

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Natural Resources Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jerry Hirrschoff, Chairman
Mark DiSanto, Vice Chairman
Travis Lasseter, County Commissioner Liaison
Paul Paulsen
Bert Jocks

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hirrschoff called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by DiSanto to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Paulsen to approve meeting minutes for the December 7th, 2022 meeting, seconded by DiSanto, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Motion by Jocks to elect DiSanto as chairman and Paulsen as vice-chairman, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried. Hirrschoff was appointed by the board of county commissioners for another 3-year term as the Rapid City representative on the weed & pest board. Travis Lasseter is new county commission liaison on the board.

Budget Report

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 83% remaining, Forestry budget (616) is at 79% for the remainder of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Shaded Fuel Break

The crew has been working on the Twin Springs fuels reduction project, just a little bit left to finish on the project. Started on the remaining trees on S. Rochford Rd located in one of the Areas to Project (ATP). It is a cultural ATP site, need to have state and tribal monitors on site when we are working. State monitor showed up Monday, but tribal monitor was a no show. We can't do anything until both a state and tribal monitor are on site. There is 38 CCF to cut in the ATP site, or about 4 truck loads of logs to remove.

Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision

Not a lot has happened as far as forest plan revision progress since the last meeting, the counties have a meeting scheduled with the BHNf on March 22 to get an update. Senate Bill 21 was introduced to the SD legislature by the SD Dept of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the bill would provide \$5k to BH counties as match for assistance during the BHNf forest plan revision. SB 21 has received little opposition and has passed out of the Senate.

Vehicle Purchase

Guffey inquired about buying a 1-ton pickup off of the SD state bid list, the dealer said it is difficult to get pickups right now and likely not going to get a pickup if ordered. Guffey found a used 2017 GMC 1 ton with 70k miles for \$46,535 in Minneapolis. Trevor Norenberg flew out to drive the pickup back, it's good truck the tows great.

SD Weed & Pest Grant Conference

Guffey and Norenberg attended the SD Weed & Pest Conference in Huron, February 14-24. Learned about new herbicides available - Venue is a new Leafy Spurge herbicide. HighNoon new herbicide name, it is DurCor with a right-of-way and grazing label. PiperEZ is liquid formulation of Piper, a bareground herbicide. A couple of drone applicator vendors there, \$400/hr application rate – drone cost around \$20k. Conference will be in Spearfish, next year February 21-23.

NEW BUSINESS

Prairie Dog Enforcement (Marvin Noll)

Marvin Noll compliance letter was sent 11/18/2022 with a deadline of 2/15/2022, Guffey did follow-up inspections on February 8th and again on February 13th. Guffey could not do an inspection after that, since he was in Huron at the weed & pest conference. It appeared no attempt had been made to control the prairie dogs, Guffey sent a follow-up letter stating he would recommend to the weed & pest board to begin an enforcement on the property at the scheduled February 22 meeting. Marvin Noll called the day before the scheduled meeting on February 22 and said he had contact Arlen Carmichael to control his prairie dogs. Guffey contacted Carmichael to confirm that he had been contracted to control Noll's prairie dogs, said that he was and controlled them on February 21st.

2023 Weed Spraying Agreements

Guffey has been working on getting weed spraying agreements in place for the spray season. The Black Hills National Forest Service agreement will include 152 acres on Hell Canyon District and 559 acres on Mystic District at \$135/acres for a total of \$96,085. Buffalo Gap National Grasslands agreement is for 20 acres at \$100/acre for a total of \$20,000. SD DOT RR proposal has been sent and SD DOT proposal will be sent out soon. Also, submitted RMEF PAC grant in the amount \$10k for invasive weed control in the Black Hills.

Crew Update

Crew is busy cutting trees on the Twin Springs Fuel Reduction project, cleaning up the Sheridan Lake Rd slash piles, and cutting trees on S. Rochford Rd. Will start to get weed spraying equipment ready to go soon.

Additional Item

Agency Report

Lasseter said the county is looking at ways to save money. Guffey mentioned that a proposal will be coming to the board of commissioners to change the employee leave policy on county closed snow days. Currently hourly employees have to use vacation leave when the county is closed due to weather, really penalizes the employee who has no choice in the matter.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Jocks to adjourn the meeting at 1:46pm, seconded by Lasseter, motion carried.

Next meeting will be April 26th, 2023.

Submitted by Scott Guffey