

The following are "unofficial minutes", subject to change at the next meeting.

PEMBINA COUNTY WEED BOARD

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February 2, 2021

8:00 AM

Pembina County Weed Board met at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Jim Benjaminson, Nick Rutherford, Huh Ralston and Andrew Kirking, Weed Officer. Available by telephone: Hetty Walker. Absent: Laverne Doyle.

Vice-Chairman Rutherford called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the February 20, 2018 Weed Board Minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Andrew stated there were just over 4000 acres of roadside ditches sprayed this past season. There were 1,833 acres of county roads, 1,984 acres of township roads and 533 acres of federal and state highways sprayed this season. Reimbursement from the State for roadside spraying was not received for 2019 or 2020. Andrew reached out to the Grand Forks division and they will be reimbursing Pembina County for the 2020 spraying costs. Andrew will contact them regarding reimbursement of the 2019 spraying costs.

Andrew discussed the Landowner Assistance Program (LAP). This program allows landowners to apply for up to \$600.00 in reimbursement for controlling weeds on their property. Landowners received \$7,964.00 in reimbursement for the 2019-2020 seasons. Pembina County received \$8,500.00 in LAP grant funding for the 2021-2022 seasons.

The annual Weed survey was completed and will be submitted to the State for review. The survey allows Pembina County to apply for the Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG), which is used to purchase spraying equipment.

Andrew discussed Leafy Spurge and Palmer Amaranth. Palmer Amaranth is not found in Pembina County as of now. Andrew is working closely with Madeleine Smith, NDSU Extension ANR agent, to keep an eye out for areas of Palmer Amaranth. There has been a lot of success in eradicating Leafy spurge and thistle in the roadways, with the highway crew deserving a great deal of credit for keeping the ditches mowed. Andrew has also been working with Dakota

Northern Railroad to keep their maintenance on top of the weed issues along the railway north of Cavalier.

Discussion followed on township weed maps that are sent to all townships with their annual reports. Andrew asks each township to notify him of areas to spray and areas to avoid spraying.

Commissioner Ralston asked if Andrew would be getting flea beetles to help reduce leafy spurge. Andrew did not see great success in using flea beetles, but is not opposed to individual landowners using them to help with controlling leafy spurge.

The spraying contract with J & J Spraying remains in effect for another season and will be revisited in 2022.

Andrew requested permission to begin taking shifts on ambulance calls. Commissioner Benjaminson stated he did not have an issue with it as long as it does not interfere with his job at the county. Commissioner Walker stated that as long as the ambulance does not interfere with his job....his job comes first, she is okay with the request. Andrew is to notify the Auditor's Office or Human Resources if he is called out during regular working hours and will need to use vacation time for the hours he is gone during his regular working hours. Motion made by Hugh Ralston to grant Andrew permission to serve on the ambulance as long as it does not interfere with his position with the county and it will be revisited in a year unless issues arise earlier. Seconded by Jim Benjaminson. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.