

MINUTES

Stark County Weed Control Board

July 31, 2024

In Attendance

Caden Tuhy, David Wanner, Shelly Ziman, Mac Hoerner, Paul Clarys, and Greg Messer met at the County Office. Others present: Travis Jepson, Kurt Froelich, Jo Thompson.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Mac Hoerner called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Agenda Additions

Appreciation gifts for Jeremy & Ray was added to agenda.

Financial Report

Financial Reports were reviewed. Current fund balance is \$494,872.38. Budget is on track for midway point of year. Shelly motioned to approve the Financial Report, Greg second. Motion carried.

Minutes

Paul made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, Dave second. Motion carried.

Board Member Changes

Welcome new board member, Caden Tuhy (District 1).

Les Simnioniw (District 1) decided not to serve another term. Ervin Binstock (District 4) has also resigned, that position is still vacant.

Election of Officers

Dave nominated Mac Hoerner for Chairman, Shelly second. No further nominations. Mac was unanimously elected as Chairman. Shelly Ziman was nominated for Vice Chairman by Dave and Greg second the nomination. There were no further nominations. Shelly was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman.

Updates

- Sprayer School on May 31st was well attended. We had the opportunity to calibrate our new spray truck.

- Our Cost-Share Program has had excellent participation with over 60 new landowners utilizing the program this season, in part due to sending the newsletter to all Stark County landowners. YTD herbicide distribution has totaled \$168,823.60 with the County portion at \$118,776.52 and the Landowner portion at \$50,647.08.
- ROW spraying is on track and the crew should have all County ROWs completed within the next few days and can then access areas needing re-application. Venue/Freelexx was used this year, in part due to supplier inventory shortages and to apply a different chemistry in the ROWs.
- The Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium will be held August 20-22. Travis will be attending, and any interested board members may attend.
- Flea Beetle Field Day was held July 8, with 21 participants collecting a good number of beetles.
- Ideas of ways to utilize the Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) program funds were brought up and discussed. Some suggestions included PPE, Advertising/Newsletter expenses, landowner training meetings, calibration training – including building a small-scale sprayer that could be utilized in a classroom setting during Pesticide Recertification trainings.

Sale of Old Spray Truck

Two options were presented for selling the 2004 Chevy spray truck:

1. Share information with other County Auditors and see if another government entity would like to purchase.
2. Advertise for sale and accept sealed bids and sell to highest bidder.

After some discussion, Dave made a motion to put the truck up for sale via sealed bids. Caden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Preliminary Budget

The 2025 Preliminary Budget was reviewed and discussed with key adjustments noted below and on attached budget.

- General Property Tax Revenue can be reduced to 3.75 mills and still cover our necessary expenditures
- The General Fund Transfer In is not needed and was removed from the proposed budget
- Weed Officer and Program Assistant raises of 3% proposed
- Printing and Postage line items were combined
- Fuel Expense line of \$3500 was added
- Other expenses were adjusted to reflect anticipated spending needs as closely as possible
- Providing benefits in the form of 2 paid holidays and 3 paid vacation days was proposed for the Seasonal Spray Crew in lieu of a wage increase. Shelly made a motion to add 5 days PTO for spray crew in their 3rd year and beyond of employment. Greg second. Motion carried unanimously.

Caden motioned to approve the budget as adjusted during the discussion (attached). Shelly second. Motion approved unanimously.

Appreciation gifts

Jeremy Jepson(22 years with Weed Control) and Ray Sand(10 years with Weed Control) will not be returning next season. An appreciation gift was discussed to acknowledge their years working for the Weed Department. Dave motioned to budget \$100 each for a plaque and gift basket. Greg second. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be September 25th at 10:00 AM

