

Prairie dogs still a concern to county commissioners



By Karen Krien
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Prairie dog control was once again discussed at the July 31 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners. After talking to the county attorney, they learned that they could hire someone to go onto a person's land to eliminate prairie dogs.

The commissioners asked the county attorney, Justin Barrett, if county employees could go on to private land and treat prairie dogs. Mr. Barrett said that they can, but suggested following the procedure outlined in the county's resolution.

The resolution states that, before entering on the land, the county should give written notice to the landowners. Landowners can choose to make a diligent effort to get rid of the dogs but, after 15 days, the person hired to take care of the dogs can go onto the land. It should be noted that the costs of getting rid of the dogs will be taken care of by the landowner.

He said there are people who want prairie dogs on their land but they have to maintain them on their land and keep them off of neighboring pastures. They also need to contact the commissioners telling them of their intentions.

IV classes

Several months ago, 10 emergency medical technicians said they wanted to take an intravenous class. Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, said all 10 had been ready to take the class and the

paper work had been done to get a grant to help with the costs. Now, six of the 10 have decided that they don't have time right now.

"The class was supposed to be the first of June, and, now, here we are!" said Ernie Ketzner, commissioner.

Mrs. Bowers said there is also another problem as the state board of emergency medical service may change the guidelines for intravenous classes and the class could take twice as long. If this happens, there will be even fewer technicians who will feel they have the time to take the training.

Mr. Ketzner said he would like to see technicians sign a letter of commitment when taking the class. Mrs. Bowers said they already do.

She suggested the county participate in the "Kan Set Off" program. The program offers collection of ambulance bills through tax refunds. The county attorney will look into the program and, if he finds no problem, the commissioners will proceed.

Ambulance write offs for \$1,761 was signed by the commissioners.

The commissioners signed a notice to the Kansas Region I Board of Emergency Medical Service stating Mrs. Bowers, Cynthia Poling and Mike Hanson were designated as representatives from the county to serve on the Region I Board.

U.S. 36 study

Steve Haynes, president of the U.S. 36 Highway Association, Elmer Kellner, representative; and Milton Lampe, director, talked to the commissioners about joining with other counties along U.S. 36 to raise money for a study. The study would be done regarding the widening of the highway and each county on the northern tier of the state is asked to give \$2,000.

Mr. Haynes said that the Kansas Department of Transportation is

getting ready to make the next 10-year plan and the study would help to show the economic impact before they would consider funding money to the highway.

Missouri already has four-lanes up to the Kansas border. Andy Beikman, chairman, asked if people would just turn and go south at Wheeler to I-70 because Colorado doesn't keep up U.S. 36 very well. Mr. Haynes said he and others had met with the Colorado Department of Transportation and officials had promised to keep the highway up.

"This is a long-term deal and we need to start investing in the future," Mr. Haynes said.

He went on to tell that the freight crossing the country is incredible and, by 2020, he expects there to be a huge volume of trucks crossing Kansas on U.S. 36.

If the money can be raised from the counties, Mr. Haynes thought the Docking Institute would match.

Mr. Beikman said the commissioners had just turned in the county's budget for next year. Mr. Haynes said if the commissioners would decide to give, they had until the first of the year.

Land swap

Dick Bursch, fair board president, and Clay Zimbelman, board member, asked for 10 minutes in executive session to discuss land purchase. When returning, Andy Beikman, chairman, made a motion to allow the fair board to make a "land swap" at the fairgrounds.

The swap will include a 16-foot swath of land west of the livestock barn for a portion of land near the baseball diamond. The land swap will allow the road next to the livestock barn to be widened and will be safer.

In other business

In other business:
• Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas

Planning and Development Commission, had two requests for Community Development Building Grant funds. One request was for the final payment, \$57,500, to the Bird City Dairy project. The other was a first request of \$23,788, for the Olofson Bridge project north of St. Francis. Both requests were approved.

• Mrs. Griffey asked if the commissioners were still interested in pursuing a grant for an ambulance. They said they were and she will have more information in the near future.

