

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:30 pm**

**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Scott Guffey, Supervisor  
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant

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

**Additional Items / Approve Agenda**

Dennie Mann made a motion to approve the agenda with no additional items for today's Board Meeting seconded by Bert Jocks, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2015 meeting made by Jocks and seconded by Mann, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Mt Pine Beetle Update**

Things are looking good number wise. Stots Canyon NW of Moon by the WY line 3000+ beetle trees last year compared to 61 counted this fall. Guffey talked to the state and they have seen a reduction that showed 9000 to 900 MPB trees in the Sylvan Lake area this year. Mann asked about arial photos of which Guffey stated should be viewable in the next couple weeks. Guffey viewed some big trees that were MPB hit off of Sheridan Lake Rd. He asked FS to check and then they found 20 or so. Hopefully they will get them in the sale. ROWs are being marked and cut. Things are looking much better. Stewardship agreement has been signed with the Mystic District which would allow us to get in and work. Working on getting the Supplemental Project Agreement in place. Guffey called the state and asked if they needed marking help, the state thought they had enough work for their staff to do. Mann asked for number of miles of ROW to work through, Guffey stated 200 miles. Working in the Mystic area now.

**Japanese Beetle Update**

County JB traps in the St Martin's area 2015 – 56 adults compared to 2014 – 185 adults, 2013 – 165 adults. Reduction was most likely due to the larvacide treatments done to the ornamental turf in the spring. Another 50% reduction next year would be great. Traps set around the Elks housing area did not catch any. Petersen asked where the traps were put. Traps were placed mainly in suspected area and the traps seemed to be used more in a deciduous tree vs a pine tree and also those that were more in the open vs hidden. City details have not been reported. Guffey is interested in the Civic Center count. A few were caught near the NAU campus. The state Beetle man did not respond to Guffey's phone calls, but they appeared to have set some in the area. Thoughts are that these were brought to our area from a MN Nursery and that this was caught soon enough before established.

**2016 Budgets**

Our budget stayed the same, no cutting. Wheel tax has been passed by the commissioners. The Condrey wage study has been approved. Guffey has talked with Human Resource Director Nick Stroot about the appeal made to them moving the Weed & Pest Directors position down to a grade 21. Stroot stated he would refer back to Condrey, asked for a written appeal. Guffey asked for the next step and a written response was written up stating the reasoning. Guffey wrote and Mann signed the request which has been delivered to Stroot. Peterson added to the letter the idea of how many agencies Guffey interacts with and Mann stated that the Guffey's outside board involvement is an asset also. Hopefully this will work and Plan B is to take it before the commissioners.

**Oxeye Daisy Project**

Guffey handed out a map that showed treatment of 497 acres of oxeye daisy in the NW corner of the county, using 1 ounce of Escort per acre (\$3.50/acre). Both private and FS was treated in the Crow's Nest Peak area and then

sprayed on private (12 different land owners were contacted). \$3,497 in FS money and \$3,500 from the Rocky Mt Elk foundation. Invoices have been submitted for reimbursement. Mann complimented Guffey on the job. Some shrubby cinquefoil was treated also. Total \$12,626 was our contractual cost. Seemed to be very cost effective and will follow up on this next year.

### **Cold-Storage Building**

Cold storage building site has been prepped by the Highway dept. Looking at December for a build date or sooner if Cleary gets an opening.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Weed Spraying Summary**

Guffey passed out a handout showing chemical used for this season and additional statistics. 834 miles of county ROW treated x 3 passes. County Highway Department is charged for spraying bare ground and drainage ditch areas and a \$10,000 internal transfer is made. We went over the bid amount with DOT, but they usually will reimburse for the additional amount. National Forest contract is not getting efficient use of their funding and Guffey has explained why to them. It is their calculation and they are confused in figuring out if they should pay by acre for sprayed acres vs acreage covered. Mann stated that it should be paid by the hour. The county sprayed bare ground for Federal Surplus. Sittingbull Cave (for sale) was sprayed for also, this was started from some bio control and has been a nice agreement. A few Road Districts were this year. Black Gap Road District has a pond with Cattails and this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we have worked on them. BHSU – 10 A of pasture land to build on in the future. The crew worked on Prairie Dogs and Thistle. This should be a good partnership. This year has a total Revenue of \$107,000 which is over budget and Guffey plans to ask for a \$10,000 supplement to the W & P budget.

### **District 4 Meeting, SDGF&P Outdoor Campus – November 4<sup>th</sup>**

State Meeting planned for all day. 2 people need to attend to qualify for state grant funding and all are welcome with a free lunch. Mann will be attending for sure along with Guffey.

### **SD Weed & Pest Commission Grants**

These grants are due November 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$5,000 subsidy grant to be received for attending. Guffey and Barber talked about applying for a \$10,000 grant which would be used as a chemical cost-share for private landowners. 50/50 up to \$100 to help encourage private land spraying. Guffey stated that chemical purchases should be limited to select businesses with a quality herbicide product. Mann made a motion and Jocks seconded to do this as a specialized grant.

### **Enforcements**

3 prairie dog volunteer compliance letters were sent out on October 19th with a list of commercial prairie dog applicators. Guffey gave them until December 1st to comply. Complaints were south of the Rapid City airport and north of Rapid City.

### **Crew Update**

3 20" and an 18" saws are being used. Guffey plans to purchase (2) commercial stihl chainsaws 20" and one 25". Plans are to purchase what seems to be the best deal from 3 dealers in town. One crew member is down to a soft splint on his hand, good recovery from the hyper extension of his thumb. Seems to be having no issues at this time.

### **Additional Items**

None Reported

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Jocks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m., seconded by Mann.

Next meeting will be December 9, 2015.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain