

The Grant County Weed Board met on March 9, 2017 at 9 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 Joel O'Brien, motion passed. Nathan Mueller, weed supervisor presented a copy of the budget to board members. Total weed budget is \$95,806; \$15,250 budgeted for weed control chemicals. There was discussion on increasing the chemical budget, and Nathan mentioned he has been trying. 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 11 townships last year, including Adams, Alban, Big Stone, Georgia, Grant Center, Madison, Melrose, Stockholm, Troy, Twin Brooks, and Vernon. He cover 3,556.5 miles, spraying 2-4D and Tordon. Also, he fogged mosquitos for Revillo, Marvin, Twin Brooks, Big Stone, Stockholm, Albee and Summit. Bill Street mentioned of using Tordon on everything, and Nathan stated Tordon has a residual. In addition, it was asked about spraying the western part of the county. Nathan mention they take care of their own ditches.

Nathan, along with Blain Gatz attended and gave an update from Weed and Pest Conference in Huron February 21-24. Nathan explained for grant purposes need to send at least two people from each county. Nathan mentioned there was good presenters. Nathan stated the District 1 meeting was held in Watertown where Blain Gatz was in attendance with Nathan. Nathan briefly informed the board of the Zika-virus. He shared the side efforts and briquettes for stock dams. He has fogged Stockholm Twin Brooks, Marvin and Melrose. Other towns have invested in their own foggers. Nathan shared with the board that he sent flowers on behalf of the board to Robert Mueller's funeral.

**New Business:**

Paul Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator was in attendance and shared with the board the results of plots near the Otter Tail Power Plant at the end of the meeting. There were 50 people in attendance for the tour. There is now a growth of Big Blue Stem. There was a brief discussion about possible construction of railroad now.

Nathan commented this year thus far Twin Brooks have requested to be sprayed this year. He is still accepting applications from townships for 2017 spray season. Nathan commented he will do a blanket spraying and followed by spot spraying.

District 1 Meeting will be held in Stratford in October and Weed & Pest Conference will be held in Rapid City mid-February. Board members were encouraged to attend and notify Nathan if interested. We must send two people in order to receive grants. Paul Johnson chimed in saying attending conferences is a great networking opportunity as there are many county board members present.

Nathan shared an update at the State Conference on being honored as an outstanding contributor.

Nathan shared a list of locally noxious weed and declared pest. He shared that a notice of responsibility to control noxious weeds and declared pests is published in media outlets. Bill Street inquired if Spotted Knapweed is revitalized. Nathan commented it blew in from the railcars in Summit and east side of the county. Dave Kruger moved to approve the locally noxious weed list. Joel O'Brien seconded, motion carried.

There was an update from last year's meeting in executive session. There was an enforcement given to an individual. Tom Wollschlager mentioned there is another individual with CRP that needs attention. Paul shed light on the enforcement of individual. Each county FSA officer has their own jurisdiction. Paul mention an example in a county if there is trees that it wouldn't be considered as farmland. Robert Feldhaus, Hamlin County Weed Supervisor mentioned if a farmer has government assistance with CRP must maintain pasture land as well.

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