

MINUTES

November 5, 2020

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk – by phone

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the Sept 29th meeting were approved with a motion by Scott R. and a second by Tyler. Financial Statements for October were reviewed. Nathan moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds for October. Scott R. seconded the passing motion. Tyler 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 Nathan.

Under old business, Rod gave an activity update. Rod has been working on GIS stuff when he was here, but had been working off his comp time. Rod reported that APHIS bills have been paid and that the balance in the grasshopper account can be moved back to the money market account. It was agreed by general consensus to move \$67,453.46 from the APHIS grasshopper account back to the money market account leaving \$1 to keep that account active. Rod reported that there was a clerical error in the payment to Airtime Aerial an invoice in the amount of \$17,677.66 was double paid. Request for refunding the over payment was requested; but, the refund has not been received. The Board will send a letter regarding the matter asking for the refund. Rod reported that Katie was currently on “self isolation” after being exposed to a positive Covid 19 person. The Board instructed Rod to look into possible government help with wages. Rod gave a report on the current accounts receivable. Leafy Spurge has a balance of \$51,951.49 of that \$34,0007.59 is owed from State Lands, \$13,000 for 2019 and the rest for 2020 and \$17,943.90 is landowner cost share. In the general fund a balance of \$394,987.63 is outstanding; \$306,211.97 is “Unanticipated Projects”, \$10,935.03 is Forest Service and the remainder is landowner cost share including weeds and grasshoppers. Rod reported that he attended 2 days of fall conference in Casper. It was all virtual; but, was well run and organized. Resolutions that passed included; definition of EDRR, asking BLM to move forward with its environmental assessment for using Rejurva to treat cheatgrass, request for APHIS to be more proactive in grasshopper programs and one regarding guiding principles. Governor Gordon gave a report on the Governor Initiative Program. The portion regarding Cheatgrass was very informative, there are still a lot of people against listing it and it was a controlled setting in which to ask questions and get answers.

Under new business Rod reported that three board positions would be up in January; Scott Lutterman Area 4, Scott Rogers Area 2 and Nathan Williams Area 3. Rod presented an estimate for a new computer his is having age related issues. He also presented an estimate for upgrading Microsoft Office. Tyler moved to purchase a new computer and upgrade Microsoft. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Nathan. Rod lead discussion on the fast approaching Salt Cedar season. They may have to move it up to December due to college breaks this year. There is \$30,000 in grant money, two equipment rental companies and he has been contacted by a commercial crew that mulches. After discussion the Board agreed to get equipment bids from both companies and keep the work in house maximizing grant money; but, to also get an estimate from the commercial company as a backup. Katie asked the Board if they would like to do Christmas Cards this year and it was agreed to do so.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 4:45 pm.