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Paul, second by Greg, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

| Fund # Levy 1258 | | Rev/ | 2024 | 2025 | |
|---------------------|---|------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| | | Exp | Approved | Proposed | |
| | | | Budget | Budget | |
| | WEED CONTROL | | | | |
| 2970.3110.000 | GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES | Rev | 337,000.00 | 325,893.00 | 3.75 mills |
| 2970.3130.000 | MOBILE HOME TAXES | Rev | 1,300.00 | 1,300.00 | |
| 2970.3190.000 | PENALTY & INTEREST | Rev | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | |
| 2970.3190.000 | STATE AID DISTRIBUTION | Rev | 90,000.00 | 100,000.00 | |
| 2970.3362.000 | HOMESTEAD CREDIT | Rev | 3,200.00 | 3,200.00 | |
| 2970.3365.000 | TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX | Rev | 2,240.00 | 2,240.00 | |
| 2970.3660.000 | MISCELLANEOUS - old truck sale | Rev | 15,000.00 | 2,500.00 | |
| 2970.3690.490 | CHEMICAL REIMB - LAND OWNERS | Rev | 65,000.00 | 65,000.00 | |
| 2970.3690.492 | CHEMICAL REIMB - STATE | Rev | 13,000.00 | 15,000.00 | |
| 2970.3690.493 | CHEMICAL REIMB - MISC | Rev | ? | | |
| 2970.3690.494 | CHEMICAL REIMB - WHOLESALE | Rev | 7,000.00 | 9,000.00 | |
| 2970.3690.498 | DOT | Rev | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 | |
| | Total Revenue | | 564,740.00 | 555,133.00 | |
| 2970.3999.000 | GENERAL FUND TRANSFER IN | | 47,500.00 | - | |
| 2970.4814.112 | SALARY-PT-WEED PROG ASS'T-THOMPSON | Exp | 28,080.00 | 28,922.40 | +3% |
| 2970.4814.113 | SALARY-SPRAY CREW | Exp | 70,041.60 | 65,000.00 | |
| 2970.4814.114 | BOARD MEMBERS | Exp | 2,600.00 | 4,500.00 | |
| 2970.4814.115 | WEED APPLICATOR-T JEPSON | Exp | 74,715.00 | 76,956.45 | +3% |
| | LONGEVITY - T JEPSON | | 682.50 | 724.50 | |
| 2970.4814.140 | OVERTIME | Exp | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | |
| 2970.4814.240 | WORKERS COMPENSATION | Exp | 3,900.00 | 3,900.00 | |
| 2970.4814.340 | TRAVEL | Exp | 700.00 | 950.00 | |
| 2970.4814.357 | CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE | Exp | 1,155.00 | 1,155.00 | |
| 2970.4814.370 | DUES | Exp | 275.00 | 300.00 | |
| 2970.4814.390 | BIOCONTROL | Exp | 500.00 | 500.00 | |
| 2970.4814.410 | OFFICE SUPPLIES | Exp | 3,500.00 | 2,000.00 | |
| 2970.4814.411 | PRINTING, BOOKS, POSTAGE | Exp | 2,000.00 | 6,000.00 | |
| 2970.4814.412 | POSTAGE <i>combined with above line .411</i> | Exp | 1,200.00 | - | |
| 2970.4814.420 | CHEMICALS | Exp | 215,000.00 | 232,500.00 | |
| 2970.4814.425 | SHOP SUPPLIES | Exp | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 | |
| <i>new</i> | FUEL EXPENSE | Exp | | 3,500.00 | |
| 2970.4814.426 | EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE | Exp | 12,500.00 | 12,500.00 | |
| 2970.4814.427 | EQUIPMENT PURCHASE | Exp | 40,000.00 | 40,000.00 | |
| 2970.4814.480 | SPRAYER EDUCATION/TESTING | Exp | 300.00 | 300.00 | |
| 2970.4814.486 | GPS MAPPING/GOOGLE DRIVE | Exp | 3,500.00 | 4,100.00 | |
| 2970.4190.230 | Retirement (16.26%) | Exp | 16,714.46 | 16,714.46 | |
| 2970.4190.232 | BCBS | Exp | 22,000.00 | 24,200.00 | |
| 2970.4190.234 | FICA-EMPLOYER MATCHING (7.65%) | Exp | 13,221.99 | 13,221.99 | |
| | Total Expense | | 521,085.55 | 546,444.80 | |
| | Total Revenue Expected | | \$ 564,740.00 | \$ 555,133.00 | |
| | Total General Transfer Expected | | \$ 47,500.00 | \$ - | |
| | Total Expenses + Longevity | | \$ 521,085.55 | \$ 546,444.80 | |
| | TOTAL | | \$ 91,154.45 | \$ 8,688.20 | |

*2025 budget figures approved and voted on at 7/31/2024 Weed Board meeting

Weed balance as of 7/30/24 = \$494,872.38
Starting Weed balance going into 2024 = \$389,400.28