

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, August 19, 2015 12:30 pm

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Supervisor
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant
Gene Bolka, BHNH Mystic District
Wayne Wasserburger, BHNH Mystic District

Paul Paulson called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Brian Barber made a motion to approve the agenda with no additional items for today's Board Meeting seconded by Dennie Mann, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2015 meeting made by Bert Jocks and seconded by Barber, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mt Pine Beetle Update

A 10 year stewardship agreement has been finalized which allows the Forest Service to contribute in-kind goods to the shaded fuel break project along ROWs. The shaded fuel break will be 200 feet from center on each side (a 400 foot swath) in which the FS contributes stumpage value. Timber sale will be made to the highest bidder and then the money goes back into the project. 9" and smaller trees and brush will be removed and cut down to a 50 -60 basal. Now we need to do a plan detailing the work. 1st plan is to tackle a 20 mile loop near Silver City and Whispering Pines-Edelweiss-Black Forest Inn areas. HWY department see it as a benefit as well for snow melt on the roads. \$150,000 is budgeted for the project this year.

\$50,000 donation from Nieman plus \$20,000 from last year. Return to the Stots canyon area in the Hell Canyon District, cut and chunked 3350 trees in there last year. Plan to mark there in October.

State has \$750,000 working on 3 priorities – Deadwood, Pactola / E of Custer State Park. Landowners are eligible for the cost share with no guarantees of them getting to you. John Ball and Kurt Allen, entomologists, shared a decline in the bug numbers are being reported. There are a few hot spots remaining. Guffey contributes it to the life cycle of the beetle (13-15 years).

Japanese Beetle Update

Traps were empty but near the end of July the city had caught a few. Positive hits were showing right before the rally. 9 were counted which is a decrease from 40. Guffey has found a total of 25. Some found by NAU. Concerning news is that the city found 10 near the civic center area. Will reevaluate this fall when all trap data is collected.

2016 Budgets

Still going on. We did have to refigure. Guffey cut out \$1500 and then bumped revenues by \$1000. Subsidized budgets have been cut in the provisional budget. Final budget will be approved in September.

Ox-eye Daisy Project

Guys have been working on it for the past week and a half. Guffey showed a map of the Deerfield area where the project is located. 378 A have been treated so far. Guffey previously mapped it out and the workers are marking and shading in the spot electronically. 1oz to the Acre of Escort which is \$3.50 per acre. Met with the Hell Canyon district and decided on which area we would do – private and FS and the area they would treat.

Rocky Mt Elk Foundation project. \$3,500 grant was asked for and received (hindsight says we should have asked for more). They were happy to have received an invasive request and Guffey has been taking photos to keep them informed. They usually have \$50,000-\$80,000 to give. Elk country is the key. Then \$3,500 Title II grant and then added \$3000 so using about \$10,000 in that area.

NEW BUSINESS

Cold-Storage Building

This change came up earlier than expected. Mike Peterson and Mike Kuhl said that capital improvement fund had funding in it now to purchase the building this year, Cleary bid \$32,000. Because of a special being offered our original plan of a 30 x 60 was expanded to 30 x 72. 5 stall garage with room for ATVs on the end. Location will be west of the office and shop. Ground breaking will be in December. HWY will level the spot and do some additional prep work. Estimated completion is 3-4 days, gravel floor with power.

Enforcements

Weed volume is Up! Dennis Saxer wrapped things up this week. Over 300 letters mailed. 244 sent out for Canada Thistle and 43 for Leafy Spurge. 85% and 76% took action respectively. More letters could have been sent but the wet was overwhelming. Some people sprayed and new growth came shortly thereafter because of all the rain. 8 letters were returned due to bad addresses. Overall response was good. Next year Guffey will plan a July meeting on the Canada Thistle for enforcement since heavy areas were noticed late in the season and were marked on the map for next year to check.

Crew Update

Crew workers are down to 6 - 4 full time and 2 seasonal, 2 seasonal workers are teachers and had to return to school. The plan is to keep them going for 2-3 more weeks. We could spray until November. Late September is the plan to shift to MPB work. Guys were busy. One 4-wheeler was rolled. He put out his hand out in the roll and hyper extended his thumb which leads to surgery and a cast. Rehab will be 4-6 months. He is a good hard working guy, only missed a couple days of work. ATV breakdown was minimal. We kept an old one last year and it proved useful while others were in repair shop. Found a number of spotted knapweed areas - SheridanLakeRoad and near Menards. The plan to spray them next week. DOT has another \$2-3000 to spray as well as RR and City. Forest Service is finished and Oxeye Daisy spraying is wrapping up. State and Private Forestry grants were held up for a while and were just issued but clarification was made that the money could be spent through September 2016 so it will be put in next year's spraying plan. This will be used on those specialty weed spots.

Additional Items

None Reported

AGENCY REPORTS

Gene – finalized timber sale money to distribute to county/contractor/forest service. Plan to distribute soon. Funding will be more than last years. Bugs ... asked Guffey to follow-up on the order. 25th & 26th regional range folks will be coming and Gene wants to be available to request monies from them. Seems like he only gets money to do timber sales and not take care of all the complaints received. TimberSale spraying is done, 2 dams and 2 quarries left. Then will work on the complaints. Ken Willard complaint had been sprayed when Gene Arrived. Gene turned him in for spraying on public land. He had used milestone and 2-4D and the law states \$220 ticket for spraying on public land. Maybe just a warning will be issued. County wise Ken Willard did a good job but got frustrated and went further spraying on adjoining Forest Service land. The issue is permission. Rainbow people have come and gone, expected 20,000 and received 1,200. Some were camping near Deerfield Lake. Guffey asked if Gene has checked the campsite area looking for seeds in the area and encouraged him to do so. Things have gone well and weather has been good. It is getting cold fast and soon. Plan to do complaints when finished which should be about September 01. December 31 is retirement date at this point. Marty Petersen is on as the new invasive weed coordinator BHNW wide– contractors for whole forest and participating agreements. Guffey is excited about the fact that he will be over all the districts. Gene received a report from Guffey with spots marked for what they sprayed. They are getting closer to getting Gene's replacement in line.

ADJOURN

Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m., seconded by Jocks.

Next meeting will be October 21, 2015.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain