

Stillwater Weed Management District
Regular Meeting
May 14, 2014

Minutes Approved

Present: Harold Riensche
Al Nordahl
Carl Thompson
Bob Kirch
Lindsey Clark

Absent: Eric Lowell

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Al volunteered to take notes for this meeting.

Minutes from Previous Meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved; a motion was made by Carl, seconded by Bob. Motion carried by the board.

Budget

- The board reviewed the budget, discussing line item 113. With the \$7500 MDA grant paying a portion of this expense and the Weed District accounting for \$12,649, at only 20 hours a week (\$15/hour) the total cost for the assistant position would be \$15,600/year.

Annual Budget Review for 2014-2015

- Lee Schmelzer contacted Lindsey requesting the Weed Department (WD) help fund the cost of buying 60 clickers for educational programs around the county. The WD's cost would be \$400 and could be utilized for pesticide trainings and classroom activities. Besides Extension and the WD, the library and Economic Development may help with the cost-share. If purchased the funds would come out of the WD's Public Education (#382) line item.
 - Al moved to support Lee's request as long as the other entities are in support of the purchase as well. Carl seconded, motion passed.
- The capital outlay fund was discussed.
 - For safety reasons, Al suggested replacing the Polaris ATV with a UTV type unit in the future. A fabricated tank and sprayer would also have to be purchased and installed. Lindsey will get price quotes.
 - Bob moved to transfer \$10,000 from Capital Outlay fund into the Capital Improvement fund prior to the end of the fiscal year. Motion seconded by Carl, motion passed.
- Al moved to designate \$4500 from the \$7500 MDA grant (431100) to Lindsey as bonus compensation for doing WD business without part-time help. The other \$3000 would be utilized for line item #113. Carl seconded, motion passed. Harold will talk with the commission and begin this process.
- After final discussion of the budget, Carl moved to approve the budget with the only change being made in the 2840 Weed Control MDA (431100) fund as mentioned previously. Motion seconded by Bob, motion carried by the board. Final budget copy attached.

- Lindsey will report back to the board once some potential budget meeting dates are determined with Joe.

Noxious Weed Management Plan with the Town of Columbus

- Lindsey summarized the status of Weed Management Plan with the Town of Columbus.
- Dennis Holten, via email, stated that the Town would not enter into an agreement with the WD, as they felt that there was no benefit to the Town in doing so.
- A motion was made by Al to table indefinitely the proposed Noxious Weed Management Plan because it is evident that the Town is unwilling to proceed. Motion seconded by Carl, motion passed.

Grant Updates

- The Fishtail CWMA grant was partially funded at \$7500.
- The Two Rivers CWMA grant was fully funded at \$33,853.

Weed Program Assistant Position

- Carl moved to revise wording on the job description under "Preferred Education & Experience" (first line) to state: "Must demonstrate experience and knowledge of noxious weeds and weed control. An educational background in Agriculture or Pest Management is preferred but not required." Bob seconded, motion passed.
- Lindsey will inquire about advertising in additional papers as well.

Coordinator Report

- Lindsey will return from maternity leave on June 2nd.
- Lindsey met with the right of way spray contractors in mid-April and discussed chemical usage/rates and the plan for each area. The plan will be to retreat the roads with the worst noxious weed problem in each area (if hours are available to do so) with a fall application.
- Chemical has been ordered and is ready for pickup by the contractors.
- The sprayer loan program is up and ready to go. A few sprayers are at Beartooth Hardware in Absarokee for loan as well.
- Upcoming educational programs:
 - Conservation Days at Cooney Dam, May 20th. Lindsey has asked Lee to help her at the noxious weed station.
 - Noxious Weed Awareness Week is June 9-13th.
 - Stewardship Seminar and Rangeland Tour will be held in conjunction with MSU Extension and Carbon County WD on June 10th. Lindsey reported on the great line-up of speakers.
 - Lindsey will have informational packets and a display at the Columbus library for the week.
 - A BBQ on the lawn of the courthouse is being tentatively planned.
 - The Weed of the Week article in the SCN is back on track.

Next meeting will be August 13th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.