

Grant County Weed Board Meeting

Carson Courthouse

June 15th, 2023

President Leonard called meeting to order at 8:08 p.m. Members Present: Leonard Gerhardt, Morris Haase, Drew Gaugler, Walker Sabin, Dick Woodbury, Denis Tibor and Merlin Leithold, weed officer.

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

Treasurer's Report: We have \$173,341.89 in account before tonight's bills. Total bills \$27,712.03 Receipts: \$38,172.78

Bills presented – Wutzke Electric – repair wire – \$593.28, Visa – credit card – paper & spyware - \$75.77, WRT – phone- \$85.24, Merlin Leithold – mileage - \$235.79, Nutrien – chemical - \$24,413.20, AgTerra – data logger license - \$600.00, Fischer Repair – battery - \$157.88, Eido – cost share ad - \$112.00, GS Publishing – cost share ad - \$108.00, Lorele Leithold – cater bug day - \$650.00, Board salary & per diem – Walker - \$115.61, Dick - \$80.24, Denis - \$140.50, Leonard - \$116.92, Drew - \$125.09, Morris - \$102.51.

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

Extension Report: Tessa could not be here tonight. She plans on coming to bug day.

Old Business:

Spraying Update: Merlin stated that he started spraying highways beginning of June and a couple of county roads. Have not spoken with Randy Lyons. Steven Zenker picked up chemical and has started. Have not heard from Corey with the drones if he had any interest.

New Truck Update: A new truck came in a month back, they said it was hours, but when Merlin got to the dealership, the truck that came in did not have duals. Company mistake. So, truck has been reordered, scheduled to come in around the end of August.

Other? None

New Business:

Budget for 2024: The board worked on the budget for next year. Some line items of note in the budget include Merlin's salary will be increased to \$31,200, adding \$4,000 on equipment line for new data logger, utilizing a special state grant. The budget, total income: \$162,037.54, total expenses: \$162,025.00. Merlin will work with Sara and put in the final numbers in columns that need tweaking. 2024 Budget – Morris moved to approve the budget and allow Merlin to work with Sara to tweak it where needed. Drew seconded the motion. **M/C**

27th Annual Bug Day: (Thursday, June 22nd

). Morton County will pay 50% of advertising in the Eido and lunch. Quite a bit of interest again. Could have a large crowd. Walker moved to pay Lorele \$650 for catering the lunch, because of the added expenses, and pay additional help for sweeping, etc., Denis seconded the motion. **M/C**

Morris moved to pay the help \$15/hour, Walker seconded the motion. **M/C**

Marty has told Merlin that he will have three of his kids to help sweep. Merlin will have his two daughters and his grandson helping. His grandson is 6, not getting paid, just learning this year.

Bad underground wiring at weed building: When the water line was put in last fall, our powerline was uncovered as well, due to the close proximity to the water line. The insulation was compromised, and now it came apart in two places with more suspect to coming apart. Wutzke replaced several feet, but in digging it out, he discovered scoria by the wire. When the hole was filled back in last fall, the scoria, which had been on top, was now down below against the wiring, eating away at the insulation, which when it gets wet, the moisture penetrates into the wire causing it to ground out, exactly what happened now. The consensus of the board is to have Merlin find out what the commissioners think, whether we should replace the line, or wait and see. Question asked, what happens in the middle of winter. Merlin answered that without heat, it could be costly to some equipment and of course chemical. Merlin plans on meeting with the commissioners to get their ideas and to also make them aware of the situation.

Other? None

Next meeting: July 18th, in Carson at 8:00 pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Merlin Leithold, Secretary

Leonard Gerhardt, President