

Grant County Weed Board Meeting

Carson Courthouse

July 20th, 2021

President Leonard called meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Members Present: Leonard Gerhardt, Matt Neiderman, Drew Gaugler, Denis Tibor, Morris Haase, Marty Meyer and Merlin Leithold, weed officer.

Secretary's Report: Drew moved to approve the minutes as presented. Denis seconded the motion, **M/C**.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$152,697.91 in account before tonight's bills. Total bills \$12,397.88 Receipts: \$8,962.24
Bills presented – Cenex Fleet Card – gas - \$369.56, Lorele Leithold – bug day - \$400.00,
Kramer – oil change - \$78.58, WRT – phone- \$85.50, MariAnn Leithold –bug day - \$114.00
Kalyssa Leithold – bug day - \$114.00, Eido Printing – bug day Ad - \$35.00, Grant County News –
bug day ads - \$102.00, Nutrien – chemical - \$11,083.20, FIBT – credit card - \$16.04

Matt moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Morris seconded the motion, **M/C**

Old Business:

Spraying Update: Merlin stated that it has been going slow due to weather. The heat has caused early maturity in the weeds as well. Randy Lyons and crew are starting this week. Quite a bit of work lined up.

Bug Day report: Was a near perfect day weather wise. Over 100 people in attendance. Gave out 2 bag of 3,000 beetles per landowner. 47 received bags. 491,000 beetles collected. Landowners from 09 counties received bugs. 5 county weed officers were in attendance. Also, USDA Aphis had a crew of 4 there, Morton County had a crew of 3 there. NDDA was in attendance. Weed officer from Cass County had his drone taking pictures. Dr. Quincy Law and his fiancé from Fargo were in attendance. He is the NDSU new weed scientist, taking the position formerly held by Dr. Rod Lym, who retired two years ago. Also, a reporter from Farm and Ranch Guide, though not in attendance, plans on doing a story on the counties successful bio days. Adding up over the years, we have collected 7, 333,000 beetles in the 25 years.

Budget: Meeting with county commissioners' tomorrow morning at 11, presenting the budget. Anyone on the board is more than welcome to come.

Other? None

New Business:

Weed Complaints: Merlin said that he was on a site near Raleigh. Leafy Spurge not being controlled. Found spurge beetles were present and working. Recommended that some perimeter spraying be done, and next year put more beetles on the site. Large trees in draw, and they want to keep the trees. Had one other verbal complaint from a written complaint we had couple of years ago. He just wanted to make sure it is still being controlled, which it is. Have had no written complaints yet.

Extension Report: Tessa was unable to make it this evening.

Other? Merlin asked the board what their feelings were concerning the spray truck. It will be 10 years old next year, we have currently 53,000 miles on it. Keep it and eventually start doing extra repairs, or think about getting a new truck, while we still have good resale value on the current one. Question was asked how we could put it into the budget. Merlin said we would have to amend the budget, with approval from the commissioners. Consensus was to start looking into the process, see what the current truck is worth, cost of a new one, cost of switching the sprayer over, whether the flatbed on the current truck could be moved. Merlin will ask the commissioners tomorrow their thoughts, and he will get some rough figures for the September meeting.

Next meeting: September 21, in Carson at 8:00 pm

Being no further business, Morris moved to adjourn the meeting, Drew seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Merlin Leithold, Secretary

Leonard Gerhardt, President