

MINUTES

Sept 3, 2020

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

Members Present:

Scott Lutterman, Chairman
Tyler Benton
Dick Gould
Nathan Williams

Others Present:

Rod Litzel, Supervisor
Katie Hepp, District Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Lutterman. Minutes for the June 30th, Budget Hearing and Aug 6th meetings were approved with a motion by Tyler and a second by Dick. Financial Statements for July were reviewed. Nathan moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds for July. Tyler seconded the passing motion. Financial Statements for Aug were reviewed. Tyler moved to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds for Aug. Nathan 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 on his hours for July and August; mainly spraying in July and August he had several online meetings. Rod gave an activity update: aerial work was completed on Leafy Spurge and Scotch Thistle, the crews covered most of what needed done finishing in mid-August, the foot crews had some issues with applications and Rod is getting some complaints, one contract crew struggled this season and Rod had landowners complain, the contract crew for the highways has struggled with identifying knapweed, a two man crew started Salt Cedar the week before last and they should complete that by the middle of the month, helicopter will be here to do fall Leafy Spurge and Cheatgrass work which will be grant work from the Game & Fish and BLM, this season contract crews had to do more of Forest Service work so went through money faster, no Ventenata on the mountain site could be found, Ventenata in treated areas had some missed spots otherwise looked good to the north except one patch did not get two years of control and two new locations were found. The BLM found a new area of Ventenata down by Linch in the southern end of the county. Rod reported that at the end of July one of the road crew members had an ATV accident. She tipped the 4 wheeler over backward resulting breaking her back. She is making a great recovery and has a very positive attitude. Rod reported on the grasshopper program. Airtime Aerial was contacted to do some work because the contractor had to go back early. They gave Rod a quote of \$1.17 per acre which he understood was a "sprayed" acre; however, the contractor billed \$1.17 per "protected" acre. They did take some off the bill. CoFire was called back to do the mountain which consisted of 3 blocks. They had trouble flying the area and didn't get very good results so they credited the District \$5800. They were unable to treat Wheeler so they were not charged. The poor quality could be due to a chemical issue, other counties that used chemical from the same batch had issues. The Block at Beartrap had unexplainable inconsistent control. There will be some areas to treat in 2021 that did not get treated through the APHIS program this year. Bruce Shambaugh with APHIS attended the Area 2 meeting to explain the issues. He explained that there were issues with getting funding and that surveying was a problem. They expect lawsuits from environmental groups not with the aim winning; but, to delay treatments until it is too late in the grasshopper life cycle. APHIS is doing adult surveys and so far most areas look great. Rod reported that the Area 2 meeting was held here this year and that Fall Conference will be held mainly online due to Covid-19. They are going to set up a meeting room in Casper for anyone who wants to attend; but, the number will be limited.

Under new business Rod asked the Board if they would like to try to sell the Pioneer again. The backpack crew used it this summer; but, it does not work for the road crew because of how it shifts. It has been recently serviced and has a new set of tires. It was agreed by general consensus to sell it for \$6,000. The Public Hearing was opened at 5:30 pm. Rod lead discussion on the Spruce Bud Worm. There are two landowners that have expressed interest in doing something with it on the southern end of the county. Spraying will slow it down; but, only delay the inevitable. Logging is the only way to control it. There is a lot on BLM and State lands; however, they are not ready to log. The Spruce Bud Worm seemed to be worse last year than this year. There being no testimony or Protestants, Chairman Lutterman closed the Hearing at 5:45 pm and immediately called the business meeting back to order. Due to lack of motion no further action was taken. Rod asked the Board to consider increasing the ATV rate for Salt Cedar work. It is extremely hard on equipment. The COC fades out the color, the sticks ruins tires, boots and the plastic. It is worse this year because the cutters didn't cut as low to the ground last winter. Nathan moved to increase rate for ATVs working on Salt Cedar to \$ 25.00 per metered hour and make it retroactive for this year. Motion passed unanimously after a second from Tyler. Board discussed changing the next meeting date because several of them guide hunters. By consensus, the next regular business meeting will be Sept 29th at 4:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:30.

See You at the Next Board Meeting

Sept 29th at 4 pm

General Fund

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
16060	165.00				
16061	10,568.01				
16062	228.53				
16063	476.00				
16064	8,807.83				
16065	56.95				
16066	170.10				
16067	76.97				
16068	14.00				
16069	54.97				
16070	20.79				
16071	1,141.25				
16072	1,053.00				
16073	1,711.80				
16074	17,010.00				
16075	6,838.40				
16076	97.16				
16077	120.10				
16078	120.11				
16079	1,121.99				
16080	487.47				
16081	3,553.54				
16082	1,772.05				
16083	164.79				
16084	25.06				
16085	700.00				
Auto	1,244.84				

UMM 901026

UMM 901015

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
581	5,000.00	786	40,000.00

Leafy Spurge Fund

Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount	Ck Number	Amount
5046	270.50				
5047	838.75				
5048	525.00				
5049	4,378.00				
5050	2,799.66				
5051	3,227.94				
5052	1,766.50				
5053	1,567.38				
5054	234.50				
5055	28.97				
Auto	2,071.80				