



# CITY WEED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 12, 2024 at 8:30 AM  
City Hall – 38 1st Street West Dickinson, ND 58601

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## Commissioners:

**Chairman:** Shawn Soehren  
**Vice Chairman:** Trevor Ernst  
Troy Bosch  
Pat Bren  
Bruce Burke

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

## **ROLL CALL**

### PRESENT:

Trevor Ernst  
Pat Bren  
Bruce Burke  
Shawn Soehren

### ABSENT:

Troy Bosch

## **OPENING CEREMONIES:**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## **1. STANDARD MOTIONS**

### **A. 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Burke, Seconded by Ernst.**

**Voting Yea:** Ernst, Bren, Burke, Soehren

## **2. REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **A. NOXIOUS WEED REPORT**

Code Enforcement Officer Tiffany Stewart presented the 2023 Noxious Weed Report. Stewart reported that in 2023, a total of 593 notices were issued for tall grass and weeds. Properties are considered in violation when vegetation exceeds 10 inches in height. Of those notices, 191 involved a noxious weed, accounting for 32% of properties. She noted the most common noxious weeds identified were wormwood, Canada thistle, and leafy spurge.

City contractors conducted mowing services 109 times across the 593 notices, with 90 properties requiring multiple mowings. Additionally, the City sprayed for noxious weeds on 27 separate occasions; however, most property owners chose to handle spraying on their own. In 2023, the City utilized two mowing contractors and one spraying

contractor. The same number of contractors are being used in 2024, though with different individuals or companies.

So far in 2024, 488 properties have already been found in violation, with 245 involving noxious weeds—roughly 50%. Stewart emphasized that most property owners prefer to manage their own maintenance rather than have the City intervene.

Board Member Bruce Burke asked whether the properties in violation tend to be the same each year. Stewart responded that while many are repeat offenders, there are always some new properties added to the list, just as some from the previous year drop off. She explained there is fluctuation in which properties receive notices.

Burke then asked whether notices are generally based on complaints or inspections. Stewart stated they come from both sources—complaints are received online, by phone, and in person, in addition to regular inspections.

Board Member Trevor Ernst asked why the percentage of notices had dropped from 50% to 35% and then returned to nearly 50%. Stewart said it's difficult to pinpoint a specific reason but suggested it likely relates to seasonal rainfall. She added that while the City does request that property owners spray for weeds, they will spray during inspections if necessary to help maintain compliance.

Ernst asked if Stewart had any additional comments for the City of Dickinson. Stewart reiterated that the City's code allows for vegetation up to 10 inches. While enforcement is necessary, she encouraged residents who receive a notice to contact the office, as Code Enforcement is willing to work with them. Charging property owners is always a last resort. Contact information is listed at the bottom of all notices.

She also noted that the City's website has been updated to allow for direct reporting of grass and weed concerns to Code Enforcement. Previously, such complaints were not consistently routed to their department, but now they are received directly.

Chairman Shawn Soehren asked whether a charge applies when the City must mow or spray a property. Stewart confirmed this, stating that the charge is clearly indicated on the bottom of the notices. She added that Code Enforcement keeps a list of local contractors in their office to provide to property owners. They conduct a search each year to identify and maintain a current list of available local contractors.

Ernst asked for clarification on the 109 mowing instances and whether they were due to lack of contact with property owners. Stewart explained that these typically involve vacant lots or properties where owners are unreachable due to lack of water hookups, which prevents the City from obtaining contact information. These lots tend to be the ones mowed most frequently.

Board Member Pat Bren asked whether there has been an increase in wormwood weeds in the City. Stewart replied that this year, wormwood and Canada thistle have been the most commonly observed, and both are quite prevalent within the city.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Motion to accept Shawn Soehren as Chairman and Trevor Ernst as Vice President of the City Weed Board.

**Motion made by Bren, Seconded by Burke.**

**Voting Yea:** Ernst, Bren, Burke, Soehren

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 AM.

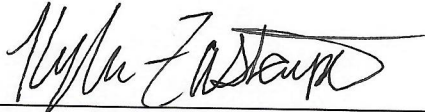
**Motion made by Ernst, Seconded by Burke.**

**Voting Yea:** Ernst, Bren, Burke, Soehren

**Link for viewing Board of Adjustment Meeting:**


<https://youtube.com/live/c3YHOZ8rjDM>

**This link will become live at approximately 8:30AM on August 12, 2024**



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Prepared by: Kylee Zastoupil, Administrative Assistant  
Community Development & Engineering



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Approved by: Leonard Schwindt, Building Official