**Valley County Weed Board Meeting**

**9:30 AM on September 14, 2016**

**Located at the Valley County Courthouse Law Library**

Chairman Kirk Sibley called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM in the Valley County Courthouse Law Library. Weed members present were Nate Miller, Kirk Sibley, Jim Bowman and Dorothy Hlad-Larsen. Also in attendance was Commissioner Paul Tweten and Weed Coordinator Stone Tihista, who took minutes.

Public Comment: There was none.

**Jim made a motion to approve the agenda. Nate seconded and the motion carried.**

**Old Business**

Pass meeting minutes were gone thru for June 27th and April 28th, 2016. **After being reviewed Nate made a motion to approve April and June meeting minutes. Dorothy second and the motion carried.**

The Budget was reviewed and discussed. The Budget is very healthy.

The Dual County Weed Tour was a great success. We had a grand total of 35 people come to the tour and everybody enjoyed the tour. Some comments were that the information was great and it was eye opening when they heard how much of a problem these plants can really cause. Jim educated the idea that we consider buying some small hand sprayers to give out at our meetings as door prizes. The Board agreed it would be a great incentive for people to come to our meetings. **Jim made a motion to purchase a rough dozen hand pump sprayers to use as door prizes/give-a-ways at some of our educational meetings. No further discussion, Kirk seconded and the motion carried.**

The new heater got installed on Saturday the 19th of September. Jim Taylor got most of the work done and had a few finishing touches to do. He had already lined up Sand Electric to hook up the wiring and the he planned on doing a test run on Wednesday the 14th of September. The newly insulated shed is all done besides a little painting to be done.

**New Business:**

The Rhino had been over heating and having some issues this summer. Stone had the machine taken in to be looked at and given an oil change by Scott’s Track and Wheel. Scott’s said that they could not find anything wrong with the overheating and said the machine is in good shape. After further discussion the Board and Stone decided to keep the Rhino. Stone asked the Board about purchasing a third UTV for the shop while requesting the next machine to be an enclosed cab. The purpose of this cab would provide Stone with greater protection from chemical drift. **Nate made a motion to keep the Rhino and look for a new machine with a cab with AC/Heater. No further discussion, Dorothy seconded and the motion carried.**

The BLM project is moving right along. Scott Cassel and his crew have done a great job. We have covered some major ground this season. BLM and VCWD goals and expectations have been met by Scott and his crew. Stone gave Board Members an over view where Scott has been on the BLM Maps.

The BIA has still requested help in controlling weeds on their land allotments. Stone has requested to hire Scott Cassel without setting the project up for bid. A question came up whether Scott had time to come work on this project while he is still working on the BLM Project. **Jim made a motion to hire Scott if he has time to spray. If not then Stone may look into finding someone to spray by plane and with no need to have an additional Board meeting to hire a contractor.**

A new garage door was installed by David Reinhardt and Paul Tweten on Monday. A new door was bought because an employee backed into the door when it was not fully open. The door was already previously damaged in the beginning of the season by somebody in the public which is unknown. After all said, Stone went ahead and purchased a new door. Stone said it had to be fixed regardless so she is just formerly seeking approval after the fact. The shop was not fully functional with the door being damaged. Stone informed the Board she would not normally purchase something of this cost if it was not part of the daily routine. **All Board Members approved and understood.**

Stone is seeking new lighting for the newly insulated shed. New 8 foot strip lights with 4 foot bulbs would cost 125.00 dollars. The Board recommended looking into NW Energy’s deal for cutting cost of installation in new energy saving lights. **After some discussion Nate made a motion to approve purchasing lights for the shop. With no further discussion Jim seconded and the motion carried.**

The overall season has been a good minus the unpredictable weather we have had this summer. The sharing of employees in both departments has been great. It is much easier to keep everybody busy. Stone has plans of updating some of the trucks pumps and parts to minimize chances of injuries in the future.

Stone has requested permission to sell some of the homemade trailers Rick had built. The trailers are in good shape but they do not work for what we are doing in the on a regular basis. Board said to get bids for new car trailers and bring them to the next meeting.

The Weed District will be putting in for the Special County Grant again like always. We usually get this funding every year so long as we apply for it. Some of this money we use for education. Stone requested to use some of this money to get a poster board made and use them out in the public. Board said to get one made and bring to next meeting.

**The present and past claims were reviewed by the Board. Dorothy made a motion to approve of all claims past and present. Jim seconded and the motion carried. Board signed the claims of the present claims.**

No further business was discussed. **Nate made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 AM. Jim seconded and the motion carried.**

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Kirk Sibley, Weed Chairman Stone Tihista, Coordinator