

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2015 12:30 pm**

**Members Present:** Dennie Mann, Vice Chairman  
Lyndell Petersen, County Commissioner  
Paul Paulson, Chairman  
Brian Barber, New Member Area 2  
Bert Jocks, New Member Area 1

**Others Present:** Scott Guffey, Supervisor  
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant  
Gene Bolka, USFS  
Mark Kieffer

Paul Paulson, called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

Recognition of Board Members

Introductions and welcome made for old and new board members.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda:

Mann made a motion to approve the agenda for today's Board Meeting seconded by Barber, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2014 meeting made by Mann and seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Mann made a motion, seconded by Barber to move Paulson from Vice Chairman to Chairman, motion carried.

Barber made a motion for Mann to be the Vice Chairman, seconded by Jock, motion carried. Board member books were distributed containing SD Weed & Pest Handbook and the Pennington County Employee Handbook. Petersen suggested that current State Board Commissioners names be added to the book, Guffey will get a list of the current members of the commission.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2015 SD Weed & Pest Conference, February 18 - 20 (Ramkota, Rapid City, SD).

The yearly W & P conference was held in Rapid City. It was a better conference this year.

Highlights...3 state W & P associations have been active across the state. Weed & Pest Boards, Weed & Pest Supervisors, and SISMA. The Supervisor's association voted 26-22 to dissolve, SISMA agreed to dissolve, SD County W & P Boards Association voted to amend their by-laws to allow open membership. Guffey sits on the SD County W&P association board of directors and believes there will be just one state association. State requires a training every 2 years for renewal of commercial applicator license. Guffey suggested to the SD W&P Board Association that this renewal come with conference attendance. Peterson asked who administered the tests and the answer is the SDSU extension office. Tests are all on the computer and open book. Results are immediate. Jock added that the open book may not be available in the future. Supervisors shared their concern for those that are bad test takers.

DuPont merged with Baer. Perspective Leafy spurge product still does not have the grazing/haying label, have been waiting on that for 3-4 years for it. Baer is bringing on Method .. active ingredient is the same as Perspective but will not have Telar in it.

Next Year's conference is in Aberdeen, February 16-19.

2015 Weed & Pest Board Meeting Schedule.

Please note and share if you see or have any potential conflicts.

Mt Pine Beetle Update

Finally done with the State Grant work. Guffey passed out the final report sharing the numbers of how the 2013 grant money was used and distributed. Pennington County received \$670,000 – for Private Land Buffers a total of 17,285 acres were surveyed, 16,008 MPB trees marked, 15,059 trees cut and chunked, 105 trees salvaged. Targeted Areas - 37,467 acres surveyed, 13,224 trees marked, 11,799 trees cut and chunked, 1,125 trees salvaged. ROW 242 miles surveyed, 11,812 trees marked, 6,950 trees cut & chunked, 4,702 salvaged. Still have some dead trees to cut from the ROWs that can go past the deadline. Wrap up in progress. Overall it was \$1.1 million dollar project, that includes state grant funds, county match, Neiman Timber Co donation and Title II grant funds. Guffey and Mann were pleased with the work accomplished. Guffey stated that our salvage rate was commendable. Legislation is going through right now. Guffey and county commissioner Nancy Trautman went down and testified that the county grant money was spent and utilized. The legislation asked for \$1.9 million ended up getting funded for \$750,000. State forestry will administer the funds. Guffey is guessing the majority of the funds will go on private lands for a cost share program. Neiman Timber Company has once again donated \$50,000 to Pennington County for use in the county on MPB mitigation work. Mann complimented Guffey for good work.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Japanese Beetle

Beetle is showing up in Pennington County. State has been trapping since 1987, showed in SE part of the state in 2006, now established in 5 counties along I-29. Red Flag started 2 years ago near St Martin's. Trees came in from Bailey's in MN...these trees had beetles in the delivery truck. Beetles were trapped the last 2 summers and found adults at a high number. Guffey asked what the state's response plan was to go along with their positive evidence. They said no plan in place. Guffey contacted the board and put in a request to add the beetle to our locally declared pest list.

