

Johnson County Weed & Pest Control

Minutes

July 2, 2024

Budget Hearing

Start time 4:59 pm

Stop time 5:43 pm

Next meeting Aug 8th, 5 pm

Attendees: Scott Rogers, Board Chairman
Tyler Benton, Vice Chairman
Randy Hepp

Dick Gould
Nathan Williams
Allen Buff, District Supervisor

Absent: Crystal Zimmerschied, Office Manager

Budget Hearing:

- Allen explained the budget in detail with questions from the board.
- Allen and Scott reported they met with the Commissioners to request the 2 mills and go over the budget with them, with no objection. The hearing was a success. The Commissioners were interested in the ongoing battle with spurge. They had some concerns with Ventenata and the possibility of it spreading further. Weed Bounty was also a discussion. Allen reported the success of the program and the unexpected growth.
- There being no protestants or members of the public present, the hearing was closed and regularly scheduled meeting opened.

Minutes:

- Minutes of the last meeting – Tyler moved to approve the June 6th minutes as written, with a second by Randy, motion passed unanimously.
- Approve financial statements – Allen gave an overview of the financial statements from both companies, as well as the budgeted to actual statement. Randy moved to approve the financial statements after some discussion, with a second by Nathan, motion passed unanimously.
- Payment vouchers – No concerns were raised as the only payment to be made was to Frontier. Dick moved to approve payment of the bills as written, Tyler seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Activity Report: Allen reported that June has been a very busy month. The Helicopters were in full swing, and the contractors were working great. The backpack crew was amazing. The spurge is worse than it has been in the last 2 years. More chemicals have been needed to treat the spurge. Keeping helicopters supplied with chemicals has been a huge project. The auditor came for the inventory audit as well.

- Closing of the Fiscal year books: Allen reported that the closing of the books for fiscal year 22/23 has been a lot of work. Crystal has been working very hard getting everything organized. There had been some struggles with vendors and weed bounty that had slowed down the process, but it did get completed.
- Grasshoppers 2025 “Start Discussion”: Allen wanted input and discussion about past programs with grasshoppers for next year’s grasshoppers. Allen believes that the hoppers will be bad next year and wants to start planning for next year. A lot of discussion was had about funding from different agencies and what to expect. It was expressed that Allen should reach out to APHIS and BLM. There was also discussion about setting up a landowner meeting during the winter with APHIS to discuss what needs to be done and how to proceed. Allen will be meeting with Bruce Schambaugh on July 9th to help do some surveys and discuss planning for 2025.

New Business:

- Weed Bounty: Allen reported that there was a concern about the Weed Bounty and the growth of the program this year. 9000 pounds were pulled all season last year. As of June 30, the bounty has produced over 13,000 pounds. Allen asked for a motion to approve doubling the amount of money that the district has set aside for the bounty from \$3000 to \$6000. Allen has asked the other cooperators to double up as well. Allen said next year he is going to apply for a SAC grant to help pay for the bounty and he will research the availability of more funding. There was a motion by Nathan and second by Tyler to double the district’s contribution to the Weed Bounty from \$3000 to \$6000. Motion passed.
- Inventory Audit July 2nd: Allen reported that the inventory went good with the auditor. The auditor took inventory on 4 specific products. There were no discrepancies found in the county’s inventory.
- Pesticide Inspection July 11th: Allen reported there will be a visit from the WY Department of Agriculture chemical inspector on July 11.
- Set date for board tour: The board discussed what they would like to see for the board tour. There were many ideas with spurge and Russian olive and salt cedar. The board decided that they would like to see Ventenata. Allen suggested that we get with Walker Billings in Sheridan County and have an educational tour along the border of the county lines. The date was set for August 8 at noon and after the tour they will have their normally scheduled board meeting to follow at 5pm.

Next Meeting:

August 8, 2024 5:00 pm