

# Johnson County Weed & Pest Control

## Minutes

November 7, 2024

Start time 4:00pm

Stop time 5:03pm

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

Absent: Nathan Williams

### Minutes:

- Minutes of the last meeting – October 10, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Dick 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. Of concern, the year-to-date taxes collected by the county and paid to JCWP are at a deficit of 65.78% of what they should be now. Randy 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, Dick seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

### Old Business:

- Activity Report: Allen reported the Recycling truck came back around. Washakie County brought their over, as well. Lots of Prairie dogs have been baited and poisoned with the ZP Oats. The program will need to be evaluated with the thousands of acres treated and the high cost of the rebate. Crystal said she went through all the state sales tax returns and resubmitted them on an accrual basis. It cost another \$800 in sales tax and only \$50 in fees and interest assessed, which wasn't so bad. Scott asked if it was just passed over and thought the exempt status created some confusion before. Crystal knew the returns were being made but there has been confusion as to what should be taxed and that even though the government entity is tax exempt, there are still "use taxes". She will need to get with the sales tax people at the state to clarify a few things, such as paying sales tax on the ZP oats where they are being given away.
- Fall Conference is October 28-31. Scott and Allen attended. Neither were happy with the Cheatgrass vote and subsequent passing at the W&P Council level. However, the Department of Agriculture still must approve or deny it and won't look at it until March 2025. Allen said it was a good idea to have an idea of a program and that putting money into grazing education workshops in the spring and fall might be the best course of

action. Scott mentioned some counties plan to go to spraying and Allen stated some counties have already been chipping away at it. The programs will be discussed more later. Scott maintained it was a bad precedent the W&P Council had by handing down a requirement for the counties to treat cheatgrass instead of the desire originating at the county levels. The financial implications to the seed producing counties are very detrimental and there are counties on the state boundaries, such as Crook, that are surrounded by other states that do not treat it and create a losing battle. The hope is to get the landowners to commit to correcting the cheatgrass problem through education, grazing, and spraying as the last action. The board understands the spraying of Rejuvra is cost prohibitive and the long term effects aren't yet known as it hasn't been around long enough.

- House Draw Fire update: There was a meeting with Bob Bud regarding the grant Allen applied for. The numbers weren't set but Bob mentioned only giving JCWP up to \$400k for now as the grant was designed for the other invasive grasses like ventenata and medusa head. It was unknown how much JCWP would actually be able to get though as no commitments were made. However, the plan was to get other money specifically for fire restoration and to roll the grant request into those monies, if any are granted by the state or feds.
- Lindsey will be here November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> to help look at the programs and to help set boundaries and tighten them up. The programs can't sustain at this rate. The plan is to have rough drafts for the December meeting to consider until the January meeting.
- 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 and Scott both obtained the paperwork to get the signatures. Nathan was absent and Allen will contact him about his intentions as the paperwork will be due late December to the County Commissioners.

### **New Business:**

- Nothing needing motions currently.

### **Next Meeting:**

December 5, 2024, 4pm