

**WARD COUNTY WEED CONTROL BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2024**

Weed Board members present were Shaun Sipma, Jerome Behm, Cale Neshem, Lee Novak and Christopher Rockeman. Also present was Ward County Weed Officer, Derrill Fick and Weed Board Secretary, Sarah Walker.

Chairman Sipma called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Previous Minutes: Rockeman moved and Neshem seconded to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023, with adjustment. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills: The bills were reviewed with Fick providing detail. No action taken.

Cash on Hand: As of February 29, 2024, cash on hand is \$384,771.88. Fick explained there is still \$100,000.00 carryover from 2023. As discussed at the December 2023 meeting, some of the cash on hand will be set aside for the possible purchase of a new truck in 2025.

2024 Chemical Bids: The only bid received was from Wilbur-Ellis. Quotes for chemicals were as follows:

- Tordon = \$55.80/gallon (2023 price = \$53.24)
- Panoramic = \$135.00/gallon and \$134.00/2.5 gallons (no change from 2023)
- Milestone = \$72.50/quart and \$290.00/2.5 gallons (2023 prices = \$70.00/quart and \$280.00/2.5 gallons)

Novak moved and Behm seconded to accept the bid. Motion passed unanimously.

2024-2025 Contractor Bids: The Board received bids from Walker's Landscaping and Wollschlager Services LLC. Quotes as follows:

- Walker's = \$125.00/hour for UTV sprayers and \$180.00/hour for trucks. Services include UTV sprayers, truck sprayers, drone sprayers and trailers for hauling UTVs.
- Wollschlager = \$75.00/hour. Services include one ton spray truck, 300-gallon ROW sprayer, two 30-foot booms, reels, side-by-side with 55-gallon sprayer and two support water tank trailers.

Fick's intention for the 2024 season is to utilize staff for highway, county, and township ROW spraying. He will have two seasonal sprayers for the season.

Rockeman moved and Neshem seconded to accept the contractor bids as provided with the recommendation that staff do more of the spraying on state highways than in previous years. As well, Fick to get a bid or general information for helicopter spraying. Motion passed unanimously.

Review County Noxious Weed List: The North Dakota Department of Agriculture requires county weed boards to review their noxious weed list every five years. Ward County has Scentless Chamomile on their county list. Neshem moved and Novak seconded to maintain the County's list as is.

Update on AARPA project: The money available to the Weed Board is \$10,300.00. The funds were to be used to purchase a drone and water storage tanks. However, there are restrictions on the model of drone Fick intended to purchase. There was discussion to use the AARPA funds for skid sprayers, storage tanks, etc. and to use the \$5,000 TAG funds from the NDDA to be used to purchase the drone. Novak moved and Rockeman seconded to move ahead with the plan as discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: Fick has still been unable to reach the Krebsbach's regarding the noxious weed complaint from Kenney Thomas. Mail was sent to Karen Krebsbach's home address and PO Box and the mail was returned. Fick will try to reach Reo Krebsbach at his Arizona address. If there is no response, the Board will need to proceed with a Right to Control action.

Neshem moved and Rockeman seconded to authorize Fick to purchase a new laptop. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by:

Date Approved: _____

Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman