



ANNUAL BROWN COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD MINUTES

March 12, 2019

***Brown County Courthouse Community Room ~ 25 Market Street, Aberdeen,
SD***

Present: Duane Jark, Troy Knecht, and Chris Hemen- Weed Supervisor.

Duane Jark called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, introduced the Weed Board and Supervisor, and proceeded with the meeting.

The meeting agenda was presented. Larry Stroschein made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Owen Elsen, seconded, motion carried.

The 2018 minutes were presented by Duane Jark. Troy Knecht made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Matt Keates, seconded, motion carried.

The new 2019 Weed & Pest Board President/Chairman, Duane Jark was appointed and Mark Hoven was appointed as the Vice President.

Chris Hemen presented the 2019 budget. No major equipment purchases are expected.

Supervisor report, chemical costs, labor & equipment for the townships and mosquito accounts were discussed for the 2019 spraying season. Chris Hemen presented a summary of 2018 activities in the department. It was noted that Brown County Weed and Pest sprayed approximately 750 miles of township roads, as well as some private acreages for noxious weeds. Brown County Weed and Pest also handled 16 accounts for mosquito fogging, plus 5 accounts for misting. We were attended the spurge beetle collection day and had beetle releases throughout the county. Information was handed out at the Weed and Pest Booth at the Brown County Fair, and we had a lot of people visit. One visitor at the fair booth reported salt cedar in the northern part of the county. We inspected and did find 3 salt cedar trees, which were cut down and stump treated with glyphosate. The area will be monitored throughout 2019.

Chris Hemen reviewed the chemical costs and labor and equipment rates for the Townships and mosquito accounts for the upcoming 2019 season. It was mentioned that Brown County Weed and Pest spot sprayed for noxious weeds with three Right-of-way trucks. Brown County Weed and Pest now has three mosquito units available for fogging mosquitoes. We also have 2 Kubota's and 1 ATV. We are now on our 2nd year with the data loggers and they continue to help us with drift complaints.

Chris then reviewed plans for the upcoming spraying season. He stated that due to the abnormally dry spring and early frost in the fall, township ROW spraying wasn't as successful as he had hoped. Therefore, he plans to focus on spraying townships as soon as they want it. He asks that the township official in charge of weed control please contact him at least a day in advance to set up a time. He also asks that everyone please keep in mind that we can't spray over water or next to sensitive crops.

In addition to focusing on township roads, we will also make township bridges a higher priority in 2019. We will only be spraying a broadleaf herbicide to help control kochia and other weeds, while leaving the grass in place to help protect the integrity of soil around the abutments.

We also used grant money from the Department of Health to replace one of our aging mosquito foggers. We hope to replace our last fogger with grant money this year.

Lastly, Chris gave an update on information he received at Weed & Pest conference regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. It has been confirmed in the Sioux Falls area and is expected to spread throughout the entire state. Trees can be treated at an approximate cost of \$200+ per tree, with treatments needed every other year. It is suggested that shelterbelts, boulevard trees, and parks have their ash trees replaced as soon as possible to give new trees 20-25 years to mature.

Chris introduced the Weed & Pest employees; Mike Rohrbach, Jerry Lehrkamp, and Jerod Blair.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Larry Stroschein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Schaunamen, meeting adjourned.

After the meeting, a drawing was held for \$100.00 worth of Altosid XR briquettes. Bill Donaldson for Aberdeen Township was drawn and given the prize.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHH', written in a cursive style.

Chris Hemen
Brown County Weed and Pest