

Board Signatures

Johnson County Weed & Pest Control

Minutes

September 5, 2024

Johnson County Public Library

Public Interest Meeting (House Draw Fire/Invasive Grasses: 5:03pm - 6:30 pm

Regular meeting: Start time 6:53pm Stop time 7:34pm

Next meeting Oct 10th, 4 pm (NOTE NEW TIME)

Attendees: Scott Rogers, Board Chairman
Tyler Benton, Vice Chairman
Allen Buff, District Supervisor
Crystal Zimmerschied, Office Manager

Dick Gould
Nathan Williams

Also Attending Regular Meeting: Lindsey Woodward, Wyoming Dept. of Ag.; Walker Billings, Sheridan County W&P District Supervisor.; Claire Volk, AgSyn Representative.

Absent: Randy Hepp

Also Attending Public Interest Meeting: 32 Landowners, chemical reps, Special Districts, County and State Officials, see attached list.

Minutes:

- Minutes of the last meeting – August 8, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Nathan moved to approve as written with a second by Tyler. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approve financial statements – Allen and Crystal gave an overview of the financial statements from both companies, as well as the budgeted to actual statement. Dick moved to approve the financial statements after some discussion, with a second by Tyler, motion passed unanimously.
- Payment vouchers – No concerns over the payment vouchers were expressed. Tyler moved to approve payment of the bills as written, Nathan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Activity Report: Allen reported the District and applicators have finished spraying. Mostly because everyone ran out of time and not all spraying was done. Some applicators were starting prairie dogs, others will start prairie dogs after they get back from hunting. Allen is starting to plan Salt Cedar and Russian Olive with the expectation the ditch will get shut down soon and the district will be able to finish it this year. Kelvin

is planning to come back and help the district. Kevin Lund said at the end of the last season he wouldn't do it anymore.

- The Area 2 meeting was informative. The districts had similar situations fighting the very dry conditions and extensive amounts of weeds. Sheridan and Johnson Counties were the only ones that had returning high schoolers to spray.
- Fall Conference is October 28-31, and all board members are invited. Scott said he planned to attend, and Allen said he'd get them both hotel rooms.

New Business:

- Emergency Declaration of Cheat Grass is on the table with the public request for action due to the recent House Draw Fire. Lindsey stated the declaration would have a 1-year sunset date unless the State decides to declare it, in which case it would automatically be removed from County designation. She also stated the declaration could be revoked easily at any time with a single motion at a regular board meeting. It was asked what the requirements would be to have it declared and designated. Lindsey stated a program would need to be in place and stated her program with Russian Olive was based upon the amount of grant money that was received. Landowners had to come in and sign up and once the money was gone, the program ended for the year. She also stated she did not use any of the regular district money for the program. Walker stated his program only costs around \$5000 because he has a 50/50 cost share on chemical. He has calibrated equipment available that must be used, and landowners were limited to 100 acres. He said many do not want to come in because the expense is so high. Tyler moved to have cheat grass declared in Johnson County on an emergency basis, Nathan seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- There were two bids for the F-450. Dick moved to approve WyoDak Energy LLC's bid of \$20,500.00 as it was the higher bid. Tyler seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Discussion occurred regarding the invoicing and postponing late charges for those affected by the House Draw Fire as many of the 80 landowners affected received spraying services from the district. It was agreed a letter would go out with all invoices to have landowners contact us if they were affected and to give us planned dates of payment. Late charges would be postponed as long as the invoices were paid by May 1, 2025. Dick moved to postpone the late charges, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

October 10, 2024 4pm (new time, back to Fall hours, as discussed)

Board Members

Scott Rogers
Ray Hill
Dick Gould

Notes from the Special Public Interest Meeting:

