

Johnson County Weed & Pest Control

Minutes

October 10, 2024

Start time 3:59pm

Stop time 5:30pm

Attendees: Scott Rogers, Board Chairman Dick Gould
Randy Hepp Allen Buff, District Supervisor
Crystal Zimmerschied, Office Manager

Absent: Tyler Benton, Vice Chairman
Nathan Williams

Minutes:

- Minutes of the last meeting – September 5, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Randy moved to approve as written with a second by Dick. 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. Of concern, the year-to-date taxes collected by the county and paid to JCWP are only 60% of what they should be now. Dick moved to approve the financial statements after some discussion, with a second by Randy, motion passed unanimously.
- Payment vouchers – No concerns over the payment vouchers were expressed. Randy moved to approve payment of the bills as written, Dick seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Activity Report: Allen reported the Recycling truck will be back around Monday since there were a couple counties that didn't get to leave their jugs and barrels as the truck was full. Allen stated we are on track to start Salt Cedar and Russian Olive soon. Some talk has started regarding rewriting the programs or at least making sure there are boundaries and clarifications. Allen plans to get help from Lindsey from the state as she was the Hot Springs District Supervisor for many years. Allen attended the State Joint Ag meeting in Buffalo and stated most of it didn't pertain to Weed and Pest but he was glad to see other agencies discussion and understands there could be a trickle effect with the Weed and Pest and other Ag agencies.
- Cheatgrass/County Assessment: There has still been lots of talk in the Weed and Pest about Cheatgrass being on the list for discussion at fall conference. Park and Big Horn companies have a quarantine in place that would make them financially bankrupt if they had to treat Cheatgrass. The county offices are divided on the issue. JCWP will still vote no at the fall conference. The Johnson County Commissioners also voted No at their annual state meeting and reportedly wanted to vote in alignment with JCWP. There was a report by Park County that the Johnson County assessments are up 40% but collected

mil levy taxes are still decreasing. Allen has a call to Bill Novotny to check on that information.

- Fall Conference is October 28-31, and all board members are invited. Scott and Allen are attending.
- House Fire update: There is a shortage of Rejuvra as the chemical company is trying to rebrand it or relabel and there are hopes it will be available in large quantities next year once evaluations can be done to see what might need treated. Ventenata can be treated in the fall. There is another meeting/tour next week, but the agenda is Sage Brush habitat restoration and the Dept of Agriculture NRCS supervisors will be there. Scott suggested again, for Allen to think about hiring an assistant supervisor so he (Allen) could focus on fire efforts. Especially considering there may be big grasshopper year next summer. Dick mentioned reevaluating and reallocating the other programs and decreasing their coverage due to the limited budget available after this last summer. There is still a chance grants will be awarded for the fire but that is unknown at this time, and it may not be enough to warrant extra personnel in the office. With the mil levies constantly decreasing, the budget is of extra concern.
- Board member expirations: Scott Rogers, Randy Hepp, and Nathan Williams are up in 2025. Scott has stated he will do at least one more term since there is so much going on and doesn't want to have such a huge change until some of the large issues are resolved. Randy did not comment on his but asked about the paperwork to get the signatures. Nathan was absent and will be approached later about his intentions.

New Business:

- ZP Oats/Rebate program: There have been a lot of acres treated by the applicators that reportedly add up to over 10,000 acres. Scott stated the budgeted amount available used to be divided up depending upon how many acres passed and not at a set \$5/acre as was done last year. This also goes back to clarifying the programs and creating boundaries. Scott also expressed concerns that the fire has caused people to throw ZP out on the black just to make sure nothing comes back even if there wasn't an infestation before. This discussion has been tabled until a later date and after evaluation of program clarification.
- County Resolutions: Allen went over what other counties were hoping to get approved for declaration. Nothing abnormal was listed and Allen is of the mindset that if the County wants to treat it and they have the money, he will support their personal opinions as it doesn't affect JCWP like a State Designation would.
- End of December schedule and the lack of customers that call or come into the office around Christmas. The board agreed it was perfectly acceptable to close the office for the two weeks starting December 23rd through January 3rd and return to the office January 6th. Allen stated he would post his phone number and be available on an on-call basis.
- Dick moved to close the meeting at 5:30pm and Randy seconded it, motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

November 7, 2024, 4pm (new time, back to Fall hours, as discussed)

