

JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD  
MINUTES

September 7, 2021

Members Present: Scott Rogers, Chairman; Tyler Benton, Vice Chairman; Dick Gould, Nathan Williams, Randy Hepp  
Others Present: Rod Litzel, Supervisor; Katie Hepp, District Clerk

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Rogers.

Minutes for the August 5th meeting were approved with a motion by Dick and a second by Tyler.

Financial Statements for August were reviewed. Randy moved, seconded by Tyler to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Motion carried.

Tyler moved, seconded by Dick to pay the bills, attached, and to allow the clerk to write utility, salary, salary related assessments and staff benefit checks as needed. Motion carried.

Old business:

- Accounts receivable report – Rod reported total outstanding to date \$ 95,790.56 which are all current except \$126.50 in 2020 grasshoppers.
- Activity update - Rod reported for July and August
  - Crews finished the second week of August
  - There will be one crew member coming back next season and the other three are undecided
  - Contract crews- one was done the end of July and the others the second week of August. There will not be any fall work because Cheatgrass was early this year.
  - Rick has been spraying Salt Cedar for about 3 weeks and will finish tomorrow. The Salt Cedar that was sprayed 3 and 4 years ago looks good.
  - There will be a couple of Russian knapweed projects this month.
- Board Tour – Rod showed some of the video's taken at the tour that the drone did and pointed out highlights. It was a windy day and the drone's camera did a great job.
  - One bend of lots of Salt Cedar can't be done with equipment so looking into an aerial application for that.
  - Two W&P districts are spraying with drones, ultra low volume.
  - Board discussed getting with the Conservation District to look into reseeding mulched areas.
- Grasshoppers – Rod reported on the grasshopper program
  - 16,000 acres were treated on the mountain, some in Washakie County.
  - Wheeler Land & Livestock was sprayed even though a few grasshoppers were getting older.
  - Grasshoppers stayed at a higher elevation this year.
  - Spraying was done by Heli-Works out of Montana and 307 Aviation.
  - BLM – in order to use part of the allocated \$90,000 for grasshoppers we have to resubmit paperwork for the entire year. The overage was approximately \$1,185 that the District would have to pay if not for resubmitting.
- Rod reported that one 265 gal Eco Pak had finally arrived
  - The crews all liked it, very efficient
  - Worth looking at next year
  - Need to come up with a better way to transfer from the tote for the field.
  - Definitely pays; but, need to order early.
- Weed Bounty – Rod reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Weed Bounty Program
  - Number of participants was down this year; but, the number of pounds was up.
  - Total pounds 2021 = 8,742.9, 2020 = 7,752.7 and 2019 = 3,344.9
  - This year the top pullers had a competition resulting in 1<sup>st</sup> place – Benton Family, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Freise Family and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Monterastelli Family.
  - Rod reported that it was neat to visit with the kids regarding the education factor and what they learned from the program. Potential future weed sprayers.
- Ventenata – Rod reported on Ventenata
  - Ventenata on Wohlbrandts of approximately 1 acre still has some; but, none in the other places sprayed
  - Grouse Mountain was resprayed because at 3 years with that program so wanted to stay ahead of any germination.
  - There will be some respray of spots next year due to the 3 year rotation to stay ahead of germination
  - Sheridan and Campbell counties are being aggressive. Both counties have thousands of acres. Johnson County is lucky with on a few hundred.

New business:

- Seasonals – Rod reported that due to several employees having shorter season this year the Board needs to make some policy changes to the Check Mark Bonus and the scholarship.
  - Rod reported that he had prorated the check mark bonus this year to make it fair to those working the entire season because so many had quit early.
  - Nathan moved, seconded by Tyler to amend the Check Mark Bonus to be prorated on a weekly basis. Motion carried.
  - Tyler moved, seconded by Randy to amend the scholarship to include and/or 384 hours. Motion carried.
- Rod reported that the Mega Cab was having mechanical issues with the exhaust manifold even though the exhaust system is new.

- Shouldn't cost too much to fix
  - Needs new tires and is due to be serviced. Board instructed Rod to have it serviced and have them check it out.
- Rod reported that he did not use his vehicle much in the last month due to being with the backpack crew and waiting on his vehicle trade.
  - Randy moved, seconded by Nathan to suspend the next 3 monthly vehicle lease payments until the next calendar year. Motion carried
- Rod announced that fall conference would be held November 2 – 4 in Cheyenne. The agenda looks interesting this year. He asked the Board to consider going.
- Rod reported that the Area 2 meeting in Sheridan was uneventful.
  - Discussion on the counties having trouble with APHIS again.
  - Campbell county is finding Ventenata.
- Rod reported that he had a report on a yellow weed at the old school in Linch which turned out to be Yellow toadflax, which is not good.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballot at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Katie J. Hepp JCWP District Clerk

See You at the Next Board Meeting

**October 7 at 5 pm**

**Payment Vouchers for Sept 2021  
General Account**

<b>Ck. No.</b>	<b>Paid To</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount</b>
16441	US Postal Service	Stamps	\$ 165.00
16442	Michelena Auto	Pickup battery	\$ 179.99
16443	MTR	Herbicides	\$ 19,631.51
16444	Atlas	Xerox maint agree	\$ 159.25
16445	Superior Auto	Service, battery	\$ 389.12
16446	Ultimate Outdoors	Service UTV	\$ 160.21
16447	Wilbur Ellis	ZP Oats	\$ 6,336.00
16448	Montana Dakota Utilities	Utilities	\$ 21.53
16449	Buffalo Bulletin	Public notice	\$ 34.50
16450	Rod Litzel	ATV rent	\$ 635.40
16451	Rick Litzel	ATV rent	\$ 2,158.60
16452	Wylee's Weed and Pest	Commercial application	\$ 2,607.50
16453	Weston Weed Control	Commercial application	\$ 6,055.00
16454	Brenda Nimick	Payroll	\$ 141.85
16455	Isolina Nimick	Payroll	\$ 160.33
16456	Big Horn Co-op	Gas	\$ 69.18
16457	Rocky Mtn Power	Utilities	\$ 86.01
16458	City of Buffalo	Utilities	\$ 121.10
16459	Chase	Credit card	\$ 848.99
16460	Wex Bank	Gas	\$ 782.66
16461	Rick Litzel	Payroll	\$ 2,402.52
16462	Wy Workers Comp	Workers comp	\$ 72.45
16463	Charter Communications	Long distance & internet	\$ 117.97
16464	University of Wyoming	Scholarship	\$ 500.00
16465	Wy Dept of Employment	Unemployment	\$ 173.01
16466	AT&T	Cell	\$ 85.69
Auto	EFTPS	941 taxes	\$ 514.52

**Payment Vouchers for Sept 2021  
Leafy Spurge Account**

5132	MTR	Herbicides	\$ 3,960.19
5133	Wylee's Weed and Pest	Commercial application	\$ 770.00
5134	307 Spraying	Commercial application	\$ 2,656.25
5135	Weston Weed Control	Commercial application	\$ 1,332.50
5136	Katie Hepp	Payroll	\$ 2,857.01
5137	Rod Litzel	Payroll	\$ 2,942.08
5138	Great West Trust Co	Deferred Comp	\$ 2,285.99
5139	Wy Workers Comp	Workers comp	\$ 253.00
5140	Katie Hepp	Insurance	\$ 464.01
5141	Wy Retirement	Retirement	\$ 1,725.44
5142	Wy Dept of Employment	Unemployment	\$ 22.25
Auto	EFTPS	941 taxes	\$ 2,464.14