

Weed Board  
Secretary Report  
March 18, 2016

The Grant County Weed Board met on March 18, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Extension Office, Courthouse basement. The meeting was called to order by Tom Wollschlager, secretary's report was reviewed. David Kruger move to approve minutes, seconded by Roger McCulloch, motion passed. Nathan Mueller, weed supervisor presented a copy of the budget to board members. Nathan noted they are in the midst of updating computer software, so number may be inaccurate. Total weed budget is \$95,806; \$14,750 budgeted for weed control chemicals. He said there was \$18,404 in grants received and \$31,375 for 2014 spraying. Also, the South Dakota Weed & Pest Control Commission approved funding of \$6,100 to Grant County.

**Old Business:**

Nathan reported that he sprayed 9 townships last year, including Adams, Alban, Georgia, Grant Center, Madison, Melrose, Stockholm, Troy, Twin Brooks, and Vernon. He cover 3,400.5 miles and also noted he did spot spraying for Melrose with Tordon in the fall for trees. Also, he fogged mosquitos for Revillo, Marvin, Twin Brooks, Big Stone, Stockholm, Albee and Summit.

Nathan, along with Mike Shaffer attended and gave an update from Weed and Pest Conference in Aberdeen February 16-19. Nathan explained for grant purposes need to send at least two people from each county. Nathan stated the District 1 meeting was held in Watertown where Robert Mueller was in attendance with Nathan.

Nathan updated the weed board and Steve Mullengraf, Codington County Weed Supervisor and Bob Feldhaus, Hamlin County Weed Supervisor also in attendance, about the recent purchase of a Kubota UTV. He worked with Steve for a bid through Hurkes Implement. The Kubota holds a 100 gallon tank. Nathan commented that it assisted with getting into places that can't with the book or boomless. He also noted he used it near the interstate.

There was discussion about the new road signs and the impact that it will have for the care of spraying. Nathan also informed the Weed Board from the recent Township meeting, Sheriff Kevin Owen mentioned about Shake-N-Bakes and people are deposing drugs in road ditches, to keep an eye out for hazardous material.

**New Business:**

Nathan accepted Robert Mueller's letter of retirement from the Grant County Weed Board. He informed the board that Joel O'Brien will fill his spot on the board.

Nathan commented this year thus far Adams, Melrose, Twin Brooks, and Vern townships have requested to be sprayed this year. He is still accepting applications from townships for 2016 spray season.

District 1 Meeting will be held in Watertown at the Codington County Extension Office in October and Weed & Pest Conference will be held in Huron mid-February. Board members were encouraged to attend and notify Nathan if interested.

Nathan gave a Zika-virus mosquito control update. He demonstrated on to the board the process he does for grant process. He begins trapping, then freeze, sorts and counts for report to Department of Health. He noted there are 42 different varieties of mosquitos in South Dakota. With the Zika-virus, mosquitos are day time eaters versus night time eaters, which we mostly have.

He also reported there was a case of leafy spurge and they killed the leafy spurge with beetles near the Otter Tail Power Plant. Now they have a large thistle issue. Paul Johnson from SDSU created test plot, and Nathan and Steve have been observing and rating with different trails of chemicals.

David Kruger made a motion to adjourn meeting. Joel O'Brien seconded.