

Weed Department Report
Weed Board Meeting
August 3rd,2023

- We are seeing a large increase in weeds on the rights-of-ways in the county. Areas that once took one day to cover are now taking 2 or 3 days and using significantly more herbicide. With the early departure of our 2nd seasonal employee I will have to spend a large portion of my time spraying for the rest of the season in order to keep up with the weeds.

- I have documented and either sent a letter or contacted 16 different land owners in the county with noxious weed issues. I have received commitment to spray for 4 of these properties. I have a list of additional properties that I will inspect and follow up with additional letters.

- We will receive \$2000.00 from the city of Monticello to cover the cost of herbicides to spray both the golf course and airport runway and aprons. The county will provide the equipment and manpower to get the job done.

- We have made significant improvements in the vegetation control at the various county facilities. I believe the fairgrounds are looking particularly weed free this year. Each year we see a decrease in the amount of weeds at the county properties thereby making it less expensive and time consuming each year.

- We recently had to have a new clutch put in our Dodge 400 gallon spray truck. This old dodge workhorse currently has nearly 200,000 rough miles on it and I believe it is time to start looking into replacing it. I will begin looking into whether there are any available grants that may help with the purchase of a new truck and spray system. I believe it is imperative that whatever we purchase has to be more capable in loose dirt and sand than our 2019 Ford 450 dually which has proven to get stuck very easily. I also believe that switching to a centrifugal pump configuration will serve us better than the current diaphragm pump we currently run on the old Dodge.