

MINUTES

February 7, 2019

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Rogers, Board Vice Chairman
Tyler Benton
Dick Gould – by phone

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Scott Rogers, Board Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Dick was present by phone to make a quorum, however, the minutes for January 8th meeting and the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds were tabled for the next meeting. The statement summary of February payment vouchers for the General Weed & Pest fund and the Leafy Spurge funds were read by Rod. Tyler moved to pay the list of vouchers, and to allow the treasurer to write utility, salary, and salary related assessments as needed. Dick seconded the passing motion.

Under old business, Rod reported that he had spoken with several landowners regarding grasshoppers and has a rough map with problem areas. Due to the numerous reports Rod contacted APHIS to get their involvement and they will administer the program. It was agreed by general consensus to hold a landowner meeting with APHIS on March 7th at 1:30 pm regarding grasshoppers. Rod will schedule and advertise the meeting. Rod presented the Board only bid received for the highway contract from Jay Cooper and informed the Board they could table it until the next meeting or accept it. Dick asked if the District could carry out the program in house rather than by bid. Rod lead discussion on safety issues, crew management and crew numbers may out way the rise in cost of doing it and that the District crews could not do the interstates and highway 16 because of the former mentioned issues. It was agreed by general consensus to table until next meeting and that Rod would present approximate cost of spraying with District crew; in addition he would talk to Jay Cooper regarding what he would need per lane mile if District did part of the spraying and reassure Mr. Cooper that the District will not be accepting more bids and only delaying due to lack of quorum at the meeting. Rod reported that there was an issue with one of the landowners in the Salt Cedar project. He had contacted the ranch manager for Faddis Kennedy Cattle around Thanksgiving regarding the continuation of mulching/treating Salt Cedar on Powder River on January 7th and asked that he have Mr. Kennedy call him if there was an issue. Rod left Mr. Kennedy a message prior to leaving for vacation asking him to contact the office if there was a problem with the crews starting on Jan 7th. The crew began mulching/treating on Jan 7th and worked the 8th without issue, on Jan 9th Mr. Kennedy had contacted the District office regarding other matters and Katie told him that Rod was out of the office doing Salt Cedar on his property. Mr. Kennedy was very unhappy and sent his ranch manager to inform the crew that they need to vacate the property. Rod and the crew finished the day and the previously agreed upon project. Mr. Kennedy has been unreachable by phone, so Rod proposed sending a letter that he had written. Rod gave the background regarding agreement to the project. Rod had met with both ranch managers; Paul Borgialli and Jim Bob Zimmerschied. The stated that they had permission from Mr. Kennedy to have the District mulch/treat the bull pasture bend and the bend next to Powder River Ranch and to do the 3 years of retreatment. Scott Rogers suggested using a different approach than the letter and the Board instructed Rod to contact Mr. Borgialli for assistance in how to approach the issue with Mr. Kennedy. Board agreed that if Mr. Kennedy were to abandon the program he will be charged for the District cost in mulching and the District cost share of work done to date. Dick asked about the District using Ken Graves equipment for the Russian Olive project on Streeter. Rod reported that Mr. Graves had purchased an older cutter to do some logging and was using it on the project. There is no agreement with Mr. Graves on cost because his main interest is in learning how the machine works and getting experience. The machine is very slow; but, works good.

Due to the lack of a quorum actually present, the remainder of the agenda was tabled for the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 5:15 pm. The next regular business meeting will be March 7th at 4:00 pm.

