

Judith Basin County Weed Board Minutes

December 18, 2019

Call to order by Jim Kulish at 1:00pm

Present: John Bodner, John McCray, Jim Kulish, Rod Mikkelsen, Lowell Hodge, Josh Thompson, Pam Linker, Jim Moore, Roger Riley, Michelle Lynn, & Katie Hatlelid

Minutes were approved as presented, John B. moved Rod M. 2nd.

No public comment

Old Business:

Board Member Renew – Jim. Kulish is willing to serve another term. The board will recommend he be reappointed to another 5 year term ending in 2024 to the commissioners. Rod Mikkelsen was elected chairman.

Grant Updates – Michelle Lynn reported that she had applied for \$50,000 for the existing Sapphire Village white top grant. Results will be known in late March. John M. moved to continue to use the \$7,500 Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant to compensate Michelle for hours spent writing grants for the board. Motion passed. The Arrow Creek White Top grant discussed in the April meeting did not end up with enough landowner interest to be pursued at this time.

Spray Contract Bids for '20-'21 – The board received two bids, one from current spray contractor Jim Sparks, and one from Monture Creek Land Management, Inc. Dylan E. Brown, President based in Dillon.

- S "N" Weeds LLC, \$100 per unit hour
- Monture Creek, \$85 per unit hour

After discussion that included concerns about proximity to the job and the board being satisfied with the previous work done, John McCray moved (Lowell 2nd) to accept the bid from S "N" Weeds LLC, Jim Sparks, owner. Motion passed.

Budget Update – for FY '19 \$17,724 was spent on chemical, \$24,550 on labor (Sparks' spraying contract). For FY '20 so far, \$14,653 on chemical, \$16,710 on labor, and \$19,669 was spent from the grant money on white top spraying.

New Business:

Weed Management Plan Update – the current plan is good through 12-31-2020.

Bio Control – Katie gave an update on bio control agents including ones for houndstongue, Canada thistle, and white top. Brady Cannon is the Fergus County weed superintendent and is the one to contact for collection days for Leafy Spurge insects on the N – in early July.

Yellow Mignonette – has been observed in Wheatland County, so it is spreading. It has also been observed in hayfields that have been baled for transport out of the county.

Next meeting will be in April.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.