

Burleigh County Weed Board  
May 21, 2020, Burleigh County Highway Department  
7:30 a.m.

Members present: Dralle, Heisler, Skoglund, Nehring

Absent: Palm

Additional attendees: Dylan Ripplinger, Commissioner Kathleen Jones, Joan Zimmerman, Wayne Klein, Tyler Kralicek

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 16 2020, Nehring and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve the April 2020 financial report, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve the bills as presented, Nehring and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Ripplinger reported that (2) applications were received for the Administrative Assistant position. The position will be part time temporary, 20-30 hours per week with no benefits. Ripplinger will schedule interviews with both applicants and he and Heisler will do the interviews. If no applicant is hired, a staffing company will be utilized.

Motion to purchase a refurbished computer for use at the Extension Office for \$250.00, Skoglund and seconded by Nehring. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

In new business, the Board agreed for monthly meetings to be held at 7:30 a.m. in the Burleigh County Highway Department.

Motion to decrease insurance on 2008 Chevy Pickup to liability only, Skoglund and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion approved.

Discussion on the 2021 budget was held with the following adjustments made:

- increase in travel-lodging-meals from \$1000 to \$2000
- gas and fuel increase from \$2000 to \$4000
- furniture and equipment increased from \$0 to \$50,000 and includes the purchase of a new work vehicle.
- increase in continuing education from \$1000 to \$2000

Motion to approve proposed increases to 2021 budget, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion approved.

Ripplinger presented an update on current work.

Motion to approve the purchase of a new printer/scanner combination up to \$500, Nehring and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion approved.

Ripplinger' s (6) month employment review will be conducted by Wayne Klein and will share with the Board for additional comment, to be completed by June 8, 2020.

Meeting Adjourned. Motioned by Dralle, seconded by Nehring

Submitted by Joan Zimmerman

Burleigh County Weed Board  
June 18, 2020, Burleigh County Highway Department  
7:30 a.m.

Members present: Dralle, Heisler, Skoglund,  
Absent: Palm, Nehring  
Additional attendees: Dylan Ripplinger, Wayne Klein, Brad Jossart-Fertilawn, Joyelle Richey

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 7:35am

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2020, Skoglund and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve revised meeting minutes from April 16, 2020, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve the May 2020 financial report, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried. Heisler questioned definition of line item 'Taxes Receivable' and asked to include financial report and bills spreadsheet with the agenda when emailing.

Motion to approve the bills as presented, Skoglund and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

### ***Old Business***

Park spraying will be revisited at a future meeting when Kathleen is present.  
Buckstop Junction spraying has been done along the fence line and behind the Extension building.  
Ripplinger's 6-month employment review was good. Wayne reported that he is doing a good job, but it's hard to rate the Road Department side yet since only about 30% of his time has been spent on Road Department while the remaining 70% has been on the Weed Board.

### ***New Business***

Administrative Assistant: Joyelle Richey was introduced as the Administrative Assistant for the summer and asked to attend board meetings throughout the year to take minutes.

Website posting: Motion to approve a brief discussion of what the Weed Board does, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried. Karissa from Corteva has offered to help 'get the word out' about the Weed Board by offering to create and send post cards. We will move forward if Corteva agrees to pay the expense. Motion to approve, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Melinda Berg: Melinda only paid half of her 2019 bill as she was not expecting the bill to be so much higher than the previous year. In 2018 only one acre was sprayed but in 2019 six acres were sprayed. Decision was made that she will need to pay the outstanding 2019 balance before spraying for 2020 will occur and will be asked to specify amount to be spent or acreage to be sprayed going forward.

Open Discussion: Dylan received permission to spray at the Strata gravel pit.  
There is a budget meeting June 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm for anyone interested in attending.

South Bismarck seems to have an abundance of Dame's Rocket possibly from flooding. It is not noxious but could become troublesome and will need to be monitored.

South of Waste Management has been mowed and sprayed. It was full of wormwood and now looks good.

Dylan gave an office update stating that the landline phone is back in operation and will be mostly used for outgoing calls since most incoming calls go to his cellphone. Computer is also fully operational.

