

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman, Chairman
Dick Gould
Scott Rogers
Tyler Benton

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the September 26th meeting were approved with a motion by Scott R. and a second by Dick. Financial Statements for October were reviewed. Scott R. moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Tyler 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 Tyler.

Under old business, Rod reported that he had attended a meeting, yesterday, in Lander for the Governor task force. He is not sure what to make of it. The meeting was disorganized and unfocused. Attendees were divided into two groups, one for policy and one for technical these groups lacked direction. The goal of the task force is to develop a statewide strategy on invasive species management. The Governor's Office had sent out a good set of questions prior to the meeting. However, the meeting did not stick to the question outline. There are only two weed & pest representatives on the Tech team and Slade Franklin is on the Policy team. The Board discussed the difference in views on Cheatgrass management as example of what the task force faces in challenges and that any weed management needs to be landowner driven. The next meeting is projected to be in December sometime and both groups hope to be done by May. Rod gave an activity report. Office billing, mapping and year end reports are currently the focus. Rod reported that he had finally talked with the State Fire Marshalls office regarding the new building. The building can be built in stages, they have to approve engineered plans, if it is a pole barn structure then the contractor submits engineered plans, first step is to plot property lines and establish ownership. Rod reported that he had talked with Commissioner Perry and there isn't any "SLIB" money available. The Board discussed location of the new building. The county is dependent on industrial development at the airport and weed spraying is a good fit for the development up there. However, Board members feel the corner lot out by the fairgrounds serves the County and meets the District needs better. Dick moved that it is in the best interest of the public, safety of crews and the future of the District that the District pursue the corner lot at Fairgrounds Rd and King Ln as their first option. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Tyler. Rod will talk with County Road & Bridge Supervisor Scott Pehringer regarding the site and the removal of the gravel being stored there. The Board discussed the approximate cost of the building. The previous estimate from Cleary was \$88,000 making the 60x96 shell and concrete at \$15 per square foot. After much discussion the Board estimated that the shell for the building including doors and windows should be around \$10 per sq ft plus another \$10 per sq ft for concrete making the estimated cost around \$20 per sq ft for a post & pole building. The Board figures it will be double that for a stick built, at \$40 per sq ft. It was agreed by general consensus to send out bids as they were previously written with addition to include engineered set plans after the site has been plotted/surveyed. Rod reported that Fall Conference will be in Evanston beginning Nov 4 and asked that the Board appoint a voting delegate. Rod was appointed the voting delegate by general consensus. Rod presented and lead discussion on the following resolutions: Teton County add Climbing nightshade and Garlic mustard, Carbon County add Cheatgrass and remove Cactus, Fremont County add Tall buttercup and Oyster Shell Scale. Vote "yes" on all. Wyoming Weed and Pest Council submitted a resolution requiring a minimum of 8 hours of administration training to the qualifications for Certified Wyoming Weed and Pest Supervisor and a minimum of 4 hours every two years required to maintain status as a certified supervisor. The Board agreed by general consensus to vote "yes". Rod reported that there will be a Board member educational program on Nov 6th from 1 to 5pm at conference that will be presented online. He will forward the link to Board members. Rod reported that the Joint Ag legislation amending regulatory powers of Boards to force control passed 10 to 4. The Stockgrowers and Farm Bureau appear to be in favor in this. Value in revising the current Statute is addressing absentee ownership and lawful entry or access. Since the Joint Ag Committee is driving the change and not the W&P Council, it may help in getting that part of the Statute fixed; as such the Board agreed to not oppose it at this time. Rod reported that the Commissioners had voted in members of the Natural Resources Committee in the County on October 15th. Membership includes: Rod Litzel, Northern Johnson County; Nathan Williams, Southern Johnson County; Rick Pallister, Public Lands Assoc/environmental; Joe Landsiedel, Timber industry; Anita Bartlett, Powder River Conservation and Kelly Norris, Outdoor recreation. Every county in the state has a committee and each committee will have \$50,000 grant funds, it is vage at this point what those funds can be used for.

Under new business Rod proposed the benefits of the District purchasing a cell phone booster for the Supervisor. There are so many places that the Supervisor does not have coverage in the county which causes many communication problems. The Board agreed by general consensus to shop around and purchase a booster. Rod presented thoughts and ideas on UTV's and vehicles for next season. The Pioneer is not great for spraying, and the Gator needs to be gone due to the sensor issue this summer and the age. Rod proposes getting rid of both machines and purchase a couple of the Honda 500 side by sides that seem to work very well for spraying. Board agreed but to wait a couple months. The 2005 Dodge is a manual shift making it hard to find anyone that can drive it. Think about trading or selling it and the 2010 Chevy. The Board decided to begin looking for a replacement vehicle and to sell/trade the other two "as is". Katie asked the Board if they would like to send Christmas cards. Yes, by general consensus.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballet at 6:00 pm. The next regular business meeting will be December 5th at 4 pm.

