

MINUTES

September 26, 2019

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman, Chairman
Tyler Benton
Nathan Williams

Others Present:

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the August 29th meeting were approved with a motion by Tyler and a second by Nathan. Financial Statements for September were reviewed. Tyler moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Nathan 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 Tyler.

Under old business, Rod reported that he had sent out request for bids to four Pole Building contractors and five stick building contractors. After visiting with a couple of those contractors further requirements and questions were raised, so Rod requested that contractors wait to submit their bids. Contractors estimated that it was costing \$120 to \$150 per sq ft for a stick built building on a slab, making the cost of a building \$800,000; the fire marshal must be contacted, engineering or no engineering, soil test needed or not and various other unknowns. The Board discussed the idea of building as “cold storage” in this fiscal year and then adding heated shop area and offices in the next. Commissioner Perry encouraged building at the airport rather than near the fairgrounds and stated that the District could see if grant money was available. He will look into how the District could apply for these funds. Discussion tabled until next meeting when more information will be available. Rod gave an activity report. He had a couple of commercial applicators work a couple of weekends; Soap Creek Flyers out of Montana had sprayed on Davis; 307 Aviation and Big Horn Airways completed aerial applications on Bootjack, Landeck and Vanhouten Draw. Office billing, mapping and year end reports are currently the focus. Rod reported that he listened in on a video conference of the first meeting of the Governor task force. Mr. Tekiela UW Plant Sciences Asst Professor provided an excellent presentation on Invasion Ecology. The Q&A period got a little side tracked however with members from WWNRT stating that grantees oversold and under delivered on certain programs. There is no direction, yet, they are making plans to have the first organizational meeting in October.

Under new business, Rod announced that fall conference will be in Evanston this year starting on November 4th and asked if any Board member wished to attend. Rod reported that the Joint Ag meeting was held on September 5th in Laramie regarding increasing regulatory powers of Boards to force control. The law may have to be open in order to do so. The Board discussed the issue regarding private property rights. There will be another meeting in Dubois October 24th or 25th. Rod shared an email from the Commissioners regarding a proposed Natural Resources Committee in the County; he was applying to be on the committee and suggested interested Board members do the same. Rod reported that there has been a problem in the Southern Bighorns with Spruce Bud Worms defoliating and killing trees; currently the State is marking trees to be logged on State Land. The Good Neighbor Authority could potentially help coordinate BLM in taking action on BLM and Private, but with no federal dollars currently available, it may be too little too late. However, the Spruce Bud Worm would be a good project for their consideration. Rod reported that fall conference will be the same week as the next scheduled meeting. The Board agreed by general consensus to have the next meeting on October 31st.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:15 pm. The next regular business meeting will be October 31st at 4 pm.