Brad presented two bills from Fertilawn for colorant and spraying in the amounts of \$5616.00 & \$28,305 totaling \$33,921. Motion to approve payment to Fertilawn, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Charles Serr Cost Share: Land was sprayed by Ternes Outdoors instead of our approved contractor. We have no way of guaranteeing what was sprayed, it could have been dandelions. Motion to not pay the cost share, Dralle and seconded Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

### ***Weed Officer Report***

Herbicide Sales to date-quarts 249

Cost share application to date-63

Spray tickets to date-32; Brad stated spraying has been going well with some difficulty due to the wind this year. A couple of hazardous areas were discussed; Highway 83 north of Westcon due to construction and I-94 near Cracker Barrel due to driver distractions with traffic.

### **Complaint Calls**

Dylan stated that the majority of complaint calls are regarding subdivisions that are within city limits. Residents are unsure what areas or weeds qualify for cost share. Two letters have been mailed to residents regarding complaints on their property and have included cost share form.

### **Discussion of extra herbicide to be purchased**

Dylan ordered 100 gallons of Liberate and filled the remainder of the pallet with Graslan, Feelexx, All Clear & Unfoamer. No additional Milestone was needed. There are limited chemicals available to use on leafy spurge, Dylan is researching Facet-L. Brad reminded everyone that when adding more chemicals it makes it easier for errors to be made by those spraying. Milestone seems to be working great.

Members agreed that it is ok to purchase a box of herbicide (Roundup) for small projects as long as it doesn't interfere with something already contracted.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30am. Motioned by Dralle, seconded by Skoglund

Submitted by Joyelle Richey

Burleigh County Weed Board  
July 16, 2020, Burleigh County Highway Department  
7:30 a.m.

Members present: Dralle, Heisler, Skoglund, Palm, Nehring

Absent:

Additional attendees: Dylan Ripplinger, Wayne Klein, Brad Jossart-Fertilawn, Kathleen Jones, Joyelle Richey

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 7:30am

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 18, 2020, Skoglund and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve the June 2020 financial report, Palm and seconded by Nehring. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve the bills as presented, Dralle and seconded by Palm. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

#### **Old Business**

Taxes Receivable: Dylan explained that this is the remaining balance to receive from the mill levy.

Website Posting: Dylan and Joyelle have completed training and have been posting to the Burleigh County website.

#### **New Business**

Beetle Collection: Last week Dylan assisted in collecting approximately 500,000 beetles in Morton County which was a mixture of copper and black, and approximately 200,000 copper beetles at Lake Tschida. The previous week he was in Stutsman County with a collection of approximately 50,000 black beetles. Dylan released beetles in two locations on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four releases were done west of the entrance to Sibley Park on South Washington. Another four releases were done on the south side of Yegen Rd just west of Lincoln Rd. Photos of the areas have been taken with hopes of tracking the progress. Each release consists of 3,000 beetles. A suggested next release point would be south of Apple Creek Rd.

Budget Meeting: Dylan stated the budget meeting went well. He expressed concern with winter meetings for the weed board and how that would be compensated while his pay is coming from the Highway Department. Jones reassured that adjustments would be made.

Accounts Receivable: The list of receivables was reviewed. Dylan will follow up with James Peterson to pay the outstanding balance of \$2,710.65.

Ideas for new weed office: Jones announced that the Weed Board will be losing their office space in January as it will be leased to Parks & Rec. She had a few suggestions for a new space. It would be ideal to keep the office near the Extension Office. There is property to the east of the Extension Office, will need to find out if there is cost for the real estate or just for the building. There is a possibility to temporarily use or renovate the old concessions building. The building has no heat or a/c unit and the water heater is old. Jones thought renovations could cost between \$50,000-\$100,000 and suggests contacting Haakenson for information on how structurally sound the building is. She also stated that

there is a constant stream of homeless activity in that area and the building has been vandalized three times in five years. Another option is storage units and office space that the county currently rents located on 71<sup>st</sup>. A 30 X 50 2,000 sq ft space rents for \$1125/month.

