

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Paul Paulsen, Chairman  
Mark DiSanto, County Commissioner  
Bert Jocks

**Members Absent:**

Dell Petersen, Vice Chairman  
Jerry Hirrschoff

**Others Present:**

Scott Guffey, Director

Chairman Paulson called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Additional Items / Approve Agenda**

Motion made by DiSanto to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Jocks to approve meeting minutes for the December 9, 2019 meeting, seconded by DiSanto, motion carried.

**Election of Officers**

Motion made by DiSanto to elect Petersen as chairman and Jocks 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% left for the remainder of the year. Natural Resource budget (616) is at 78% for the remainder of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Weed & Pest Board Opening – Rapid City Representative**

Guffey said there was only one applicant for the opening and that was Jerry Hirrschoff. Jerry is active in various wildlife boards and committees.

**Shaded Fuel Break Update**

Edelweiss Mt Road Shaded Fuel Break is finally completed, delays with the weather and contractors pushed this project out to five years. Crew is now making good progress on the 117-acre Norris Peak Rd shaded fuel break, waiting for the USFS to give us clearance to begin on merchantable removal. There is delay at the USFS regional office, apparently the stewardship credits were filed wrong for the Edelweiss project. The stewardship credits should be able to move to another project, to offset the stumpage value of the merchant removal. This is affecting getting the SPA in place for the 420-acre Sheridan Lake Rd shaded fuel break project along the re-alignment of the road. The plan is do a 300 ft shaded fuel break on both sides of the road with a 100 ft clear cut from center line. There is urgency to get the commercial removal and center line clear cut done before construction begins. Guffey is optimistic it can be done by June, pending how fast the USFS gets the stewardship issue cleared up.

**SD Weed & Pest Grant Application**

The county was awarded the two grants from the SD Weed & Pest Commission Funds. A grant in the amount of \$11,350 for surveying and treating invasive weeds in the Cheyenne River watershed, focusing on salt cedar and phragmites. The other grant was the county grants, that are available to all SD counties that meet the requirements – will probably be around \$4-5,000 for that grant.

**2020 SD Weed & Pest Conference, February 18-21, Aberdeen, SD.**

Guffey and Craig Smith attended the 2020 SD Weed & Pest Conference in Aberdeen. It is a state requirement to have at least two representatives from the county to attend the conference to qualify for grant funding. Guffey said the conference was

fine, biggest news was the weed & pest board association change the by-laws to now have the president and vice president serve a two-year term, changed from a one-year term.

### **Gallagher Wage Study**

The county hired Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. to conduct a wage study on the county employees. Guffey is scheduled to meet with HR Jon Morrill after the board meeting to discuss the Weed & Pest position ratings. Guffey said one possible reason for the low ratings of some of the Weed & Pest position is that Gallagher was given old job descriptions for the ratings. On another note, Guffey had his evaluation with the board of county commissioners. Petersen accompanied Guffey for his evaluation, which went well. The commission was very complementary on the job Guffey is doing and recommend that he received his regular step and performance step as recommended by the Weed & Pest board. There was some discussion about the wage study and possible renaming some positions and the department to include natural resources in them.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Senate Bill 24, SD Legislation**

Guffey said that the SD Dept of Ag has introduced legislation to increase funding for their pesticide recycling and pesticide regulatory funds. To do this the department introduce Senate Bill 24 to increase the Pesticide Registration Fees and increase the cost of commercial applicators license and private applicator license. Guffey said SB 24 also removes the government fee exemption for the commercial applicator license. Guffey said this year, five of applicators in the department were required to go through the recertification course to renew their bi-annual license, cost the county \$300 to renew them and the county's pesticide dealers license. If SB 24 passes as it is, it will now cost the county \$500, that is a 40% increase. Guffey testified against the legislation in the Senate Ag Committee, along with the association of county commissioners and municipal league. SB has been passed out of the Senate and now waiting for a House committee assignment. Guffey will continue to try to get the bill amend to add the government exemption fee back.

### **2020 Weed Spraying Agreement**

Guffey is expending similar agreements and amounts to last year, too early to tell for sure. He said they have already signed an agreement with USFS Buffalo Gap National Grasslands for \$3k to treat about 30 acres by Wall and or Creston, the district has put in an request for funding that could increase another 100 acres. Guffey said they already received a check from SD Youth Hunting Adventures that matched the RMEF Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for a total of \$5k for the Oxeye Daisy project. Guffey said he is working with the forest to apply for an additional RMEF grant for noxious weed treatments in the McVey area. Guffey said he is looking at the NWTF grants for possible additional funding for the Cheyenne River project.

### **Crew Update**

Crew is currently working on the Norris Peak Shaded Fuel Break. They have been using the Diamond Head masticating head on the project a lot and have worn down some teeth, it currently is getting some parts welded back together on it. Also poisoned three prairie dog towns south of Rapid City using the trail cameras to figure amount of reduction. Guffey said he will have the report for the next meeting. Guffey budgeted for the purchase of two new ATVs, he will be ordering those soon.

### **Agency Report**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Motion made by DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 1:55pm, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Next meeting will be May 27, 2020.

Submitted by Scott Guffey