



ANNUAL BROWN COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD MINUTES

March 9, 2021

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

Present: Duane Jark, Tyler Bierman, Dennis Wiedebush, Dennis Feickert, and Chris Hemen-Weed Supervisor.

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

The meeting agenda was presented. Dennis Feickert made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Dennis Wiedebush seconded, motion carried.

The 2020 minutes were presented by Tyler Bierman. Duane Jark made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Dennis Wiedebush seconded, motion carried.

The new 2021 Weed & Pest Board President/Chairman, Tyler Bierman was appointed and Duane Jark was appointed as the Vice President.

Chris Hemen gave the supervisor's report. He presented the fiscal report, inspection summary, and annual reports that he is required to submit to the Dept. of Ag each year. He noted that in the fiscal report, the Weed & Pest Dept. was able to bring in \$56,696.56 to the county's general fund. This in addition to coming in approximately \$60,000 under budget brought Weed & Pest Control's financial burden on the county down to about \$100,000. He also gave a summary of 2020 activities in the department. It was noted that Brown County Weed and Pest sprayed fewer miles of county roads this year due to the heavy snow received in October, but all roads were able to be sprayed at least twice. Township roads were able to be sprayed much better this year as the weeds were more visible thanks to some good regrowth after the ditches had been mowed. He then turned the floor over to Dennis Feickert to speak about palmer amaranth in the county and how he was able to spot it. It was apparently brought in with some millet seed, and the seeder was used in two different fields in the county. After Dennis pulled a plant, he notified the Weed & Pest department. Chris Hemen then sent a sample to SDSU where they confirmed that it was indeed palmer amaranth. We then contacted the landowner who took immediate action and sprayed the ground with a defoliant. Chris Hemen added that we were very fortunate to have Dennis find it, and have a landowner who was willing to take care of it so quickly. We will continue to monitor the areas, but Chris Hemen encourages anyone who

suspects they have palmer to call him. All positive ID's are kept confidential as we are only concerned about keeping this weed under control.

Chris Hemen then reviewed the chemical costs and labor and equipment rates for the Townships and mosquito accounts for the upcoming 2021 season. It was mentioned that Brown County has not increased its prices for private & township applications in several years. The hourly rate will be staying the same for 2021.

Chris Hemen then introduced the Weed & Pest employees, Jerry Lehrkamp and Mike Rorhbach. They will be returning from the Highway Dept. this spring and we all look forward to getting back to spraying weeds.

Lastly, Chris gave an update on the budget for 2021. We are budgeting for slightly less than last year, but still hoping to come in well under budget providing we don't have any major repairs or other maintenance issues this year.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Duane Jark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dennis Feickert, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hemen
Brown County Weed and Pest