Wayne offered space at the Highway Department. There is room upstairs for the filing cabinets and they would rearrange the cubicle area where Dylan currently has a space to include two cubicles. This would be a good option for temporary while a new building is being constructed.

Dylan will look into the cost of buildings. Jones suggests having a plan in place by October.

Open Discussion: Jossart stated that Dylan has relayed numerous customer compliments for the spraying that has been done by Fertilawn, the feedback has been greatly appreciated. Jones also noted that she has received calls praising Dylan for his work.

Jones stated there have been numerous changes to the Weed Board in the past months and suggests a booklet to be compiled for all board members with all updates.

Dylan states that the side-by-side is currently in the shop with a mandatory recall. Other than that the equipment works great.

Park spraying was discussed, with Jones stating that the park only spot sprays. Contact Jones prior to spraying to be certain of when and where. Also if Buckstop Junction could be sprayed it would be great. An infestation on Highway 10 owned by Arnie Zent needs sprayed. It is in his contract that he maintains the property. Dylan will follow up with him. There is an area near Mitchell Lake that may have wood beetles, Dylan will follow up. The Disabled Vets are currently maintaining the Driscoll area and looks great.

Open Discussion: Melinda Berg has paid her outstanding balance and signed up for spraying for this year. Verticle Bridge and Strata have been taken care of.

Landowner Reimbursements: Reimbursement requests have been received from John Erickson and Tracy Bridwell. Palm stated that the policy requires preapproval and if we deviate when do we stop? There will be a letter sent to all requesting reimbursement stating that an exception has been made this year but going forward reimbursement will not be allowed unless they receive prior approval. And all future requests will need to be approved by the board before paying.

Motion to reimburse for ½ the chemical cost and include letters for Erickson in the amount of \$61.20 & Bridwell \$102.88, Nehring and seconded Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Dylan will be joining members of the USDA next week to cruise the river in Morton and Burleigh counties looking for yellow toadflax.

Problem areas needing to be checked out are Highway 10 east of the Rural Fire Department for leafy spurge. Centennial and 71<sup>st</sup> and the gun club area.

### ***Weed Officer Report***

Herbicide Sales to date-quarts 349

Cost share application to date-80

LAP & TAG submission was included in the meeting packet.

Motion to approve an amendment to the approval of bills to include Fertilawn invoice for \$31,440, Palm and seconded by Nehring. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40am. Motioned by Dralle, seconded by Skoglund

Submitted by Joyelle Richey

Burleigh County Weed Board  
August 20, 2020, Burleigh County Highway Department  
7:30 a.m.

Members present: Dralle, Heisler, Skoglund, Palm, Nehring

Absent:

Additional attendees: Dylan Ripplinger, Wayne Klein, Brad Jossart-Fertilawn, Kathleen Jones, Joyelle Richey, Tyler Kralicek, Marcus Hall

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 7:30am

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 16, 2020, Palm and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

It was noted that the high chemical balance is due to not yet purchasing chemical for the upcoming year.

Motion to approve the July 2020 financial report, Nehring and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Dylan explained the bill for the trailer repair was to reinforce the tailgate. There was no damage, this was just preventative. The county did the labor and billed the Weed Board. Tools were also purchased as there were none in the office or the pickup. The phone was previously approved to be switched to BEK. Jones requested to move forward with the telephone provider change.

Motion to approve the bills as presented, Dralle and seconded by Palm. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

#### ***Commissioner Jones Update***

Jones addressed Dylan's position stating that he is a year-round Highway Department employee who reports to Wayne. His position as full-time Weed Officer is for 70% of the year with the remaining 30% of the year to be utilized by the Highway Department. Dylan will be allowed to attend necessary conventions and meetings throughout the winter months. The state convention is tentatively scheduled for January and a class in Colorado is tentatively scheduled for April. The Weed Board will be Dylan's supervisor for weeds only. Payroll and sick leave will be supervised by the Highway Department.

#### ***Old Business***

Outstanding Receivables: Peterson Land receivables were found to have been sent to the wrong address. The Wing Township is the responsible party and will be paying.