• A wage agreement for Craig Van Allen was signed.

• The commissioners accepted a letter of resignation from Karen Flemming, bookkeeper in the appraiser's office.

• Permission was given for one person from the appraiser's office to attend upcoming workshops. One workshop deals with digital soils and the other with Orion conversion.

• A letter of support for an E-Waste grant was signed. The grant will be submitted by the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization.

• Clerk Terry Miller was given approval to purchase an industrial strength cross-cut paper shredder.

• Road and bridge department supervisor, Dave Flemming, gave his report. He also had a highway permit for Rosewood Resources to bore under a county road. The commissioners signed the permit.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 15, in the courthouse in St. Francis.



TUMBLEWEED ROUND-UP held last Saturday featured a variety of local talent including Helene Landenberger. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Ag Talk with Jeanne

By Jeanne Falk, K-State Multi-County Agronomist

Just as wheat growers take a breather from this year's wheat harvest, the time is drawing near for them to take soil samples from fields that will be planted to wheat this fall.

In addition to a 6-inch sample for a routine test for phosphorus, potassium, organic matter, and pH, it would be a good idea to take a 24-inch sample for a profile nitrogen test, said Dale Leikam, K-State Research and Extension nutrient management specialist.

"In eastern and central Kansas, many fields had very low wheat yields this year," he said. "These fields could have significant amounts of residual nitrate-nitrogen remaining in the soil, which would reduce the rates of nitrogen fertilizer needed for next year's wheat crop."

But don't assume residual soil nitrogen levels are high, Mr. Leikam said.

"Nitrogen taken up by the wheat earlier this spring and remaining in plant residues this summer will be

in an organic form - and unavailable for plant uptake until mineralized by soil microbes."

Also, with the unusually wet weather this spring and summer, part of that unused soil nitrogen may have been lost to denitrification on medium- to fine-textured soils, or leaching on sandy soils, he said.

Weed growth is another factor. "Broadleaf and grassy weeds require significant amounts of nitrogen, just like crops. Where fields are dense with weeds and grasses, nitrogen uptake by weeds will be high and residual soil nitrogen levels may be very low," the agronomist said.

"Nitrogen utilized by weeds will be in an organic form, and unavailable for plant uptake until mineralized by soil microbes."

In western Kansas, where wheat yields were unusually good this year, soil nitrogen levels are likely depleted more than normal, he added.

In those cases, lower residual soil nitrogen will result in higher-than-normal required rates of fertilizer nitrogen for the wheat crop this fall.

The only way to know for sure is to take a profile-nitrogen soil test, Mr. Leikam said

"This should be done about two to four weeks prior to wheat planting," he advised. "If fields have a dense stand of weeds, producers should make sure the weeds have been controlled before sampling the soils. As long as weeds are still alive and growing, they will continue to take up nitrogen."

Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs live in underground burrows, extensive warrens of tunnels and chambers marked by many mounds of packed earth at their surface entrances. Burrows have defined nurseries, sleeping quarters, and even toilets. They also feature listening posts near exits, so animals can safely keep tabs on the movements of predators outside.

Prairie dogs spend a lot of time building and rebuilding these dwellings. Other animals benefit from their labors. Burrows may be shared by snakes, burrowing owls, and even rare black-footed ferrets, which hunt prairie dogs in their own dwellings.

Black-tailed prairie dogs, the best known of the five prairie dog species, live in larger communities called towns, which may contain many hundreds of animals. Typically they cover less than half a square mile (1.3 square kilometers), but historically they could be enormous. The largest recorded prairie dog town covered some 25,000 square miles (65,000 square kilometers). That Texas town was home to perhaps four hundred million prairie dogs!

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson met Larry Wilkinson in Colby on Friday and they enjoyed lunch at the Subway. Larry and his family were on their way to Colorado for a vacation.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson enjoyed the parade in St. Francis on Saturday. On Sunday evening they attended a farewell party for Josh Johnson which was held in St. Francis.

