

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, 12:30 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Jerry Hirrschoff, Chairman  
Mark DiSanto, Vice Chairman  
Paul Paulsen  
Bert Jocks

**Members Absent:**

Deb Hadcock, County Commissioner Liaison

**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 Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by DiSanto to approve meeting minutes for the June 8, 2022 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 44% remaining, Forestry budget (616) is at 70% for the remainder of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Shaded Fuel Break**

For the Title II \$20k funds the Mystic Ranger District will have fuels work in the Twin Spring Unit, which is located east of Three Forks and South of Hwy16. Treatments will remove non-merchantable Ponderosa Pine up to 4.9" DBH by mechanical or manual methods. Treatments are designed to decrease density in residual clumps of pine regeneration and to remove pine growing in hardwood inclusion in the unit. The crew will start in on the project area this fall after they remove about truck load of trees on the South Rochford Rd project, the trees are located on private lands that will be affected by the road re-alignment.

**Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision**

Guffey and County Commissioner Ron Rossknecht worked together with the surrounding BH counties and the State of SD, along with industry experts on the assessment review phase. Some of the assessments were poorly written and use obsolete data. The SD and WY area counties are adopting a resolution to request the BBNF to call for a second draft of the assessments. The assessments are crucial as they serve as the foundation for the forest plan revision.

**Department Staffing**

Trevor Norenberg has been hired as the Natural Resource Operations Manager. Guffey said he had good office background and some skid steer and chainsaw experience. He didn't have any weed spraying experience, but is catching on quickly and is a good fit with the team.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Black Hills Forest Advisory Board**

Guffey was appointed to the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) as the state, county, local-elected or appointed office, South Dakota or Wyoming representative. It has taken two years for the board to get their charter renewed, Guffey said it will be good to have Pennington County represented on the board. First board meeting August 17<sup>th</sup>. Meeting will be monthly, taking place on the third Wednesdays of the month. Guffey said the remaining meeting this year will not interfere with any of the weed board meetings.

### **Prairie Dog Complaint Procedure**

Guffey said that prairie dog complaints can come direct to the county as a written complaint. Always have been able to, just the state and counties were under the assumption that the written complaints had to go the state and neighboring landowner – then the state would send it down to the county. Guffey asked for the county States Attorney's opinion on it and they agreed it the complaint can go direct to the county. By sending the complaint directly to the county, it will streamline the process.

### **Crew Update**

Guffey said the crew is making good progress on everything, currently everyone is working out west on the Hell Canyon District acres. They finished up with the Mystic District acres last week. Are starting lose some seasonal employees to going back to school and other jobs. Will be losing the college kids in the few weeks.

### **Additional Item**

#### **Agency Report**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Motion made by DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 1:10pm, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Next meeting will be October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Submitted by Scott Guffey