



## Ward County Weed Control

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## WEED CONTROL

### WARD COUNTY WEED CONTROL BOARD MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

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

Chairman Sipma called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Previous Minutes: Behm moved and Neshem seconded to approve the previous minutes of June 19, 2023. Sipma called for the vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

Bills: The bills were reviewed with Fick providing detail. Neshem moved and Lee seconded to approve the payment of bills. Sipma called for the vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

Cash on Hand: As of August 31, 2023, cash on hand is \$129,075.53. Sipma asked for projected costs through the end of the year. Fick estimated the remaining amount should be between \$30,000 and \$40,000.00. Sipma asked if there is a possibility to use unspent dollars to pre-buy chemical.

Office Updates: Walker advised the board that weed spraying invoices had been calculated improperly and sent out with the wrong amount. Revised invoices with apologies were sent Tuesday, September 12. Walker also updated the board that the Chairman's should sign the meeting minutes upon approval and the State now requires that draft minutes of the meeting be posted ten days after the meeting date.

Update on Spraying: Fick reported the following:

- 1) Delvin Walter has been spraying county roads and has done some of the township roads as well. There is a possibility that all townships won't be sprayed as county roads need to be sprayed again.
- 2) Fick is also spraying and currently spraying in the Kenmare area to Berthold.
- 3) Dakota Helicopter sprayed 1,800 acres in June. Fick was impressed with the pilot and the speed in which the spraying was completed.
- 4) Drone spraying – a few locations have been lined up for spraying this season, the spraying should be completed in the next few weeks.

Noxious Weed Complaint: Kenny Thomas filed a complaint regarding the lack of spraying on land owned by Karen Krebsbach. Fick reported that he has been to the section in question with Mr. Thomas and has contacted Ms. Krebsbach's son, Reo. Reo indicated that he is not receiving enough rent on the property to cover the cost of spraying. The complaint must be dealt with in 21 days, however, due to the timing of the complaint, action most likely will not happen until Spring 2024. A copy of the letter will be sent to Kenny Thomas as well.

Neshem moved and Lee seconded that Fick prepare proper documentation and notice the Krebsbach's. Sipma called for the vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

ARPA Grant: Fick presented revised budget numbers for the ARPA grant from \$25,000 to \$10,300. The paperwork has been sent to the Auditor's Office and Fick anticipates it will be an agenda item at the October commission meeting.

Additional Discussion: Behm asked if tree spraying has been done. Fick informed the board that he has sprayed some trees with disappointing results. The leaves are turning but the trees are not dying. In the past, the Highway Department has assisted with this but they are short staffed at the time and have not been able to help.

Fick informed the board that the North Dakota Weed Control Association Area III meeting will be in Minot on October 25th and the North Dakota Weed Control Association annual meeting will be January 2nd through 5th in Bismarck. Board members are to let Fick know if they are interested in attending.

There was also discussion regarding the effect on the budget if property taxes are eliminated. Sipma presented some scenarios, but as of yet, there is no true plan about how items will be funded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

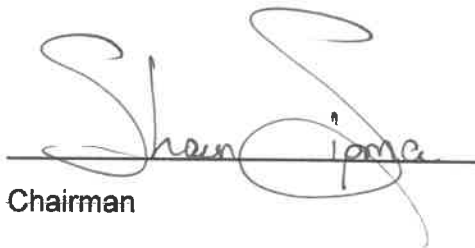
The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by:

Date Approved: 12-18-2023



Secretary/Treasurer



Chairman