

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 12:30 pm
Annual Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks, Chairman
Jerry Hirrschoff, Vice Chairman
Mark DiSanto
Paul Paulsen
Deb Hadcock, County Commissioner Liaison

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

Chairman Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:35p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Hirrschoff to approve the agenda, seconded by DiSanto, motion carried. Motion made by DiSanto to approve meeting minutes for the December 15, 2021 meeting, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Motion by Hadcock to elect Hirrschoff as chairman and DiSanto as vice-chairman, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 94.55% remaining, Natural Resource budget (616) is at 85.45% for the remainder of the year. There was \$20,834.01 that was not spent in the Title III funds last year, due to a lack of qualifying events on the forest service. The Title III funds are split between Search and Rescue, County Fire, and Natural Resources, the lion share goes to Search and Rescue. Guffey has submitted a budget supplement request for the funds to be used on (616) budget salaries, since the crew is working on the forest service creating a shaded-fuel break, which a qualifying expense.

OLD BUSINESS

Weed & Pest Board Appointment – Unit 3

Paulson's current 3-year term on the Weed & Pest Board was up in Unit 3, which is the eastern third of the county east of the Cheyenne River. Paul agreed to submit his name again and once again ran un-opposed for the seat.

Shaded Fuel Break

The S. Rochford Rd Settlement Sale is done, there was 42 loads of logs hauled off and the county netted \$26,536.78 on the sale. After S. Rochford Rd was finished, the crew worked on masticating some slash piles that were left on the Sheridan Lake Rd project. A few slash piles were not treated because of the amount of rocks and soil in them and few we are waiting for Centurylink to move their transmission line. The crew is currently working on the Norris Peak Timber Sale area, with the shade fuel break project. There is an estimated 200 ccf of commercial logs in there, should amount to about 20 truck-loads. Guffey put out an RFP for the purchase of the timber decks and removal. Nieman Timber was the only bidder and their bid was \$36.08 per ton. Guffey met with the Mystic District on spending the \$20k the county was awarded on their Title II grant application for fuels work. They are working

on an agreement for us to work on fuels up in McVey area north of Hill City. The state has been working on a mapping exercise to find more timber in the Black Hills for harvest. The BBNF has proposed a cut in the Annual Sale Quantity of timber on the forest, industry says this could result in the closing of another mill. The mapping exercise is taking longer than expected, the state is looking at using LiDAR instead. There are companies that can produce individual tree data from LiDAR analysis, it is expensive – about \$3.5K - \$4K to the entire Black Hills. The state is looking for financial help, Lawrence County is willing to take the lead on it to expedite the project as long as their partners to contribute to the cost.

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant Applications

Guffey and foreman Craig Smith attended the SD Weed & Pest Conference in Huron. Pennington County was awarded in full their \$6K competitive grant application to treat various local noxious weeds in the county, we will also be receiving the regular grant as well. That exact amount won't be known for another week, should be around \$4,500. Guffey gave a short report on the conference.

2022 Weed & Pest Board Meeting Schedule

Guffey requested that the April and December meeting dates be changed, the April meeting conflicts with area schools spring break and the December meeting needs to be moved up a week to ensure board members payroll is in for the 2022 wages.

NEW BUSINESS

Department's Labor and Equipment Rates

Guffey said the weed & pest labor and equipment rates have been the same since 2016. Currently the rates are \$20/hr for labor, \$35/hr for a pickup, \$25/hr for ATV, \$15/hr for backpack and 10% markup on chemical cost. Prairie dog town poisoning \$10/acre. Guffey suggested the following rates changes \$25/hr for labor, \$45/hr for a pickup, \$35/hr for ATV, \$25/hr for backpack and 10% markup on chemical cost. Prairie dog town poisoning \$15/acre - \$100 minimum charge. Motion by DiSanto seconded by Bert to accept the proposed rate changes.

Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision

Guffey is still pushing that Pennington County gets cooperating agency status. He participated in the webinar that the forest service put on, BBNF Supervisor Jeff Tomac is supposed to have a sit-down meeting with area county commissioners to discuss counties participation as cooperating agencies on the forest plan re-vision. It will require deliverables from the counties and staff time, whole process will likely take 3 years to complete. It is important the counties have input in the plan, it will be guiding document the forest service will use to manage the Black Hills for the next 20-30 years.

2022 Weed Spraying Agreements

Guffey signed the 2022 weed spraying agreements with the BBNF, 560 acres for Mystic and 378 acres for Hell Canyon ranger districts. Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Wall Ranger District is putting together an agreement to spray 150 acres, they have \$30k to spend by next year. Guffey expects about the same agreements with SD DOT and Rapid City. He is anticipating over \$200k in revenue, should easily meet the \$170.5K projection for this year.

Crew Update

Guffey said that the crew has been working hard on the Norris Peak timber cut, had a couple of skid steer breakdowns. Trying to get out as much as possible before spring load limits go on the county paved roads, Guffey wants to talk to the highway dept to see how long they anticipate them lasting, normally they last until the end of April. He may look into requesting an exemption from the county commissioners. The crew poisoned a problem prairie dog town that is next to Valley View Estates Subdivision on the corner of Long View and Radar Hill road. Guffey also received a prairie dog complaint from Megan Kieffer on her neighbor's property Jon and Lisa Anderson near the RC Airport, Guffey sent a volunteer compliance letter to the Andersons 1/27/2022. They did comply and had the prairie dog town poisoned. Buildings & Grounds are doing a building needs assessment with a third party, asked department heads for input. Guffey met with Buildings & Grounds and the BKV group, Guffey said in the

short term the Weed & Pest building needs to be hooked up to city sewer and a T1 internet line needs to be run to the building. Long term, shop space is getting tight – one possible solution is adding a couple of stalls to the west of the cold storage building and adding a cement floor and heat to the building.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 pm, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Next meeting will be April 7th, 2022.

Submitted by Scott Guffey