Betty Lewis returned home last Tuesday from a trip to Yakima, Wash., where she attended a Pickett reunion.

Eleanor Swihart, Joan Tongish and Betty Lewis enjoyed a presentation given by Adrienne Swihart at the Baptist church on Sunday evening. Adrienne showed slides and talked about her recent mis-

sion trip to Bulgaria.

Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison attended a Bandel-Schorzman family reunion on Saturday in St. Francis.

Visitors of Gail and Kay Miller this weekend were Lori Driskill of Wichita, the Randy Miller family, the Brian Miller family, Terry Jensen and Francis Erickson.

Madeline and DeAdre Osborne spent from Tuesday to Sunday with grandparents, A.B. and Judy Fisher. Troy and Lisa Osborne of Kansas City came on Friday and all returned home on Sunday.

Family members who attended the Kacirek family reunion on Sunday in Atwood were Bernard Kacirek, Norman and Tessa Davis, Laddie and Vera Kacirek, Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson and Gerard

and Anita Pochop.

Last weekend Jim and Lois Morelock attended a Simon family reunion which was held at the Mount Pleasant Baptist church in Studley. There were 120 people present representing seven generations, who were all descendants of the Simon family. Lois's grandparents were Simons.

Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister attended the open house for Owen and Sara Walker on Saturday. The Walkers will soon be leaving for a three-year tour of duty in England.

Cat Quotes

"I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior."

—Hippolyte Taine

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats."

—Albert Schweitzer

"The cat has too much spirit to have no heart."

—Ernest Menaul

"Dogs believe they are human.

Cats believe they are God."

—Unknown

"Time spent with cats is never wasted."

—Colette

"Some people say that cats are sneaky, evil, and cruel. True, and they have many other fine qualities as well."

—Missy Dizick

"Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want.

—Joseph Wood Krutch

"My husband said it was him or the cat... I miss him sometimes.

—Unknown

TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT	
ENDING July 31, 2007	
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FUND	BALANCE
GENERAL	455,638.10
ROAD & BRIDGE	446,732.18
BRIDGE BUILDING	11,694.64
NOXIOUS WEED	18,221.92
NOXIOUS WEED SPECIAL FL	8,731.70
CAFETERIA PLAN	477.82
HOSPITAL BOND & INTERES'	307,209.03
VIN-STATE	35.00
RURAL FIRE	18,962.42
HOSPITAL	58,417.84
DIVERSION FUND	5,415.39
CO ATTN'Y BAD CHECK FUN	760.15
REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND	35,482.22
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TA	1,757.95
16/20 M TRUCKS	226.43
SPECIAL PARKS & REC	1,742.78
911	69,820.61
UNCLAIMED FUNDS	2,710.87
AMBULANCE MEMORIAL FUN	7,042.66
INSUFFICIENT CHECK	213.00
ADVANCED TAX-NON BUDGE	3,735.40
SPECIAL AMBULANCE	21,937.00
DRIVERS LICENSE	36.00
SPECIAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	5,036.00
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	63,436.11
MOTOR VEHICLE FUND	6,815.27
STATE SALES TAX	19,223.17
CURRENT TAX	55,054.49
COUNTY REDEMPTION	1,128.69
DELINQUENT PP TAX	644.48
PAYROLL WITHHOLDING	(1.15)
ATTORNEY FUND	1,839.69
FISH & GAME	98.60
MORTGAGE REGISTRATION	18.17
MAPS	100.00
BENKELMAN TOWNSHIP	620.45
CALHOUN TOWNSHIP	7,122.97
CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP	763.48
JACUA TOWNSHIP	7,307.57
HANDICAP EQUIPMENT	455.00
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUNG	321,511.20
DELINQUENT 16/20 M TAXES	338.29
CCH/COUNTY HEALTH	5,072.13
PRAIRIE DOG	3,550.58
GIFT ANNUITY	16,911.20
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUN	61,467.30
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	2,055,514.80

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