

Grant County Weed Board Meeting

Carson Courthouse

October 18th, 2022

President Leonard called meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Members Present: Leonard Gerhardt, Matt Neiderman, Denis Tibor, Morris Haase, Marty Meyer, Drew Gaugler, Dick Woodbury and Merlin Leithold, weed officer.

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

Treasurer's Report: We have \$111,075.23 in account before tonight's bills. Total bills \$1,058.43 Receipts: \$661.50 Bills presented – Cenex Fleet Card – gas - \$436.90, WRT – phone- \$85.23, Nutrien – chemical - \$8,464.50, Visa – misc. - \$23.52, Cannonball FFA Alumni – booth at Ag day - \$40.00, James Ackerman – cost share - \$205.80, Board salaries - Leonard Gerhardt - \$532.32, Marty Meyer – 232.70, Morris Haase - \$452.46, Denis Tibor - \$446.00, Dick Woodbury - \$329.04, Matt Neiderman - \$347.60, Drew Gaugler - \$483.61.

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

Extension Report: Tessa could not be here, but she did want to invite everyone on the board to the County Ag day which is scheduled for November 1st in Elgin.

Old Business:

Spraying Update: Merlin stated that he has finished all state highways and county roads at least one time across. Around 25 to 30 percent he covered twice. A lot of new growth this fall, especially areas that were hayed earlier in the year. Randy Lyons never did come back like he said that he would. Disappointed in his performance this year, but if he would not have been here, who then. Sprayers are far and in-between. Merlin said that with the drone technology emerging at such a rapid pace, he feels that we will have a drone spraying in the county within several years if not sooner.

Palmer Update: Richard Weisz from the ND Dept. of Ag came down and we again checked the palmer sites in the SE part of the county. The spot in the road ditch east of Raleigh, had a couple of young plants. Merlin gave them a shot of chemical. The site by Shields looked excellent. Found a couple of plants by an inverted tire bale feeder. Hand pulled them, bagged them, and sent them with Richard to be incinerated. Have to closely monitor again in 2023.

Chemical Prices for 2023: In 2023, we will see higher costs for chemical, and tight supplies again.

Other? None

New Business:

Pickup Bids: Merlin received only one bid, and that is from Puklich in Bismarck. Kramer in Mandan withdrew their bid due to availability. Eide Ford in Mandan did not submit a bid. Eide Dodge in Bismarck could only bid the truck retail, which adds nearly \$20,000 to the price, so they did not submit one either.

Puklich bid is \$48,328.00. Merlin stated that this price is subject to manufacturers pricing, and subject to change, no guarantees. Merlin also said that it does fall within our budget price. After some discussion, Matt moved to purchase a truck from Puklich in Bismarck. Drew seconded the motion. **M/C**

Chemical Bids: We will open chemical bids at the March meeting, if there are bids. With the inventory we will be carrying over, requesting a bid in March and not needing chemical until summer may not work, as any bid in March may likely be void 60 days later. Merlin will stay up to date and decide in March what route to take.

Cost Share: Merlin feels that the time has come to eliminate the portion of the cost share where they can pick up chemical from a dealer, and turn in a receipt for cost share. They are lucky to get 50% compared to 70% the direct way. When you figure the ad every year which costs over \$100, Merlin feels it is not worth. This year we had one. Usually that is what we get. Discussion both ways. Will decide next spring.

NDWCA Annual Conference: The annual conference is scheduled for January 2-5, 2023 in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center. The association picks up the registration and room for Merlin & Lorele. Morris moved to pay Merlin's per diem for the conference, and to pay the registration, room and per diem for any board members who wish to attend. Matt seconded the motion. **M/C**

Sponsorship for Coffee: Merlin asked the board if they would be interested in sponsoring \$100 toward the coffee at the conference. Since Merlin has been the association secretary, we have not paid the registration, which added up, has saved the county board over \$1,000. Dick moved that we pay \$100 towards the breaks. Matt seconded the motion. **M/C**

Approval to pay bills: Drew moved to allow Merlin, on the boards' behalf, to submit vouchers to the auditor to pay all bills that may come to the board to be paid. Matt seconded the motion. **M/C**

Board member terms: Two board members terms are expiring at the end of 2022. They are Drew and Matt. Drew indicated that he would like to remain on the board. Matt stated that he has served two terms, and would like to get off the board. He said that Walker Sabin may be interested to be on the board. Merlin will get in contact with him. Morris moved that Merlin send a letter to the county commissioners in support of Drew remaining on the board, and to have Merlin find a replacement for Matt and submit that name as well, and to have Merlin attend the commissioner meeting in support of them. Denis seconded the motion. **M/C**

Leonard thanked Matt for taking time to serve on the weed board.

DuraCor: DuraCor is now called Highnoon as well. Same chemical chemistry, different labels and different names.

DuraCor cannot be sprayed in road right of ways, as the supplemental label for that use has expired. Highnoon carries the full label including road right of ways.

Part of the Bayer Company, which includes the chemicals that we are involved with, mainly Method, has been sold, and that company is called Envu.

Ventenata: This is an invasive grass that cows will not eat. Very invasive. Wyoming and Montana have it, as close as Baker. A lot of information will be given at the annual conference.

Next Meeting: March 21st, 2023, 7:00 pm - Carson

Other? None

Being no further business, Dick moved to adjourn the meeting, Denis seconded the motion. **M/C**
Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Merlin Leithold, Secretary

Leonard Gerhardt, President