Guffey called a meeting with the landowners and federal, state, and local agencies regarding the St Martin's area. Treatment alternatives were discussed and the treatment to be done this spring was approved. At the SD Weed & Pest Commission meeting in February, SDSU said it wasn't worth trying to control and said pesticide control would harm pollinators. Guffey is assuming that SDSU will make comments against this at a meeting April 9<sup>th</sup>. Guffey shared a map of where the positive reports of active beetles are. NAU campus has some beetles also. Barber asked how to measure it, Guffey said there are pheromone traps that trap the adult beetles. Guffey said he will take over the trapping and will monitor monthly (which is more often than the Dept. of Ag did) the St Martin's area and other places in coordination with the city. There were 160 bugs found in the traps and Bolka added that is a large concern. Baseline would be last year's numbers and after treatment we hope that 90% would be killed. Warne Chemical will be contracted to do a liquid larvacide application and will kill in the larva stage and eliminate harm to pollinators. The product will have residual over the whole summer yet safe to re-enter the premises immediately.

#### BHNF Stewardship Agreement

Started talking about this last year. This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind. Southeastern and Western US uses them. This allows the FS to donate money or in-kind goods or service to the project. FS will donate the trees, value for us to sell to the contractor or sawmill and we take that money and put it back onto the ground. Plan to do 150-200 feet either side of the roads. Hopefully DOT will add money also. Written vaguely to include by described landscape treatments. Fuel load concern and regeneration clean up. Nieman is not interested in the dead but want the green timber. Guffey also requested that vegetation treatments were written in there also. 5 - 10 year master agreement with annual operating agreements. If this goes through it will be a great accomplishment for our area. Scott received a copy to use as an example for this. Hopefully by the end of March we may have something signed on this. This would be a good spring project for us to work on and then again in the fall.

#### County Wage Study

The county is doing a wage study across the board with a contracted company. Job descriptions have been reviewed and paperwork filled out and turned in. They will be meeting with us personally March 23. Guffey handed in comparables from other Weed & Pest state programs. The reason for this study is because of reclassification of employees who have been employed longer and the county losing employees to the city after training them. Completion goal is this spring and figures will be used in the 2016 budget.

#### Crew Update

New employee....The last 3-4 winters with the adding of the MPB projects employees for W&P have had more hours. 3 seasonals were moved from seasonal to PT with benefits. We added Max Bailey who was employed by the state and helped us with MPB marking last year. Another one of our sprayers will be retiring so plans are to hire Ben Bailey (Max's brother and worked for us last year) in his spot. The guys will be marking trees for a 150 acre salvage timber sale which should be finished this week. This work is for the FS and is a win win ... thinning of the forest. North end of bald hills off of #385. Economic benefit with work given to the timber companies.

In December we purchased a 2002 Suburban for \$3500. Not sure what is going on, but there is a vibration. New 4-wheeler was in the budget and is purchased ... 450 Yamaha Kodiak \$6200. Plan to retire an older machine. May need to lay off workers for a few weeks, but they know that. Overall the crew is doing great.

Barber asked crew numbers. Craig Smith is FT, 3 additional FT/PT, and then plan to bring on 4 seasonal sprayers and 1 enforcement person.

#### Additional Items

No additional Items shared.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

Gene Bolka, USFS. Seasonals are coming on. Ecology workshop will be next Thursday. Open to all. Gene will be talking @ 3:20. Participation county agreement should be ready and Scott can stop and sign and pick up 2 of them. Weed funding will be going down. Plan to average it out over the 3 years. Hopefully more money available in the future with increased timber sales. \$6000 for Bio/bug control. 3500 trees will be sprayed in the campgrounds. Last year for Pactola. This seems to have worked well. Lost 2 trees but evidence shows that the tree may not have been covered 100%. 5 gallons per tree is needed and the spray average was 3.5-6 gallons. The size of the tree needs to be taken into consideration also. This summer a group meeting will be done with the Dept. of Ag for the Yellow Toad Flax to see if the bugs are working. Good bugs coming in from the west. She wants to place them in a largely affected area. Gene wants to get more books from her on bio-control. Things are gearing up and seasonals coming in May. Bolka complimented the work of the W & P department. Timbersale work defined for spraying.

#### **ADJOURN**

Jock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m., seconded by Mann.

Next meeting will be April 29, 2015.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain