

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 12:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks, Vice Chairman

Jerry Hirrschoff

Mark DiSanto

Deb Hadcock, County Commissioner Liaison

Members Absent:

Paul Paulsen

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

Travis Lasseeter, County Commissioner Alternate

Vice Chairman Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Hirrschoff to approve the agenda, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried. Motion made by Hirrschoff to approve meeting minutes for the October 28, 2020 meeting, seconded by Hadcock, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Motion made by Hadcock to elect Jocks as chairman and Hirrschoff vice-chairman, 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 94% remaining, Natural Resource budget (616) is at 78% for the remainder of the year. Guffey purchased a used 2015 Honda Foreman with 715 hours on it, from Rushmore Motor Sports for \$6,599. A new 2021 Honda Foreman is on order from Bauerkemper's for \$8,700. There is \$15k in the (615) budget for the purchase of two ATVs this year. Guffey would like to purchase a drum masticator for the Bobcat skidsteer, he says it will work better in some areas than the current disk masticator we currently have. Guffey has received two quotes for two different drum masticators, Bobcat forestry drum head is \$23,314 from Jenner Equipment and a Diamond Mowers drum forestry head for \$31,312. With the revenue made from the S. Rochford Rd project there would be enough over-collected revenue to purchase the drum forestry head. Motion made by DiSanto, to authorize Guffey to buy a drum forestry head and supplement the budget with over-collected revenue, seconded by Hadcock, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Weed & Pest Board Appointments – Unit 1 & 2

Unit 1, Bert Jocks position term was up and Unit 2, Dell Petersen position term was up. Jocks was re-appointed for another 3 year-term by the board of county commissioners. Dell Petersen decided not apply for the position, Guffey talked to former county commissioner Mark DiSanto to see if he was interested in serving on the board. Mark was interested and was appointed by the board of county commissioners as the Unit 2 representative.

Shaded Fuel Break Update

Sheridan Lake Rd re-alignment settlement sale – was finished up in mid January, Oftedal construction cut some extra trees on forest service that was beyond the marked area. It is a cut area that didn't get marked right for tree cutting, they will bring the trees down to the road and county crew will limb them and cut them into lengths to be hauled to the Hill City mill. This will close out the sale, which has an expiration date of the March 31. S. Rochford re-alignment – county crew began cutting January 27th, so far their has been 9 loads of logs hauled off the sale. There will be 30-40 total loads hauled off, at about \$1,000 back to the county per load. The sale should tally about \$30 - \$40k in revenue back to the county. Stewardship credits have been corrected, FS paid \$11,905 to the county for stewardship credits that were earned on the Edelweiss project. The Norris Peak Rd agreement has been corrected and the county can now cut the 215 CCF of timber on the project. Will probably plan on harvesting Norris Peak timber in January of 2022, the contract expires at the end of 2022.

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grants

Guffey submitted grants for the general county grants and a \$10k competitive grant for absinth wormwood control. The SD Weed & Pest Commission met last Friday, Feb. 19. Pennington County was awarded the county grant, which will be around \$3.5K and can be used for chemical and seasonal labor. The absinth wormwood grant was cut to \$8k, the grant review committee reason for cutting was the lack of acres reported in the county. Guffey also requested a fund transfer to supplies to purchase chemical in the Cheyenne Watershed grant from last year, since no treatments were completed due to the dry conditions. Guffey will purchase \$11k worth of chemical specific for that project.

BH Resource Advisory Committee Grants

The Black Hill Resource Advisory Committee held virtual meetings Dec. 10th and Jan. 28th. Guffey submitted two proposals for funding, a \$30k two-year noxious weed control and a \$50k for a fuels reduction project. Pennington County ended up getting \$16K for noxious weed control and \$20,709.92 for fuels reduction. Guffey will meet with the BHNH on developing agreements on how and where to best use that funding on the forest service.

Prairie Dog Complaints

Follow-up to the three official prairie dog complaints received, all three attempted control. Guffey worked with on in Rapid Valley and got very poor control, working with the landowner on some other control options.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Compensation Rate

Effective 2021, the board of county commissioners raised user board compensation rate from \$25 per meeting to \$50 per meeting to be more in line with other counties in SD.

Department Name

Guffey asked the board's feeling about re-naming the department to Natural Resources to better describe what the department does, now that the department focuses half the year on forestry management projects. It would also eliminate the department fielding legal marijuana calls. The board would still be the Weed & Pest board as spelled out state statue. Motion by DiSanto, to change the department name to Natural Resources, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried.

2021 Weed Spraying Agreements

Guffey said so far we have signed agreement with Buffalo Gap National Grasslands (100 acres - \$10k), East Pennington County Grazing District (15 acres - \$1.5k), Black Hills National Forest (784 acres - \$101,920). Expect to have agreements in place with White River Grazing District, Bureau of Land Management, SD DOT, City of Rapid City, and various road districts.

Crew Update

Crew is making good progress on the S. Rochford Rd project, county highway dept. has been provided flagger help and some sawyer help. Will be working on the project until completed, hopefully will be done by May. Seasonal staff will start mid-May.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

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

Next meeting will be April 14, 2021.

Submitted by Scott Guffey