

HARRISON COUNTY

ROAD DEPARTMENT

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MEMO TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: ROBERT WEAVER, ROAD MANAGER *rw*
DATE: May 2, 2011
RE: COGONGRASS ERADICATION PROGRAM

Enclosed please find a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Mississippi Coastal Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (RCDC) for Cogongrass control.

I am requesting the Board to approve this MOU and authorize the Board President to execute same.

The County's cost share will be \$10,000.00 and paid from account 150-300-581.

If you should have any questions, please call.

Robert Weaver
Road Manager

**MEMORANDUM
OF
UNDERSTANDING**

BETWEEN

HARRISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AND

**MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PLAINS
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

Back ground

Cogongrass is a highly invasive weed that is actively infesting a large percentage of land (public and privately owned) in South Mississippi and the impact of this infestation is destroying the natural habitat of much of the native wildlife including several endangered species such as the gopher tortoise, red cockaded woodpecker, as well as white tailed deer, turkey, quail and song birds. It is preventing the re-establishment of pine timber on lands that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina and without this reforestation effort, the longleaf pine and other pine and hardwood species will not return to their pre-Katrina levels. This is essential for restoring and protecting our valuable, renewable natural resources. Cogongrass is also a highly volatile weed that is increasing the potential wildfire hazards in Jackson County, Mississippi. The Partners that will be involved with this proposed project will include: MS Dept. of Transportation, US Forest Service, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission, MS Dept of Agriculture and Commerce-Bureau of Plant Industry, and The Nature Conservancy as well as the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

This Memorandum made between Harrison County, MS Board of Supervisors and Mississippi Coastal Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., whose offices are located at 230-C E. Pine Ave., Wiggins, MS 39577, hereinafter referred to as the parties.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate the terms of the proposal on Cogongrass control and is based on the following:

Whereas, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors has funds available to implement the project, and both parties desire to see the project implemented in Harrison County which is a part of the Mississippi Coastal Plains RC&D area.

Therefore, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors agrees to contract with Mississippi Coastal Plains RC&D Council, Inc., for the implementation of the project.

Both parties further agree to the following:

- 1. Services to be performed: The Mississippi Coastal Plains RC&D Council, Inc. agrees to perform the following services for Harrison County Board of Supervisors including, but not limited to:**
 - Sites will be located with GPS locations on maps and acreages verified by MCPRC&D employees.**
 - Licensed, contract chemical sprayers will be hired to spray county road rights-of-way and adjoining private landowner acreages in areas designated by the Harrison County Road Department in cooperation with MS Coastal Plains RC&D Council at a cost of \$125/acre to include mapping and treatment.**
 - Chemicals will be purchased and distributed to private landowners in cooperation with MDAC, BPI and Harrison County Board of Supervisors to treat cogongrass on private lands that are not receiving sufficient assistance from MDAC or USDA programs or not covered by the above mentioned contract sprayers. Applicants are required to sign an application that addresses liability.**
- 2. Payment. In consideration of performance of these services, Harrison County Board of Supervisors agrees to provide to the Mississippi Coastal Plains RC&D Council, Inc. grant funds in the amount of \$ 10,000.00 as outlined in the attached proposal. MS Coastal Plains RC&D Council, Inc. agrees to cost share an additional \$5,000.00 toward the project. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoices from MS Coastal Plains RC&D Council as work is completed.**
- 3. Documentation. Mississippi Coastal Plains RC&D Council, Inc., agrees to provide to the Harrison County Board of Supervisors all documentation necessary to support and document expenditures. All expenditures will be in accordance with applicable state guidelines as specified in grant award document.**
- 4. Agreement Period. This agreement shall become effective upon signature and shall continue through Completion of the project.**

Agreed to and accepted by:

**SIGN
HERE**

Harrison County Board of Supervisors , President

Date

Mississippi Coastal Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

Date