



ANNUAL BROWN COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD MINUTES
March 15, 2022

Brown County Courthouse Community Room ~ 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD

Present: Duane Jark, Tyler Bierman, Dennis Feickert, and Chris Hemen- Weed Supervisor.

Tyler Bierman called the meeting to order, Chris Hemen welcomed everyone, introduced the Weed Board and Supervisor, and Tyler Bierman proceeded with the meeting.

The meeting agenda was presented. Dennis Feickert made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Allen Ryckman seconded, motion carried.

The 2021 minutes were presented by Tyler Bierman. Duane Jark made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Dennis Feickert seconded, motion carried.

The new 2022 Weed & Pest Board President/Chairman, Duane Jark was appointed and Dennis Wiedebush was appointed as the Vice President. Dennis Wiedebush has stated he wishes to retire from the board as soon as a replacement can be found. Bill Donaldson of Aberdeen Township has expressed interest in joining the board. Chris Hemen will confirm this and if so, will present to the Brown County commission for a vote.

Chris Hemen gave the supervisor's report. He presented the fiscal report, inspection summary, and annual reports that he is required to submit to the Dept. of Ag each year. He noted that in the fiscal report, the Weed & Pest Dept. was able to recoup \$51,687.75 in expenses to the budget through grants, private spraying, and mosquito control. This in addition to coming in approximately \$23,325 under budget brought Weed & Pest Control's financial burden on the county down to about \$120,500. He also gave a summary of 2021 activities in the department.

Hemen also mentioned that he has been working with the SDSU Ag Extension office in regard to a test plot for yellow toadflax lawn control. There is a lot in Aberdeen that would work, so Hemen spoke with the city and the landowner about this. Everyone is on board so we will be working with SDSU this spring.

It was noted that Brown County Weed and Pest sprayed later in the year thanks to a late frost, but still had 4 townships remaining and the northern 4th of county roads to do. Spring applications seemed to be less effective last year due to drought conditions. We're hoping the late fall moisture will give us a good start this spring so we can get some townships sprayed before spring planting. We may also have to look at splitting townships up into different days to try and get more of them done each year.

Chris Hemen then reviewed the chemical costs and labor and equipment rates for the Townships and mosquito accounts for the upcoming 2022 season. The hourly rate will be staying the same for 2022.

Chemical prices are expected to increase this year, but we have already stocked up on glyphosate for 2022 so we should see minimal impact. The bid for chemicals is set to be opened in 2 weeks.

Chris Hemen then introduced the Weed & Pest employees, Jerry Lehrkamp and Mike Rorhbach. They will be returning from the Highway Dept. this spring and we all look forward to getting back to spraying weeds. He encouraged anyone to feel free to ask any questions or report any problem areas to any of the Weed & Pest employees.

Next, Chris gave an update on the budget for 2022. We are budgeting about the same as last year, but still hoping to come in well under budget providing we don't have any major repairs or other maintenance issues.

Lastly, Chris gave an update on the 2022 spring and summer climate outlook he received from Laura Edwards, state climatologist. Last fall was the 5th wettest on record for us and this should help with spring growth, despite the lack of winter moisture. West river is predicted to be below average moisture, but it's unclear how far east that will extend into Brown County. There is also a slightly increased risk of flooding along the James River valley this spring between Columbia and Stratford.

Old Business:

Duane Jark asked for an update on township bridge spraying. We have been spraying township bridges with dicamba for the last 2 seasons in order to get the broadleaves under control, but still leaving the grass to help stabilize the soil. We plan on spraying bridges again this spring.

New Business:

We received some questions regarding control of cedar trees in the area. They are difficult to control and Dennis Feickert mentioned that they are a designated noxious weed in Nebraska. Other than being uprooted with specialized equipment and burned, cut stump treatment is the next best option. Freshly cut stumps can be painted with Tordon or straight glyphosate to prevent regrowth. Either way, a great deal of manual labor is required.

There was also some discussion about using a controlled burn to help control Canada thistle. This can help, but won't offer any kind of extended control. It works best in conjunction with a chemical application if the burn is done before the plants have seeded out.

Tom Dosch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Schumacher, meeting adjourned.

After the meeting, Jeremiah Phelps from the Department of Ag and Natural Resources gave an update on state and local noxious weeds. He also reviewed some bio control efforts being done in the county for yellow toadflax and leafy spurge.

Respectfully yours,



Chris Hemen
Brown County Weed and Pest