

MINUTES

May 7, 2020

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the April 2nd meeting were approved with a motion by Scott R. and a second by Tyler. Financial Statements for April were reviewed. Scott R. 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 Tyler.

Under old business, Rod reported on the activity for the month of April; due to Covid-19 guidance the time in the office was split with only one person at a time in the office and personnel used comp time. Rod attended lots of Zoom meetings.

Rod reviewed and lead discussion on the proposed budget for FY21/22. He is proposing minimal changes in most line item budgeting, except for grasshoppers. The issue with budgeting is when the expenses will hit, before or after this fiscal year end. Rod projected that in order to balance the budget for FY20/21 \$450,000 will need to be taken from emergency reserves and for FY21/22 \$250,000. On the revenue side of the budget the mil levy will be down considerably, the District has received \$50,000 grant for grasshoppers and a \$30,000 grant for Salt cedar. Rod reported the proposed Leafy Spurge budget is roughly the same as the current fiscal year in B1, B2 a decrease with nothing budgeted for Bio control and a projected decrease in commercial application by trying to get aerial work done in the current fiscal year. As projected with the general account revenue for leafy spurge will decrease. Rod lead discussion on how he figures the leafy spurge assessment paid to the general account. Board agreed to keep the assessment the same for the next fiscal year. Rod lead discussion on the projected decrease in revenue and ask the Board if they would like to change the cost share on any current programs. The Board agreed that they do not need to change it yet. Change could impact what has been accomplished this far and to bite the bullet and recognize that they may have to change down the road. Rod told the Board that the budget for this fiscal year would need to be amended and the budget hearing date needed to be set. Tyler moved to set the budget hearing for FY21/22 on July 9th at 5 pm, to set the fiscal year end meeting on June 30th at 10:30 am and to hold the current fiscal year budget hearing at that meeting. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Nathan. Rod reported that he is expecting the grasshopper hatch to be the first part of June. Rick Pallister is going to start May 18th with grasshopper counts for the 1/8" indicator species. Rod is planning on helicopter spraying for areas that planes cannot spray. Rod presented the bids for Dimilin and COC: Helena- Dimilin \$126 per gallon and COC \$7.85 and other vendor Dimilin \$134 per gallon and COC \$8.24 per gallon. Nathan moved to accept the bid from Helena and that Rod purchase up to half the anticipated chemical when he started seeing the hatches. Rod reported that he hasn't had any communication from APHIS. Rod reported that his plan for aerial work was to have Shay Curuchet spraying Leafy Spurge, Jim with Frontier Helicopters in Kaycee spraying Scotch thistle and grasshoppers, Mark with Frontier spraying Leafy Spurge and Tony Herby spraying Tall Larkspur on the mountain. Rod reported that he had talked to landowners regarding Rozol and Kaput regarding the Kaput pre-buy offer. Most thought that Kaput worked better; but, is obviously a matter of timing with either product. Nathan moved to purchase 2 pallets of Kaput with the pre-buy discount of 20%. Scott R. seconded the passing motion. Rod reported that he had tried a couple of the building design apps and was very frustrated and ended up just drawing it to scale freehand. The Board agreed to just wait on more planning due to the budget.

Under new business Rod reported that due to the Covid-19 he had written a policy for seasonal crews addressing wellness checks, limiting office access and face covering in vehicles. Employees will be required to "sign off" on the policy. Rod asked for direction on crew boss certification raises. Due to Covid-19 there are changes in how commercial licenses are obtained this year, if they take the Core exam than can get a certificate. Dick moved that they get the raise of \$1.00 per hour if they take the core exam and have the certificate. Motion passed after a second from Nathan. Rod lead discussion on how to approach the "check mark" system. Board agreed that he should take a more lenient approach. Rod reported that his plan was to have the commercial applicators more off site. He is trying to set up more online for their paperwork, they are responsible for storage of their chemical and maybe even offsite parking. Rod reported that he has hired 2 crews to date, 3 on the road crew and 4 on the backpack crew. Rod lead discussion on crew wages and it was agreed by general consensus that Crew Boss = \$18.00 with a \$1.00 raise after certification, new members = \$14.00 with \$1.00 after training and returning members a raise of \$.50 from previous year. Rod lead discussion on sterilant work that he does on a comp basis for other county entities and that he bills for herbicide only in the past. The Board agreed by general consensus to leave that program as it is.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:45 pm. The next regular business meeting will be June 4th at 5 pm.

See You at the Next Board Meeting

June 4th at 5:00 pm

General Fund

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
15881	110.00	15908	497.76		
15882	18.20	15909	2,291.61		
15883	118.99	15910	1,018.47		
15884	19.20	15911	1,656.53		
15885	110.78	15912	497.76		
15886	2,263.74	15913	1,396.44		
15887	12.00	15914	173.24		
15888	110.50				
15889	139.53				
15890	100.00				
15891	6.00				
15892	3,477.60				
15893	54.71				
15894	60.00				
15895	170.94				
15896	7.74				
15897	2,220.00				
15898	120.10				
15899	53.87				
15900	6,806.03				
15901	187.33				
15902	209.84				
15903	101.51				
15904	700.00				
15905	725.58				
15906	484.84				
15907	885.63				

UMM 901026

UMM 901015

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
		784	50,000.00

Leafy Spurge Fund

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
4979	2,799.65	Auto	2,771.80		
4980	3,027.95				
4981	1,766.50				
4982	157.20				
4983	1,524.13				
4984	483.50				
Auto	2,271.80				
4985	2,799.66				
4986	3,027.94				
4987	483.50				
4988	1,766.50				
4989	157.20				
4990	1,524.13				