Weed Board Office Space: Jones stated that the Weed Officer and any staff will be relocating to the Highway Department no later than January 1, 2021 and could remain there for 3-5 years until a new building can be built.

#### ***New Business***

Corteva Milestone Special: Dylan stated that we will be able to receive the same offer from both vendors @ \$66.25/qt. Jossart suggested an updated inventory as there may be enough product for another year. We are still selling quarts from two years ago. In an effort to remain in good standing with both vendors it was agreed to purchase a minimum from each. There is no shipment date but the payment date must be invoiced by September 23, 2020. Shipment will be held as long as possible. Motion to purchase 25 gallons from Nutrien, Dralle and seconded by Skoglund. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to purchase 25 gallons from Van Diest , Palm and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Duracore vs Milestone was discussed. Duracore could be used for the Right of Ways as it is faster acting and has Rinsecore. This year it is less expensive than Milestone by about .20¢ and allows for more coverage. Duracore would only be used by Fertilawn and not be offered to customers. This discussion will be revisited at a future meeting.

Grant Award: The Weed Board grant award was \$13,000 last year and has been increased to \$19,000 for the upcoming year. The Weed Board received an \$18,000 check which will offset the chemicals budget.

Alternative Sprayer Approvals:

Motion to pay Jill Bourgois \$390 for 40 acres and no labor, a letter explaining that this will be the last year of the reimbursement will accompany the check ; Nehring and seconded by Skogland. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to pay Doug Morris \$77.98, a letter explaining that this will be the last year of the reimbursement will accompany the check ; Nehring and seconded by Skogland. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Accounts Receivable: The list of receivables was reviewed with no issues.

Asset List: All present received a list of assets. Joyelle will email a copy to Robin Grenz.

### ***Open Discussion***

Joyelle will remain as the Administrative Assistant until the August 28<sup>th</sup>. She will try to attend the meetings in September and October to take meeting minutes.

Wayne has found a pickup currently available that meets the requirements as new vehicles are six months to a year out for delivery. A 2020 Chevy Silverado ½ ton 4 door crew cab with tow package with additional options for \$33,000 is available at Stan Puklich. The old pickup will be stripped and sold at the Public Surplus Auction with an expected sale price of \$5,000-\$8,000. The Auditors office has requested the new pickup be purchased this year.

Motion to purchase the new pickup for \$33,000; Dralle and seconded by Skogland. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to auction current pickup; Palm and seconded by Nehring. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Corteva is still willing to send out postcards to customers for advertising. We have sent them a master mailing list.

Dylan stated that he has received calls from farmers who think they should be offered more through the cost share program. Jones suggests compiling a list of what other counties offer for their cost share programs.

Dylan accompanied the USDA on a boat trip to Hogue Island and reports no yellow toadflax on the Burleigh County side of the river. Morton County has an issue that could eventually spread. There has also been no reports of Palmer Amaranth in Burleigh County.

Moving forward the tracking of herbicide sales and spray tickets will be based on fiscal year rather than calendar year which had been used in the past. This will make numbers more accurate with LAP.



A Facebook page will be set up for the Weed Board in the future.

***Weed Officer Report***

Landowner Assistance Questions: Kevin Fettig purchased 160 acres of land north of Driscoll of which three sections are located in Burleigh County and one in Kidder County. All of which have an infestation of wormwood. He was quoted by Erickson \$20,000 to spray, he would rather not use Fertilawn. He is wondering if Burleigh County would be able to make some adjustments to spraying only the 40 acres. It was determined that spraying now would be a waste of time and money and the best option would be to clip it. Jossart will take a look at the area for better details. Dylan will contact customer and follow up with the board decision.

In the future there will need to be a limit set and possibly change it to 60 acres, which is a full case of milestone. Maybe look into cost share for larger areas where customers could use planes as these large areas takes up the use of multiple trucks which could hurt the residential spraying.

