

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 12:30 pm

Members Present:

Dennie Mann, Vice Chairman
Lyndell Petersen, County Commissioner
Paul Paulson, Chairman
Brian Barber
Bert Jocks

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Supervisor
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant

Paul Paulson called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda:

Guffey added the Invader donation to the agenda.

Barber made a motion to approve the agenda for today's Board Meeting seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2015 meeting made by Jocks and seconded by Barber, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mt Pine Beetle Update

Guffey stated that we received our final check a couple weeks ago. \$210,000 supplement will be coming (this comes from last year's budget, Nieman donation, & last installment of the grant funds) Having carried over money is common because of where the season lies. Still cutting a few trees in the ROW by a contractor plus some clean up areas. Stewardship agreement with shaded fuel breaks in the ROW, the forest service is working on the language and we hope to get it back to take to commissioners soon. \$750,000 is available from legislature for MPB, state is in control and they asked the USFS to show where they would permit cutting. From that information they will make the plan. Nieman dollars are discussed with Nieman Timber Company and the destination for it is not finalized yet. State RC&D association awarded the MPB working group an award for their projects. Mann had submitted it and also sent it into National.

Japanese Beetle

The Japanese Beetle has been added to the county's locally declared pest list as a result of the hearing in Pierre on April 9th. 6 people sent letters or testified ... grounds keeper, city employees, one from Meade county and Dennie Mann. There were 2 opponents from SDSU. The debate was heated. The SD School & Public Lands Commissioner helped out and stated that the issue has met all the criteria for being added it to the list. 7/2 was the vote. District 4 and Game Fish and Parks were the no's. Guffey plans to put out a public announcement next week and then will be going to St Martins on Thursday to set up a plan of where to begin. The plan is to spray on Saturday when school is not in session. Traps are here and will be placed in the next couple weeks. To no avail the GPS locations were sought but not provided from the SDDA from last year. Jim Konechne, the SDDA WR inspector set them so Guffey plans to take him with. Guffey was commended on the Japanese beetle work by Mann. Guffey will update the county website also.

NEW BUSINESS

2016 Budgets

Directives have been received from the Commissioners and are due May 22nd. Weed & Pest hearing is June 17th right before our next meeting. The guidelines are 1.5% COL; merits @ 1.25% increase, and prepare reasonable operating budgets. Waiting to hear back from the health care board for price changes. Wage study is not back yet with its recommendations for wages. Long range plans are due June 5th, which will include major projects and equipment (usually our major projects come from Grants). Will need to start replacing some older vehicles or be prepared for major repair expenses. Sitting pretty good at this time but will need to replace some of them. The 2-wheel drive vehicles will be replaced eventually with 4WD to fit our needs better. There is talk of cold a storage hanger to get the vehicles out of the elements. Paulson asked for an estimate of mileage yearly. Guffey figured from 5-15,000 miles a year. The Fords with regular pickup boxes get used the most. Mann asked about leases but Guffey stated that the county does not approve of leases anymore. Budgets will be prepared and emailed to Board before submitted to the auditors.

Weed Spaying Agreements

DOT ROW @ \$24,800. DOT RR @ \$8,000. Highway Department @ \$10,500. BHNH \$45,000 for spraying, \$6,000 for bio. Oxeye daisy for \$3,500. Cost share county for \$5,900. Barber asked about the Oxeye daisy and Guffey explained location. Looking at another grant through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for \$5,000; Mann agreed and plans to help on this. Plan would be to use it on the Oxeye. Road District letter has been sent. At this point only one has responded with a yes. Petersen asked how many were sent and Guffey stated that he received the list from the auditor and didn't know specifically. Last year we worked on one township and found a lot of cheat grass there. Not a high number of participants but it is a good deal for them. City of RC usually extends an agreement also. Total tally is close to \$100,000 which should meet the revenue needed.

Upcoming Conferences and Trainings

May 13, Society of American Foresters in Deadwood, \$75 to attend and Guffey has attended in the past and in the past has been good along with representation.

May 18 & 19 SISMA and is free. Free lunch and an annual training for applicator requirements, first aid, ATV training.

June 3-5, Society of Range Management - Professionals Range Camp June 3-5 near Sturgis by the High School. 3 day for \$150. Includes Range plan ID, stocking range, and more grassland management classes. Guffey asked to go and Mann made a motion and Paulson seconded, motion carried. Guffey is looking forward to attending.

Crew Update

6 guys are on board with Craig Smith as crew leader. Two more employees starting when school is out and our enforcement guy will begin later. Had one return back from the oil fields and will be teaching in Custer, so should have him in the future. Tomorrow is Chainsaw training with the highway men out here in the parking lot. John Ball will be teaching. Bare ground spraying is complete and working on the spurge emerging and the mullein. Sunshine and moisture should bring more.

Additional Items

The Invader – our annual insert for public awareness with SISMA. It goes to Tri-State, Farm Forum, Wall paper and Hill City paper. Guffey offered \$250 and Paulson made a motion and Jocks seconded, motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

No-one was in attendance today.

Pe Sla (reynolds prairie) transfer to a trust. Agreements are being worked on that will include invasive weed and MPB requirements. Concerns with the Buffalo and bercellous with vaccination and documentation. They have 12 buffalo which came from ND-Theodore Roosevelt Park (leafy spurge) to Rosebud. Guffey stated his want of corralling for 24 hours. Another alternative is to feed weed free hay before transporting. Guffey offered his services to spray for but has not heard anything. Peterson reminded us not to put a timetable on it.

ADJOURN

Mann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 p.m., seconded by Barber.

Next meeting will be June 17, 2015.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain