

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman, Chairman
Scott Rogers, Vice Chairman
Dick Gould

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the February 6th meeting were approved with a motion by Scott R. and a second by Dick. Financial Statements for February were reviewed. Scott R. moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Dick seconded the passing motion. Dick 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 Scott R.

Under old business, Rod reported that at the February meeting the Board did not make the vehicle purchase official after the follow up phone conversations and decisions regarding the trade on the vehicles from the January meeting discussions. Dick moved to trade two vehicles for the 2016 Ram with Wolf Auto. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Scott R. Rod asked the Board about setting a price for the 75 gallon UTV tank. It was agreed by general consensus to check on a reasonable price with Warne Chemical and advertise it for sale on the website. Rod lead discussion about selling/trading the John Deere Gator & the Honda Pioneer 700 for a Honda 500 UTV. It was agreed to trade the Gator for the new UTV and to sell the Pioneer out right. Rod reported that the District had two requests for public records from American Transparency. Katie had spent too much time on the requests; however, Rod had spoken with them and the process has been minimized for the future. Rod gave the activity report. The Salt Cedar had finished for the season yesterday with 60 acres treated and 120 acres reclaimed. There were design flaws with the rake, pushing on level ground it works great; but, doesn't do a good job on uneven ground resulting in limited use. The forks with the extension to move them away from the cab of the skid steer worked great. The Board asked about the future potential for the Salt Cedar project. Rod believes there are 2 or 3 more years with what is committed and it would be nice to close the gap between Powder River and Salt Creek. Katie reported that she has completed the BLM grant application for 2020, the 2019 cost share and the 2019 annual report is almost complete. Rod gave a report on his February time with March looking to be busy with grasshopper mapping, several meetings and prairie dog surveys. Rod reported there is no news on the building site. Rod reported that there was a good turnout for the grasshopper meeting. Big Horn Airways has sent him some ideas of what they will charge for the potential grasshopper spraying; block acres btw 10,000-25,000 = \$1.25, 3,000-10,000 = \$1.85, 1,000 to 3,000 = \$2.00 and 100,000 to 150,000 = \$1.25 per acre. The Board asked Rod to get some bids for April meeting if possible. Rod lead discussion on what to do with small acreages that will not fit into a block the Board will have further discussion. Rod reported that he had attended the GISI meeting in Cheyenne and that it is finally moving in a productive direction. They are identifying things that need addressed and moving forward with a strategy. Rod reported that when one of the commercial applicators contacted him when he realized he had missed the deadline for the highway bids. Rod told him to submit his bid and the Board would make a decision how to proceed at the next meeting. Rod presented Coop's Spraying bid of \$32.00 per lane mile. After discussion, there being no other bids, Scott R. moved to accept the bid and motion passed after a second from Dick. Rod reported that he had spent several days in Cheyenne at the legislative session. The HB 38 regarding weed and pest control inspections and remediation of infestations went well in the House. Representative Tass, who is on House Ag Committee, helped draft language encouraging Districts to help landowners develop IPM plans, which helps with the overall tone of the bill with respect to private property rights. Unfortunately in the Senate, the access procedure was changed to the point it did not get concurrence in the House. A Joint Committee was appointed to hash out the differences, then will have to go back to both chambers for approval. Rod reported that the amendment to raise pesticide registration fee from \$90 to \$120 passed the House with an amendment to raise it to \$140, there were no amendments in the Senate. The bill passed and could result in \$600,000 additional money to the state allocation committee. Rod told the Board that the legislative process was interesting and frustrating; however, rewarding. Legislators are focused on not raising taxes and listening to the people they represent. Rod asked the Board for clarification on the returning crew member scholarship. It was agreed by general consensus that years worked must be consecutive.

Under new business Rod reported that the budget will have to be amended for grasshoppers. Rod announced that the tax settlement for Carbon Creek and Powder River Midstream has not been paid and the settlement is about a third of what they owed in taxes. Commissioner Novotny helped craft a bill being considered at session to have companies pay taxes monthly. Rod reported that the audit was back and looked good. The issues from the previous years' audit, regarding segregation of duties, has been resolved and but reported a continued gap in compliance with GAAP. This is the time of year the District starts getting calls from Contractors looking for weed grazing contracts so Rod asked the Board to set a policy regarding grazing as weed management. It has been an unwritten policy that they contract with landowners for grazing management and the District was basically out of it. However, there could be value for the landowner if the District had a policy of providing financial assistance especially if there were long term agreements. It was decided, by general consensus, that if "there is an IMP agreement with the landowner that spells out long term then the District may get involved". District will provide grazing contractors with a list of landowners that may want grazing management. Under other business Rod lead discussion on having the virtual tour. It was decided that Rod would have a virtual tour ready for the Board only after the April 2nd meeting and the Board will have a ground tour after the Year End meeting in June inviting the County Commissioners, Legislators and possibly others.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:20 pm. The next regular business meeting will be April 2nd at 5 pm.

See You at the Next Board Meeting

April 2nd at 5:00 pm

General Fund

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
15829	1,740.60				
15830	40.73				
15831	143.45				
15832	72.98				
15833	109.10				
15834	31.72				
15835	14,810.00				
15836	937.60				
15837	119.32				
15838	38.37				
15839	120.10				
15840	61.61				
15841	588.43				
15842	83.68				
15843	Void				
15844	700.00				
15845	852.76				
15846	2,351.65				
15847	3,173.96				
15848	Void				
15849	134.87				
15850	32.55				
Auto	1,643.06				

UMM 901026

UMM 901015

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
577	15,000.00	783	10,000.00

Leafy Spurge Fund

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
4971	5,145.58				
4972	2,799.65				
4973	3,027.94				
4974	1,766.50				
4975	483.50				
4976	157.20				
4977	1,524.13				
4978	23.45				
Auto	2,271.82				