

Grant County Weed Board Meeting

April 18th, 2023

President Leonard called meeting to order at 8:10 p.m., at the courthouse in Carson. Members Present: Leonard Gerhardt, Morris Haase, Dick Woodbury, Walker Sabin, Denis Tibor and Merlin Leithold, weed officer.

Guests: Corey Palm, Bismarck

Secretary's Report: Dick moved to approve the secretary's report as presented, Drew second the motion, **M/C**.

Treasurer's Report: Merlin reported that we have \$175,886.35 in the fund before tonight's bills. Bills presented tonight: WRT – phone - \$85.24, Visa – building maintenance - \$371.66, Merlin Leithold – mileage - \$610.56, ND Weed Control – pad folios - \$36.00 and Board Salaries - \$ Morris moved to pay bills. Denis seconded the motion. **M/C**

Extension Report: Tessa is in Belcourt this week for training. No report given.

Old Business:

Contract Sprayers: Corey Palm, Bismarck met with the board. He flies drones for spraying. He charges \$15/acre or \$400/hr., depending on the area. He showed the board pictures and videos of his drones and spraying.

Merlin talked to Randy Lyons, and he said that his labor will stay at \$122.50/hr. for 2023.

Merlin feels that there would be room for both. But it is up to the individual landowners to decide. Small and very scattered spots would be better to have Randy, while large acreage and hard to get areas, it would be cost effective to hire Corey.

Merlin will put it in the newsletter and also an ad in the paper.

Other: Merlin checked into the new truck, and it appears that it won't come until late summer. If that's the case, Merlin will hold off on transferring the sprayer and bed to the new truck until after the spraying season.

New Business:

DOT Contract: The contract for 2023 is again \$9,200.00 Morris moved to again spray DOT roads for the state, and get reimbursed. Walker seconded the motion. **M/C**

27th Annual Bug Day: Merlin asked if the board wants to have a bug day again, dependent on bugs. Drew moved to have a bug day. Dick seconded the motion. **M/C**

We will decide on costs for Lorele at the June meeting. Merlin will also talk with Morton County to see whether they want to be included.

Data Logger Grant Program: Merlin explained to the board that there is a grant program through the ND Dept. of Ag. We could upgrade our data logger for around \$2000. Merlin is pushing to have landowner names on the maps. Deadline was April 15th to apply. Not in our budget, can wait. Consensus was to look at it in June, and possibly put it into the budget for 2024.

Next Meeting –June 20th, 2023 MDT, at the courthouse in Carson. (Budget Meeting)

Being no further business, Dick moved to adjourn the meeting, Denis seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Merlin Leithold, Secretary

Leonard Gerhardt, President

