

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 12:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Dell Petersen, Chairman

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

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

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Hirrschoff to approve the agenda, seconded by Paulson, motion carried. Motion made by Paulson to approve meeting minutes for the May 27, 2020 meeting, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Budget Report

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 4% left for the remainder of the year, obviously not enough for the remainder of the year. Guffey said he'll have to request a budget supplement from the county commissioner from the over-collected revenue. Natural Resource budget (616) is at 44% for the remainder of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Shaded Fuel Break Update

Sheridan Lake Rd re-alignment direct sale – crew has been working non-merchantable and slash on the overlay area between the Spring Creek bridges. Starting work on the remaining merchantable, highway department removed a section of guard rail for easier access to an area. In all should be around 15 loads of timber to remove. FS is still getting the accounting straighten out on the Stewardship Agreement. S. Rochford re-alignment – waiting on FS contract for direct sale of the timber. Couple of existing sales are complicating the agreement. Highway department will pay for stumpage and we'll over see the removal. May have to contract out some the removal.

Chemical Cost-share Program

Thus far only 15 landowners have participated in the program this year for a total of \$736.10 paid out with \$5,641.82 in landowner match. 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.

Black Hills Resilient Forest Partnership

Guffey said the Black Hills Resilient Forest Partnership had two meetings since July, the main focus of the meetings is to develop a "risk" map for the Black Hills. The coordinator has resigned, so the group is back looking for a new coordinator. Guffey is co-coordinating until a new coordinator can be identified. Slow to get this partnership going with a lack of a dedicated coordinator and COVID.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Weed Spraying Recap

Area / Agency	Acres Treated
BHNF Mystic	628.00
BHNF Hell Canyon	225.00
SD DOT	185.70
RMEF/SDYHA Grant Oxeye Daisy	110.00
RMEF Grant Leafy Spurge	53.70
State & Private Forestry Grant	135.50
BGNG Spraying	30.00
City of Rapid City	25.50
BLM	19.00
SD Weed & Pest Salt Cedar Grant	-
SD Federal Properties	1.20
Raider Park	3.50
Calvary Trails Road Dist	0.30
Martin Ranch Road Dist	0.90
Valley View Road Dist	0.20
Black Hills State University - RC	14.00
County ROW	305.18
TOTAL	1,737.68

SD Weed & Pest Grants

The SD Weed & Pest grants are due November 13th, Guffey suggested the county put in for a grant to control absinth wormwood and common tansy in the amount of around \$10,000, Motion by Paulson, for Guffey to apply for a absinth wormwood and common tansy grant, seconded by DiSanto, motion carried. Guffey will write that grant and the county grants that each county gets if they meet criteria, usually around \$5-6K to the counties. The SD Weed & Pest district meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19, will be holding a zoom meeting on November 3rd.

BH Resource Advisory Committee Grants

The BH Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is accepting proposals for the built up SRS Title II funds for Pennington, Custer, & Lawrence Counties. There is a total of \$292,939 of available funds and must be used on the BHNF and focusing mainly natural resources. Guffey has visited with BHNF weed folks in both the Hell Canyon and Mystic Districts, he will apply for about \$20K for noxious weed projects to be used in both districts. Guffey also would like to put in for a forestry grant to be used on our shaded fuel break project and for fuels/pine regen reduction project.

Locally Declared Noxious Weed List & Pest List

Pennington County locally declared weeds list has spotted knapweed, puncture vine, and common tansy are set to expire on the list. Guffey suggested to add yellow toadflax to the list in addition the three that need to be renewed. Motion by Paulson to renew spotted knapweed, puncturevine, common tansy and to add yellow toadflax the Pennington County locally declared list, seconded by DiSanto, motion carried.

Prairie Dog Complaints

Due to dry conditions later in the Summer that has been more complaints on prairie dogs than the last couple years. Three official complaints have been sent the SD Dept of Ag and forwarded to the county. Guffey sent volunteer letters out las week, giving the landowners until the end of December to control their prairie dogs. Guffey said he ended up sending out a total of 22 (3 leafy spurge/19 Canada thistle) volunteer weed compliance letters this year, far less from previous years due to not having a dedicated weed enforcement officer this summer due to COVID-19 cuts.

Crew Update

Crew finished weed spraying mid September and started our forestry work. Currently working on Sheridan Lake Road re-alignment clear cut and will be working S. Rochford RD re-alignment and Norris Peak Rd. Short one crew member, who is recovering from surgery – should be back mid November. Guffey went over that annual weed inspection report with the board that is due to the SD Dept of Ag November 1.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 pm, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried.

Next meeting will be December 9, 2020.

Submitted by Scott Guffey