

MINUTES

May 6, 2021

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Rogers, Chairman
Dick Gould
Nathan Williams
Randy Hepp

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Chairman Rogers. Minutes for the April 8th meeting were approved with a motion by Dick and a second by Randy. Financial Statements for April were reviewed. Randy moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds for April. Dick seconded the passing motion. Nathan 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 Randy.

Under old business, Rod gave a report on accounts receivable, total outstanding to date is \$ 16,442.98. The majority of outstanding bills are for current rodenticides, some 2020 grasshopper, one 2019 grasshopper payment and the remainder State lands. Rod gave an activity report. He completed the prairie dog surveys, attended Spring Workshop, had some time in the office and started sterilant work. At 5:35 pm Chairman Rogers recessed the business meeting and the Board went to executive session. Chairman Rogers reopened the regular business meeting at 5:45 pm. Nathan moved to give the Supervisor and the Clerk an annual raise of \$1,200 and to include Supervisors overtime in his salary due to the exemption status change in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. The motion passed after a second from Dick. Rod reviewed the current budget and steps that can be taken to not have to amend it: talk to Clint Culliton about deferring ZP rebate until fall, defer grasshopper expenses until next fiscal year and not expense the \$ 20,000 from the Leafy Spurge to the General use it to balance the budget. Rod reviewed the proposed budget. He budgeted conservative on the mil levy at \$260,000 when it is expected to be \$300,000, budgeted 3 months for the new Supervisor which increases the admin portion in the general account and in the Leafy Spurge he budgeted \$544,000 for expenses and \$ 555,000 revenue. Rod explained "depreciation reserve" and that he did not budget for any since there are no equipment needs at this time. There will be \$180,000 cash carry over in the General fund and \$600 in the Leafy Spurge fund. Rod reported that the cost of the ZP Rebate program surveys were \$3,292.61 with just over 9,500 acres rebated. M&M services will have to do some cleanup next fall using ZP oats so those rebates may be deferred, 4 out of 6 landowners where not happy with their work. The Board discussed options for accountability of the applicator; including not cost sharing new acres until cleanup is taken care of, applicator pre-pay for ZP oats and no new customers for that applicator in the rebate program until they show accountability.

Under new business, Rod asked the Board to set the year end meeting and the budget hearing. Nathan moved to have the yearend meeting on June 30th at 5 pm and the budget hearing on July 8th at 7pm. Motion passed after a second from Dick. The Board discussed having a field tour on one of those days. Some suggestions for a field tour where the Salt Cedar Project, Ventenata and Leafy Spurge. It was decided to have a field tour before the budget hearing and to plan at the next Board meeting. Rod reported that he has two crew members returning and has hired four new people. Rick will be returning as crew lead for the road crew and Isolina will be returning to the road crew. Nathan moved to give the second year returnees a \$.50 per hour raise and third year returnees a \$1.00 hour raise. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Randy. Rod announced that he still needs a crew lead for the backpack crew and one more for the road crew. Rod reported that he had attended Spring Workshop in Saratoga. This year they were able to attend in person; but, some presentations were done over Zoom. One of the presentations was regarding "Eco Paks". Eco Paks are herbicide packs of multiple herbicides. The Board discussed the advantages: cleaner system for handling, less measuring and mixing time, more accurate in the field due to sealed system making pouring easier, cut down on inventory errors and tracking time, less jugs to store and recycle and the disadvantages: additional \$5 to \$6 per acre, pallet and batch fees, maybe turn around time. Nathan moved to purchase a third of the Districts herbicide in Eco Paks unless there is a long turn around time then order half season herbicide needs. Randy seconded the passing motion. Rod announced the 3rd Annual Johnson County Noxious Weed Pull Day has been set up for June 11th 8:30 to 11:00 at Kaycee and from 1:00 to 5:00 at Buffalo. Rod reported that he had contacted the Big Horn Co-op several times asking for a herbicide price list in order to participate in the cost share program. They have not responded with a list. The Board agreed by general consensus to proceed with setting up the cost share with MTR only. Rod reported that there was a change in the permitting requirement for mosquito larvicide. Customers get a copy of the "General Permit for Minor Pesticide Discharges". The District has provided the larvicide at no charge and Rod asked the Board if they would like to continue with that. It was agreed by general consensus to continue giving Mosquito larvicide at no charge to Johnson County residents.

Under other business, Rod announced the renewal time for LGLP and the difference in premium with changes in deductible. Randy moved to leave the deductible at \$5,000 and renew. Motion passed after a second from Dick.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:45 pm.