Herbicide Sales to date-quarts 459

Cost share application to date-88

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55am. Motioned by Dralle, seconded by Skoglund

Submitted by Joyelle Richey

Burleigh County Weed Board  
September 17, 2020, Burleigh County Highway Department  
7:30 a.m.

Members present: Dralle, Heisler, Skoglund, Palm, Nehring

Absent:

Additional attendees: Dylan Ripplinger, Wayne Klein, Brad Jossart, Kathleen Jones, Joyelle Richey

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 20, 2020, Skoglund and seconded by Palm. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Motion to approve the August 2020 financial report, Palm and seconded by Dralle. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Heisler questioned the low fuel expense for the month. It was noted that the previous weed officer used the Weed Board vehicle to drive roundtrip from Wilton (residence) to Bismarck daily which resulted in a much higher monthly fuel expense.

Motion to approve the bills as presented, Dralle and seconded by Nehring. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

### ***Old Business***

Herbicide Special: Dylan took inventory of current stock. He ordered from Corteva and Nutrien (27 gallons from each). Both companies appreciated the order and Tom thanked him for the continued business.

Facebook Page: A Facebook page was created but quickly removed due to social media policy violation. Dylan will follow up with Dan Schriock and Marcus Hall on the appropriate way to set up the page, keeping in mind that ease of availability for customer use is the priority.

Cost Share Programs: Discussion on how to move forward with County cost share. Add to next Agenda.

Herbicide Inventory: Herbicide amounts discussed and over ordering in the past.

New Pickup: Klein & Ripplinger purchased the new pickup. Lights are being installed. Dylan feels a box toolbox that opens on each end would be better than a tonneau cover to store/transport tools and chemicals. A cellphone booster will also be needed with an estimated cost of \$500. These are considered accessories and funds are still available so no motion is necessary.

### ***New Business***

Cost Share Approvals: John Adams sprayed his land and then submitted for cost share. According to the cost share agreement we will be paying him labor to spray on his own, Dylan suggests re-writing this

section of the agreement for the upcoming seasons. This can NOT be submitted for LAP due to the customer not paying 20%. He suggests making the agreement 80%-20% and eliminate the \$7/acre to make it legal for LAP.

Motion to approve paying Adams due to current cost share agreement, Nehring seconded by Palm. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

### ***Open Discussion***

Weed Board Office Space: Heisler suggests forming a committee to start working on ideas for the new building. Nehring stated that the primary concern is the property. If county property is used, what would the cost be and how much acreage is available or needed? Ripplinger stated closed system drainage would be a priority to have. Jones noted that the Missouri Valley Complex property is 320 acres but within city limits. Any road must be concrete and the developer is responsible for the construction of it. All city, county and state mandates need to be carefully considered. It may be 2023 before sufficient funding could be available. Jones suggests approaching the county in the spring with a plan for the new building. Jossart suggests trying to stay out of the public eye when chemicals are involved, near the Highway Department may be the best option.

### ***Weed Officer Report***

Todd McPeak: Has already been sprayed but did not stop at 40 acres, sprayed close to acres and is requesting cost share. He has multiple spray tickets spread out over multiple days.

Motion to approve paying only 40 acres as policy states, Palm and seconded by Skoglund . All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Todd Mees: Dylan has received multiple complaints of noxious weeds (mostly Canada Thistle) on his property. He has already sent a letter with no response. Nehring will attempt to get a phone number to contact Mr. Mees.

Motion to send a Notice to Control by Dralle and seconded by Nehring. All members present voted "Aye", motion carried.

Palmer Amaranth: Palmer Amaranth has been identified in Stutsman County near Spiritwood. Barnes County has also identified approximately 1 million 4" plants producing seeds. Since it was mentioned on the local news people have been bringing in plants to identify to make sure it is not Palmer Amaranth. This weed grows faster than corn, after about 6" of growth spraying becomes unsuccessful. Dylan suggested keeping an eye on the feedlots.

Herbicide sales to date- 520 quarts

Cost share applications to date-95

October 15, 2020 will be the last meeting for the season unless otherwise directed by the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am. Motioned by Dralle, seconded by Heisler

Submitted by Joyelle Richey