

# PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 12:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

## Members Present:

Bert Jocks, Chairman

Jerry Hirrschoff, Vice Chairman

Mark DiSanto

Deb Hadcock, County Commissioner Liaison

Paul Paulsen

## Members Absent:

## Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

Chairman Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

## CALL TO ORDER

### Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by DiSanto to approve the agenda, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by Hirrschoff to approve meeting minutes for the February 24, 2021 meeting, seconded by Hadcock, motion carried.

## Budget Report

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 83% remaining, Natural Resource budget (616) is at 48% for the remainder of the year.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Shaded Fuel Break Update

Sheridan Lake Rd re-alignment settlement sale is official closed, the county will treat the remaining slash. S. Rochford re-alignment – county crew is making progress and have about dozen loads of logs decked and ready to be hauled off once the county load limits come off. All logs will now be hauled off to the Spearfish mill, with the Hill City mill closing. It will impact how much revenue is collecting from the sale with increased haul costs. Guffey asked forest an extension on the end date of the sale agreement to the end of the year, currently it is supposed to end June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. Some of the reasons for the extension is a delay in the bid letting on the road construction, so there isn't the urgency as before. The sawmill does not want any more logs till June and the crew needs to start weed spraying in May.

### Department Name Change

The county commissioners approved the name change and Guffey has been working on getting signage updated on the building and vehicles.

### 2021 Weed Spraying Agreements

The SD DOT agreement has been received and is pending approval from the county commissioners. Guffey sent a proposal to SD DOT railroad to spray the abandon rail line from Rapid City to Interior along Hwy 44, the county has sprayed it the pass, the agreement never got fully executed last year. Guffey visited with Rapid City's Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson about the county and city MOU and are good to go for spraying on the city parks managed properties.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 2022 Budget

Budget preparations for 2022 have begun, Guffey will present the Natural Resources and Conservation Districts budgets on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> sometime after 8:30am. The county commissioners have not yet sent out budget guidelines, but should be coming soon. Guffey would like to put a 1-ton diesel pickup in the budget for 2022, currently they are \$34k on the state bid list. The current 1-ton pickup is gas and struggles sometimes to pull the bobcat and would replace the 2005 Ford F-250 that has over 200k miles on it.

## **2022 BH Resource Advisory Committee Grants - 2022**

The BH Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) announced another round of Title II funding opportunity in addition to the funds the department already received (\$16k weeds / \$20k fuels) early this year. The deadline was up before Guffey could apply, he said the funding would have been for 2022, since they already have received funding for this year. Guffey said there should be funding available again next Spring that could be used for 2022.

## **Keystone Fuels Projects**

Guffey will be attending a fuels project meeting for the town of Keystone on April 16<sup>th</sup> with various agencies to discuss a coordinated effort to treat fuels in and around Keystone. Guffey said there is a potential to use the Title II and III funds on the project.

## **SD Natural Resource Professional Range Camp, Nemo, June 29-July 1**

Guffey would like to attend the SD Natural Resource Professional Range Camp, he has attended them in the past and have been a very good leaning experience. Guffey said this is the first time that have had it in Nemo, so it would be good to learn the various plants and soils for the area. The camp costs \$150 and includes materials and meals. Motion by DiSanto, seconded by Paulson to have Guffey attend the range camp. Hadcock and Hirrschoff are interested in attending as well.

## **Crew Update**

Once the crew has cut the trees on the S. Rochford Rd bridge area and treated some areas of slash on the Sheridan Lake Rd project, they will get the trucks and ATV's ready for the spray season. Guffey said the seasonal weed sprayers will begin to return in Mid-May, He said they will have 4 returning plus 2 new part-time this year. Guffey said they will be using a new herbicide called TerraVue for the majority of their weed spraying this Summer, it will eliminate the need to use 2,4-D Amine in their tank mix. Guffey said he isn't a fan of 2,4-D due it's toxicity to the applicator and the odor and volatility of the product. TerraVue is combination of Milestone and Rinskor and is granular herbicide that will take up less room in the chemical storage room. Cost is comparable to a 7oz Milestone & 1 qt 2,4-D mixture. Guffey said he is concerned about the new county drug free work policy and potential expense of testing returning seasonal help, He said it could add an annual \$800-\$1,000 expense to the department.

## **Agency Report**

None

## **ADJOURN**

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

Next meeting will be June 9, 2021.

Submitted by Scott Guffey