

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 12:30 pm

Members Present: Dennie Mann, Vice Chairman
Paul Paulson, Chairman
Brian Barber
Bert Jocks

Members Absent: Lyndell Petersen, County Commissioner

Others Present: Scott Guffey, Supervisor
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant
Gene Bolka, BHNH Mystic District
Wayne , BHNH Mystic District

Paul Paulson called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda: Agenda amended to say April 29, 2015.

Brian Barber made a motion to approve the agenda for today's Board Meeting seconded by Dennie Mann, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2015 meeting made by Bert Jocks and seconded by Barber, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mt Pine Beetle Update

A 3 day filming was done 2-3 weeks ago by SDPBS. Several MPB specialists were involved in this meeting explaining the work done 5 years after the original MPB special done by SDPBS. This should air this fall. The first MPB special is on the SDPBS website. We are not currently doing any MPB work until this fall. The \$210,000 (from last year's budget, Nieman donation, & last installment of the grant funds) was supplemented back into the MPB budget and will be used this fall. There is \$70,000 for MPB work and \$150,000 for the shaded fuel break. No stewardship agreement has been made yet, final draft should be ready for county commissioner's approval soon. In the fall we can start with the 2 agreements in place.

Japanese Beetle Update

30 Traps were set out in the NW part of Rapid City (St Martin's area) and spread around to see if a spread is occurring. A few were put in Elks Country Club estates area because of the article in the paper, they were alarmed and misunderstood so will see if beetles are an issue in that area. More are set around NAU and in Meade County by 3 sons landscaping, they were the ones who landscaped the Good Samaritans area by St Martin's. The state and city have also put some traps out. Plan was to check on Monday but hope to follow through with that later today...needs to be dry. The spraying was done around St. Martins. Barber asked if there was a baseline to go off of and Guffey stated yes. The state has trapped the area the last two years. Because of the article Chemlawn has been asked to spray for the Japanese beetle this would be an example of the bad of the article. It would be nice to get them contained and then do a press release stating the threat has been reduced.

2016 Budgets

Attached budgets were passed out and the differences from last year were addressed. Today Guffey took it to the Commissioners for their hearing. The total county budget was over so there is an assumption that we will be asked to cut.

MPB budget increased because of putting 3 seasonal employees to fulltime to accommodate the legality of their hours worked. They are figured in at 6 months MPB and 6 months W & P. Guys are chainsaw certified to cut so there is more responsibility and work is available for them.

Presently there are 10 Vehicles and 7 ATVs in the department. Over the next 5 years there will be replacements needed and they are in the equipment section. IT department suggested replacement of computers every 4 years so we try to do one every year. A 30x60 cold storage building is estimated at \$30,000 and Trautman suggested that it be bid with the County Hwy building that is about to be put up. The building would be beneficial for the longevity of the equipment.

Wage study plan talked discussed. Guffey explained how over the 18 years he has been supervisor, the job duties had been changed. It was bumped from a 21 to a 23 three years ago with documented details from the current weed board and accepted by the commissioners. This wage study dropped the Weed & Pest Director back to a 21. There is an appeal process and Guffey has filed one and also shared the results with Petersen and Trautman. Mann could be included in any future meetings for support.

Weed Spraying Agreements

There are four remaining agreements. With the heavy moisture leaving heavy weed growth DOT ROW and DOT RR will need to be tracked close. Tracking will be important as Hwy is asking for additional work also. We are not spraying for the BHNH yet and plan to go in after July 12th. The plan is to avoid the Rainbow gathering that is in the hills July 7-12. Spraying for the city has been done. A few road districts have asked – 5 or 6 and the first pass should happen soon. Revenue projections should be made.

Upcoming Conferences and Trainings

Guffey attended the SISMA training that went well. Jocks referred some and highly recommended. WY employees and about 50-60 came in total. This conference is continuing to grow. Put on by SISMA this year and the next possibility is for RC & D to take over, minimal cost and time commitment. This year's cost of the program was \$0.60.

Society of Range Management/range camp

This was 2 ½ day training. It was a good program with range grass/plant identification and weighing and measuring. Toured the Sanford area and information was given on water conditions. Guffey suggested other W&P supervisors go.

Society of American Foresters conference in Deadwood

This was good. Talk was sustainability of forest projects. Utilization of what is being pulled off as diseased or bad. Interesting.

NEW BUSINESS

Guffey started the meeting by sharing "The Invader" Paper (annual insert for public awareness and the last one to be produced with SISMA) with the Board showing what the \$250 donation was used for as they were put into the Tri-State, Farm Forum, Wall paper and Hill City papers.

Ox-eye Daisy Project

Guffey gathered a list of about 12 large landowners in the area (5 miles W of Deerfield in the Hell Canyon District – located farther west of the Native American new land purchase). Grant monies will be used. The Rocky Mt Elk grant was missed due to an email misunderstanding. Guffey talked to Hal Pierce, USFS Region 2 weed director, about the state and private forestry grants waiting to hear on a grant announcement for aid in this project. Landowner letter is drafted but not sent yet. Guffey estimated 300 acres (including some USFS). There is a meeting planned July 9th to meet in the area with the BHNH Hell Canyon District to coordinate spraying. Test spots were done last year with Milestone and Escort. Shrubby cinquefoil will be sprayed also. Escort worked on the cinquefoil and oxeye daisy and the milestone cleaned up oxeye well. It will be 30 foot boom sprayed with the ATVs. July 29th was the date of spray last year so we should go in after that.

Crew Update

The crew has been working fast and hard. First RR and interstate pass should be done. County roads have been hit once. East looks good, closer to RC there are more weeds. Mid July is when we plan to hit Forest Service. Enforcement employee Dennis Saxer is using new tablet system and GPS gathering several details of the weed point and Guffey can add comments when landowners call in. So far we are very happy with the program. Guffey can also take photos and have Saxer (enforcement) follow the picture up. The crew can take photos on their smart phones and add them to Saxer's list. The program is ESRI's Arc GIS Online and the app is Arc Collector. It works without cell service and syncs with county records for land ownership names also.

Additional Items

None

AGENCY REPORTS

Gene – Mid Dakota started spraying for us last week. Plan to store equipment in our parking lot rather than in the woods. 6 mile road is not in good traveling condition now. KV funding is my job for next week giving figures for what we can pay W & P for spraying next year. Spraying just started today. Roads in the forest are real bad due to all the moisture in our area. Off road needs 4WD. Kelly Warnke will probably be doing inspections. Marty Petersen is weed coordinator at the SO and the 5 year contract and also the Grants and agreements for us. No specific replacement appears to be coming for Bolka, who plans to retire at the end of the year. He plans to bring more information and details to the August meeting.

Ken Willard was referred to Gene from a phone call to Guffey.

ADJOURN

Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 p.m., seconded by Jocks.

Next meeting will be August 19, 2015.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain