

McKenzie County Weed Board Meeting

November 29th, 2023

McKenzie County Public Works

12th St SE, Watford City, ND 58854

Attending:

Jay Lewis - Darrell Finsaas - Doug Olson – Howdy Lawler - Charles McNaney - Amber Higgins - JoLeen Berdahl

Absent: None

Meeting brought to order @ 8:32am – Jay Lewis

July 26th, 2023 Board Meeting minutes.

*Motion made by: Howdy L to approve the July 26th, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion 2nd by Darrell F.

Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Budget overview – Amber submitted the 2023 YTD budget, 11/06/2023 for the board's review. MCWC is operating at 58%. Cost Share Program is at 83%, with the majority of the expense from the \$30,000 given to the Grazing Association. Reimbursements from the Cost Share program is at \$6,603.75 (without the items submitted at this meeting) Howdy asked about the chemical order and Amber explained it was in preparation for the next season to have on hand to mitigate any order issues in the spring. Amber also submitted the 2024 Weed Control Budget that was approved by the McKenzie County Board of Commissioners.

*Motion made by Doug O. to approve the Treasurer's report.

Motion 2nd by Darrell F.

Motion passed unanimously

Old Business

Hawksbeard listed as a noxious weed –Amber provided a letter from the ND Department of Agriculture adding Narrowleaf Hawksbeard to the McKenzie County Noxious Weed List.

Trailers #711& &13 –Amber presented the MCWB members with the purchase invoice for trailers #713 (14ft) & 711 (16ft) (Heggen Inv #512 – 2/26/10 - \$1,866 & \$2,478.00)) & the current sale prices (14ft- avg. \$3,629 / 16ft-avg.\$5249) of the same trailers that was discussed to be put up for sealed bid auction. It was discussed to put a minimum bid on the trailers @ \$1500.00 for the 14ft PJ Trailer & \$2,000.00 for the 16ft PJ Trailer as they have been well maintained and upgraded and are not year round use.

*Darrell F. made a motion to put the two trailers up for sealed bid auction with the minimum bid price @ \$1500.00 for the 14ft PJ Trailer (VIN 1576) & \$2,000.00 for the 16ft PJ Trailer (VIN

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5323) with an ad to run two (2) times in December 2023 and three (3) times in January 2024 with bids delivered by the 25th of January 2024. Bid award to be announced/opened at the January 31st meeting.

Motion 2nd by Doug O.

Motion passed unanimously

MCWB Member Term – MCWB member Charlie McN. Was asked if he would be completing his term on the MCWB until June 2024. Charlie McN responded that yes he would be fulfilling his term. It was then discussed to find a replacement for his district to be approved by the McKenzie County Commissioners.

ATV #462 – ATV # 462 was taken to O5 Motorsports and the clutch replaced and the unit repaired. The total repair order Inv #48801 was \$1,384.88. The unit is now running and operating correctly.

Other ATV units – All other ATV's and UTV's are operational or are being scheduled for seasonal repairs and maintenance.

New Business

Cost Share Approval – Amber submitted 4 applicants including paperwork for cost share approval:

Carol Freed - \$301.54 – MCWspot spray, chem reimb 80/20

Bo Wright - \$525.12 - MCWspot spray, chem reimb 80/20

Monte Carson - \$300.00 – Chem reimb 80/20

Rolfsrud - \$1328.00 – Chem reimb 80/20

*Howdy L made a motion to approve the submitted cost shares for disbursement.

Motion 2nd by Charlie McN.

Motion passed unanimously

Discussion was held about the utilization of the Cost Share program, the usefulness of the Cost Share program and the benefits. Promotion of the program next season is very important.

2024 NDWCA Conference Transportation – The MDWCA is coming up Jan 2-5th, 2024 Amber explained that transportation is usually by personal vehicle as it is not economical and/or cumbersome to take a weed control truck. Shane in from the Road Dept had mentioned the use of one of their SUV's to take as a better option. The MCWB agreed that it was a better idea to use the county owned vehicle than a personal vehicle.

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Winter Hours – Amber asked if the board if she and JoLeen could continue to keep the hours they had been working during the spray season, 6am to 4pm. Howdy L. thinks they should switch to 6:30am-4:30pm and the other board members agreed.

Monthly Bills

MCWB members reviewed the listing of monthly bills provided by Amber for August 2023-November 2023 as there were no MCWB meetings held during these months.

* Motion by Charlie McN. to approve the August 2023- September 2023- October 2023 – November 2023 bills submitted

Motion 2nd by Darrell F.

Motion passed unanimously

Sprayer Training – Charlie McN. Asked if there was some way to provide more training to seasonal sprayers about weed identification. Charlie had noticed a large spot of Canadian Thistle on Co Rd 50 that was not sprayed. Amber explained the training process and materials (PowerPoint, hands on led training in the field, and NWCDAsprayer class. JoLeen mentioned that she had been the one spraying that area and it was sprayed early in the season and it had not been redone later in the season.

While discussing the road work that was being done this last season and upcoming for 2024 it was discussed to check with Grace in MC Engineering to check if the contractors are providing weed free certification.

Next Meeting: December 20th, 2023 @ 8:30am

**Howdy L. moved to adjourn the meeting @ 11:22am

Motion 2nd by Doug O.

Motion passed unanimously

MCWB Signature _____

Date _____