have been brought up recently as to why fumitoxin isn’t cost shared all year long considering its extensive efficacy last fall. The concerns were brought by Weedslayer owner, Andrew Litzel. Also, several landowners called asking about fumitoxin being cost shared since ZP oats couldn’t be used. There was much discussion and consideration for landowners and contractors, both for and against, retroactively cost sharing fumitoxin already applied last fall. It was further agreed last year was extenuating circumstances since there was approximately three to four times annual precipitation compared to 2022, which increased the efficacy of the fumitoxin. Thane then read the guide, from the only printed copy available, that has been used by JCWP for many years. The intention was for it to be read into official record so there are defined parameters in the future. These parameters were read as Fumitoxin will be cost shared April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> of each

year on the first three cases, only, at a 70/30 rate with 30% being paid by the landowner. Any cases after the first case or after the first 42 vials will be sold at full price. There are 14 vials per case and 1 case covers approximately 28 acres. Rozol or Kaput will be cost shared only between October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> for the first 10 bags at the 70/30 rate with the 30% being paid by the landowners. Any bags over the first 10 bags will be sold at full price. Rozol/Kaput is applied at 2 oz per hole or 6 pounds per acre or 5 acres per bucket. The ZP oats will be free of charge from July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> as long as the landowner is enrolled in the Prairie dog rebate program. Further, Randy made a motion to make this cost share information to be publicly recorded as Thane read it and recorded in these minutes, Tyler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Next Meeting:**

March 7th, 2024 4:00PM