

Weed Board  
Secretary Report  
March 21, 2024

The Grant County Weed Board met on March 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grant County 4-H Complex. The meeting was called to order by David Kruger. Present were David Kruger, Joel O'Brien, Tom Wollschalger, Sara Koepke, Steve Molengraaf, Misty Moser, Eric Jones, Jeremiah Phelps, William Street, and Nathan Mueller. Secretary's report was reviewed. Motion to approve by Wollschalger, seconded by O'Brien, motion passed. Nathan Mueller, Grant County Weed Supervisor presented a copy of the 2024 financial summary to board members. Total weed budget is \$124,331.00; Mueller shared the new spray truck that was purchased. There was discussion about how technology has increased with spraying with individuals using drones. Street moved to accept budget information, seconded by Wollschalger.

**Business Items:**

Jeremiah Phelps, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SDDANR) addressed a question from Street about who is responsible for taking care of the right aways. Phelps said that the county is responsible for taking care of the noxious weeds designated. Then conversation turned into trees in fence line, Phelps suggested to determine if the fence line is on the county or landowner property. Mueller said as a county weed supervisor, he cannot spray outside of the right-away zone. The board said it would be ideal for the county highway department to remove those trees in the ditches. Kruger said that the county is responsible would be responsible and not a county weed board issue.

Phelps shared the background of the SDDANR. He addressed why noxious weeds are not on the list. Noxious weeds need to meet all characteristics as a state law. He gave a brief background of all the state noxious weeds. He mentioned that Nathan has been active with assisting in collections; without collections the SDDANR is unable to get them to suitable landowners. He shared some noxious weeds to watch for Wild Parsnip, Yellow Bluestem, and Ventenata.

Eric Jones, SDSU Extension Weed Management Field Specialist shared *Transitioning Perspectives: From Row Crop to Rangeland Weed Control*. He shared insight on herbicide-resistant weeds with scientific data. He emphasized that collaboration of SDSU Extension, SDDANR, and county weed supervisors will help tackle the noxious weed issues.

Mueller reported that he sprayed 11 townships last year, including Adams, Alban, Big Stone, Georgia, Grant Center, Madison, Melrose, Stockholm, Twin Brooks, Troy, and Vernon. He covered 2,998 miles, spraying 2-4D and Tordon. The township spraying rate increased from \$66 to \$100/hour, plus chemical cost. Mueller noted that county's legal notice for responsibility to control noxious weeds and declared pests has been published in the newspaper.

O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Street seconded. Motion passed.