

MINUTES  
May 2, 2019

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman, Chairman  
Scott Rogers, Vice Chairman  
Dick Gould  
Tyler Benton

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor  
Katie Hepp, District Clerk  
Bob Perry, County Commissioner

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the April 4th meeting were approved with a motion by Dick and a second by Tyler. Financial Statements for April were reviewed. Tyler moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Nathan seconded the passing motion. 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 Dick.

Under old business, Rod reported that they had completed the remaining day on Salt Cedar for the year last week. They rented the cutting head and used the District Skid steer. Rod gave an activity update; the gopher machine has went out a few times and is currently at Bolinger Welding getting repaired, he has one person doing shop work and will start county sterilant work when weather allows and his hours consisted of a lot of office hours for the month of April with mainly grasshopper calls, planning and mapping. Rod reported that Natrona County Weed & Pest hosted a Grasshopper workshop in Kaycee. Rod reported that the grasshopper program plans are coming together at this time there will be three blocks. Two blocks on the southern end of the county on ran by APHIS and one District ran, one block in the northeast corner of the county run by APHIS. Rod reported that he has 94,000 +/- deeded acres mapped to be ran by District and 58,000 +/- deeded acres ran by APHIS, these are gross acres, treated will be half that. Big Horn Airways has two planes ready if and when they are needed. The anticipated cost is \$3.50 per treated acre. Nathan moved to charge landowners \$1.00 per treated deeded acre for grasshoppers. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Dick. Rod reported that at present he has 9,000 +/- acres of State land in the District ran program and 10,500 +/- acres of State land in the APHIS ran program, gross acres. Tyler moved to charge State land lessee 25 cents per treated acre. Scott R. seconded the motion which passed. Rod lead discussion on the building ideas that he had sent to the Board. Commissioner Perry reported that he thought construction at the airport may have to be "Red Iron" and he will investigate this. The Board discussed the land at the fairgrounds, decrease in county valuation being a concern and the existing building being sold. Commissioner Perry will look into the options at the fairgrounds. Further discussion was tabled for next meeting and results of Commissioner Perry's investigations. Rod reported that the commercial applicator has completed ZP oat applications on two landowners under the 24c label. Rod has the information from one of the landowners and will complete the survey as soon as possible. Board agreed by general consensus to pay it when it passes. Rod reported on the draft proposed budget and the current budget. He has spoken with the Department of Audit; some of the "expense out/revenue in" programs (example: BLM cheatgrass) needs to be reported differently in the next fiscal year as "Unanticipated programs". There will have to be an amended budget for this fiscal year which will need to be advertised and a hearing held at the next meeting.

Under new business, Rod reported that he has only hired 2 new people so far, has 3 or 4 returning members and is having trouble getting applicants. Rod lead discussion on how to increase the number of applicants and returning crew members. Scott R. moved to pay entry level rate of \$14 and raise to \$15 per hour after training, across the board raise of \$4 to returning crew members with the exception of 2<sup>nd</sup> year returnees being \$4.50 and look into to set up a scholarship program for returnees. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Dick. Rod reported that he had reviewed equipment options for the summer and has worked out the details. Rod reported that he had presented a list of questions to the County Attorney as a result of the Commissioners hour long Board training held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. He read the questions to the Board and reported that he was waiting for a reply from the County Attorney's Office. Rod told the Board that the EPA had done an inspection which the District had passed.

Under other business, Rod announced the renewal time for LGLP and the difference in premium with changes in deductible. It was agreed by general consensus to leave the deductible at \$5,000 and renew.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 7:15 pm. The next regular business meeting will be June 6th at 5:00 pm.

