

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 12:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks, Vice Chairman
Paul Paulsen
Jerry Hirrschoff
Mark DiSanto, County Commissioner (via conference call)

Members Absent:

Dell Petersen, Chairman

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

Vice Chairman Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Paulsen to approve the agenda, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried. Motion made by Hirrschoff to approve meeting minutes for the May 27, 2020 meeting, 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 38% left for the remainder of the year. Natural Resource budget (616) is at 45% for the remainder of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Shaded Fuel Break Update

Sheridan Lake Rd re-alignment direct sale, the contractor has removed as much of the commercial product as they could. Still some remaining near Spring Creek / Dam trail head entrance and about ½ mile from the Taylor Ranch Rd entrance. Area was too steep and wet. Our crew will try to get as much as they can this winter and mitigate the brush in those areas. FS is still getting the accounting straighten out on the Stewardship Agreement, should be corrected by this fall. S. Rochford re-alignment and pavement project is supposed to be let this winter, looking to similar direct sale with the timber as Sheridan Lake Rd. 100ft clear cut limits should be surveyed soon, so FS can inventory the commercial stumpage value. Guffey would like to get started on this as soon as possible to be done before the contractor starts.

Chemical Cost-share Program

Thus far only 9 landowners have participated in the program this year for a total of \$386.10 paid out. Guffey less participation could be due to less volunteer letters sent out and a lower cost-share amount, both are due to Covid-19 budget cuts.

2021 Budget

Guffey said the budget hearing went good with the county commissioners, they are impressed with our revenue generated to offset our budget impact on the general fund. Provisional budget was approved in July, with no cuts to our budgets – final 2021 budget will be approved in September.

NEW BUSINESS

Weed Enforcements

So far only 23 volunteer compliance letters (2 leafy spurge / 21 Canada thistle) have been sent out. Most of them have been on a complaint basis that Guffey has handled, the weed enforcement tech has been used for mainly spraying this year due to the COVID19 budget cuts. Guffey said there has been a few prairie dog complaints called in already, he expects a few more this year than last year due to the drier range conditions.

Black Hills Resilient Forest Partnership

Met in Keystone on July 22, the partnership has been slow start due to no coordinator for some time. Steve Hasenohl had been the coordinator since February and the COVID-19 pandemic slowed any progress. Steve will be leaving the coordinator position next month. Guffey suggested instead of waiting to find the right coordinator, is to have a rotating chairman. Logan Brown with SD Wildland Fire has tentatively agreed to serve as chairman. Lysann Zeller with Black Hills Council of Local Governments is helping out the meeting notes and GIS work. The next meeting scheduled for August 26th with a risk map built to better guide the partnership on where treatments are needed.

Weed Spraying Update

The crew has been making good progress on getting areas sprayed, the new ATVs have helped keep us on schedule by not having little equipment breakdowns. They have completed weed spraying for the BLM and Buffalo Gap National Grasslands out east, currently working on the BBNF Hell Canyon acres completed – went to working 12 hour days this week due to long travel times. Lot of weeds this year, seeing new weeds in new areas. Have found and treated St. Johnswort along Hwy 385 near Horse Creek, Marshall Gulch, and Slate Creek Dam.

Crew Update

Crew has done a great job on getting weed sprayed this summer, we'll be losing our teachers the next couple weeks going back to school to teach and we may lose another for a few weeks for a medical procedure. Still have another 300 acres to complete on the BBNF Mystic district by mid-September. We received West Nile Virus Grant from the SD Dept of Health in the amount of \$20,000 for pipe line to bury the St. Germaine irrigation ditch in Rapid Valley. This will part of the Pennington Conservation District project to bury the irrigation ditch. During the West Nile outbreak in 2003-2005, we identified the seeps and pools along the rapid valley irrigation ditches as major mosquito breeding areas.

Agency Report

None

Meeting Date

Guffey suggested to cancel the August meeting date due to the lack of enforcements. Motion by DiSanto, to cancel the August 26th meeting, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Paulsen to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm, seconded by Hirschoff, motion carried.

Next meeting will be October 28, 2020.

Submitted by Scott Guffey