

## **TALBOT COUNTY WEED CONTROL ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Talbot County Weed Control Committee was called to order by Chairman John Swaine, III on Friday, March 31, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. Others in attendance were County Manager Andy Hollis, County Council Member Jennifer Williams, Committee Members: Gordon Behrens, Wade Dudrow, Bill Foster, Bob Garrett and Charles Lyons, MDA Plant Protection & Weed Control Supervisor Lane Heimer, MDA Weed Control Specialist Jim Calao, FSA Office Representative John Barga, and Talbot County Weed Control Coordinator Ray Kinsey.

John Swaine moved to accept the 2016 Minutes as printed. The motion passed.

Ray Kinsey read his Activity Report from 2016, which included four outstanding accounts of \$869.50. He is actively pursuing payments for those accounts. The report was approved as printed.

There was discussion of the terms of the committee members. There are no term expirations in 2017.

Lane Heimer asked about the replacement process for the spray truck. Ray said that there is a contingent fund in which \$5/hour of spray revenue is set aside for the purchase of a vehicle. It is usually replaced every 7-9 years with County Council approval. There is currently \$12,228.75 in the fund.

The FY18 budget request was reviewed.

Bob Garrett mentioned he was favorable of the County Roads Department taking action against homeowners that do roadside spraying which causes erosion, which was implemented by Superintendent Warren Edwards.

John Swaine stated that Jim Calao was new to the area with MDA Weed Control since Mark Smith's retirement. Jim stated that he covers the eastern shore and Lane Heimer covers the western shore of Maryland. Mr. Heimer told of how the program has changed over the years and staff and equipment is limited. He also stated that the gator and trailer that Talbot County is using was mentioned in the 2016 Minutes. He clarified that the trailer will be turned over to Talbot County, and the gator can be used by Talbot at this time.

There was discussion about the weed, Palmer Amaranth, which is very prominent in Hebron, MD, and resistant to anything. It is a noxious weed in Delaware, but not in Maryland at this time. Mr. Behrens said that it is spread via cattle feed, and is very hard to eliminate. Mr. Heimer said he would like to map the areas that it is located.

Mr. Hollis said that Roads Superintendent Warren Edwards talked last year about the bioswale ditches that the county has installed in various locations. He said that he knows that the county has not done an adequate job on maintaining those ditches, and we plan to do a better job of that. He also stated that the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance is finished. He reiterated that the county is very focused on customer service, and if there are any hurdles please let him know.

John Swaine inquired about the new permit process implemented by the Roads Department. Andy explained that it is a simple process, but it makes property owners/contractors accountable for work that is done on county rights-of-way. It is aimed at the people that do not work properly, and/or leave a mess in the right-of-way.

Mr. Barga, as well as several committee members, thanked Ray for his help whenever needed.

Mrs. Williams let the Committee know about listening sessions in various areas of the county that are open to the public and sponsored by the new Economic Development/Tourism Department.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Kinsey