

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Natural Resources Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, December 7, 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 12:35 p.m.

**Additional Items / Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Jocks to approve the agenda, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by Paulsen to approve meeting minutes for the October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting, seconded by DiSanto, motion carried.

**Budget Report**

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 15% remaining, Forestry budget (616) is at 21% for the remainder of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Shaded Fuel Break**

The crew finished cutting the trees on private property along S. Rochford Rd, a total of 5 truckloads were removed. Now are on the Bogus Jim Settlement Sale to remove trees along the road for a highway project to widen the road. Highway department has been helping with moving trees to the landing and chipping slash. Pretty small sale, only about 2 truckloads to cut – should be done by next week. After that they will masticate some remaining piles along Sheridan Lake and then begin on the Twin Springs fuels reduction project.

**Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision**

Pennington County now has its Cooperating Agency Status agreement for the forest plan revision in place. The forest service is reviewing the comments they received on the assessment phase of the forest plan revision. There were over 130 commenters and the forest service are going through each comment and providing a response in a spreadsheet that will be available for the public. Some of the comments will be used in the final draft of the assessments that should be out in January – February, with no additional comment period. No plans of re-write or re-draft of the assessments as the counties had requested. A letter dated 11/29/2022 was sent to Forest Supervisor Jeff Tomac from the governors of SD and WY requesting that data gaps, particularly in the timber assessments be corrected. The counties are supposed to receive the final assessments and comments spreadsheet a couple weeks before it is released to the public. Mitch Iverson has been retained by BH Council of Local Governments as a consultant for the forest plan revision process, he has background with BLM and working on plan revisions.

**Vehicle Purchase**

Guffey has no luck finding used truck to purchase and has asked the auditor about rolling over the \$42k that was in the 2022 budget for the 1-ton diesel pickup purchase into 2023 budget, she said you can make that

request to the county commissioners in 2023. Guffey will plan to make that request, so we can purchase off the state bid list. The same truck is now \$12k more.

### **SD Weed & Pest Grant Application**

Guffey worked with the SD Association of Weed & Pest Boards to submit a \$10k grant for yellow toadflax bio-control agents for Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington Counties to establish and insectary that can be collected off in the future. Guffey will be sitting on the grant review committee, did not submit a competitive or county grant.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Prairie Dog Enforcement**

Guffey has received two formal prairie dog complaints and has sent out volunteer compliance letters to both landowners. Olson compliance letter was sent out 8-29-2022 and had a deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Guffey has talked to with a resident on the property and they have been shooting and gassing the prairie dogs, they are concerns of bald eagles in the area on why not to poison. Guffey also talk to the complaining neighbor and they are somewhat satisfied with the control efforts and there is communication between the two parties now. Noll compliance letter was sent 11/18/2022 with a deadline of 2/15/2022, Guffey will follow-up on that complaint before the next board meeting.

#### **SD Weed & Pest Conference**

The South Dakota Weed & Pest Conference is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, in Huron, SD. Two representatives form the county must attend to be eligible for grant funding. Guffey and DiSanto will plan on attending.

#### **Local Declared Noxious Weed Request**

Guffey recommended to the board to add Oxeye Daisy to the county locally declared noxious weed list. Currently the county has 7 declared weeds and pests on its list (common tansy, houndstongue, spotted knapweed, puncturevine, sulfur cinquefoil, yellow toadflax, and Japanese beetle) counties are limited to 8 total on their locally declared list. Motion by Jocks Seconded by DiSanto to add Oxeye Daisy to the Pennington County Locally declared noxious weed and pest list, motion carried.

#### **2023 Meeting Schedule**

Guffey mailed out the proposed 2023 meeting schedule, there seems to be no conflicts with the current board members.

#### **Crew Update**

As Guffey mentioned the crew has been busy cutting trees, working around some vacations. So far equipment has been running well.

#### **Additional Item**

#### **Agency Report**

None

### **ADJOURN**

Motion made by DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 1:40pm, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Next meeting will be February 22, 2023.

Submitted by Scott Guffey