- JCWP will have an emergency declaration of Cheat Grass completed by the end of the evening to have the ability to get funding and treat cheat grass after the fire.
- Allen applied for a WNRT grant and is competing with other counties.
- JCWP is still evaluating where to spray, which depends upon monies received.
- The plan is to use chemicals that target multiple species including ventenata. Rejuvra and plateau.
- Fire isn't new, need to wait for new growth and see what comes in before acting. There are also priority areas to focus on where cheatgrass and ventenata was before the fire.
- Rejuvra is a seedling regrowth inhibitor and may damage new growth if applied too early.
- Whole county is affected directly or indirectly.
- Hay donations can affect the new growth and possibly new weeds we haven't seen before.
- Aerial is most cost effective. Fixed wing more so than helicopter but depends upon the terrain.
- Landowners need to think about their goals and questions to bring to the agencies.
- Nathan mentioned being intentional about grazing practices.
- The question was raised if BLM will defer grazing and if this is a new normal, all depends upon the precipitation and timing of it.
- After another fire, Canadian thistle was extremely prevalent, hit it hard, but waste of time because it was pushed out the next year by perennial grasses.
- BLM has 21 days to plan and get funding with a 5 year prioritization schedule.
- BLM has data they are calling on for prior fire areas but can extrapolate info for the private landowners. They have a national team that gets the data pulled and just completed data pull from Oregon.
- Brian Mealor is planning a post recovery tour in late October when he gets back.
- The sage grouse corridor was being protected and is in the center of what was burned.
- Direct appropriations at the State level for funding is being explored per Novotny. However, we are competing with Campbell County and Sheridan County for the funds.
- Crago mentioned 5 waivers they applied for and trying to get WNRT funds increased.
- There is a joint Ag meeting on Tues and Wed with a post fire meeting on Wed at 10am at the admin building for the school district.
- It is believed the fire burned hotter on the Southern end than the Northern end which will change the landscape even more.
- Rejuvra is very expensive at \$1100/gal and won't be able to reseed for at least 3 years.
- The landowners are prioritizing cattle placement, fencing, then invasive species.
- Micah is sending a needs assessment survey and will add a question about cheat grass interest.
- Big Horn Airways said will use about 5 gal/acre and fixed wing is probably \$13/acre with helicopter \$25/acre. They do have resources to bring in more applicators, though, as does Shay.
- CCCD said they plan to use their money to fill gaps between cost shares and what the ranchers can afford.
- CCCD has a tour for ventenata planned on the 25th.

Johnson County Weed & Pest (General)

Payment Voucher for Month

September 5 through October 10, 2024

10/09/24
Cash Basis

Date	Num	Name	Original Amount	Paid Amount
ANB Bank Accounts				
General - 4933				
09/10/2024	17607	Wyoming Dept. of Transportation	-90.00	-90.00
09/10/2024	17608	Wa-hoo Lickers, Inc	-40.00	-40.00
09/17/2024	17609	Amazon	-171.47	-171.47
09/17/2024	17610	Atlas Premier Services	-194.48	-194.48
09/17/2024	17611	Big Horn CO-OP	-509.95	-509.95
09/17/2024	17612	Buffalo Bulletin	-45.00	-45.00
09/17/2024	17613	Montana Dakota Utilities	-20.28	-20.28
09/17/2024	17614	Rocky Mountain Power	-120.03	-120.03
09/18/2024	17615	MTR Ranch Supply	-5,321.57	-5,321.57
09/27/2024	17616	Wyoming Worker's Comp	-154.05	-154.05
09/27/2024	17617	Cundall, Crystal	0.00	0.00
09/27/2024	17619	Wyoming Retirement System	-1,838.73	-1,838.73
09/30/2024	EFT	IRS 941 Tax	-745.88	-745.88
09/30/2024	17618	Cundall, Crystal	-4,502.06	-4,502.06
09/30/2024	17620	Amazon	-66.22	-66.22
09/30/2024	17621	South Dakota Department Of Agr...	-44,400.00	-44,400.00
09/30/2024	17622	Spectrum	-139.98	-139.98
09/30/2024	17623	Ultimate Outdoors	-624.63	-624.63
09/30/2024	17624	Buff-Lease	-725.00	-725.00
10/03/2024	17625	R&A Safety	-90.50	-90.50
10/03/2024	17626	MTR Ranch Supply	-15,684.48	-15,684.48
10/05/2024	17457	Thane Zickefoose - Phone & truck	0.00	0.00
10/07/2024	17627	Visa	-199.06	-199.06
10/08/2024	17628	Montana Dakota Utilities	-23.36	-23.36
10/08/2024	17629	Cortez Trucking LLC	-2,100.00	-2,100.00
10/09/2024	17630	Rocky Mountain Power	-87.85	-87.85
Total General - 4933				-77,894.58
Total ANB Bank Accounts				-77,894.58
TOTAL				-77,894.58

Boord

DAB
RJH

Johnson County Weed & Pest (Leafy Spurge)

Payment Voucher for Month

September 2024

10/09/24

Cash Basis

Date	Num	Name	Original Amount	Paid Amount
ANB Bank Accounts				
ANB - LS 9751				
09/18/2024	5363	MTR Ranch Supply	-4,001.95	-4,001.95
09/30/2024	5364	Buff, Allen R	-4,301.50	-4,301.50
09/30/2024	5365	Empower Trust Com...	-550.00	-550.00
09/30/2024	EFT	IRS 941 Tax	-1,031.00	-1,031.00
09/30/2024	5366	Wyoming Worker's ...	-158.00	-158.00
Total ANB - LS 9751				-10,042.45
Total ANB Bank Accounts				-10,042.45
TOTAL				-10,042.45

Board initials

*AR
RJH*