

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, December 9, 2015 12:30 pm

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Warnke, USFS
Gene Bolka, USFS

Paul Paulson called the meeting to order at 12:38 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 Bert Jocks, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2015 meeting made by Barber and seconded by Mann, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mt Pine Beetle Update

The crew is cleaning up trees in the ROW areas of the hills. At present we are waiting on Northern Hills Ranger District agreement which will allow clean up around Rochford and Mystic roads. Contract cutters are finished. 60 trees cut in the little bear timber sale area. 17 hazard trees cut in Bulzer Gulch area near structures. Jacob Wolfe did a good job cutting them and cut a couple hazard trees near structures along Rochford road, our guys helped with traffic control. Our crew has 50-100 trees left to cut for an overall total of about 550 trees cut. We are also waiting on shaded fuel break project agreement and financials. A map was passed out showing Edelweiss Road at the south end of Pactola. This job will add to what the forest service has already done in the area. Silver City area would benefit from this as a fuel reduction response. On December 1st Guffey went in front of commissioners and asked for signature authority to sign off on this for the county. 2 weeks is the estimated time in which we will begin marking. Will mark the salvage timber first to get credits which will give us credits to get a contractor to remove the trees. This 6.8 mile will be our pilot project and will give us an idea of costs. Nieman Timber is donating \$25,000 through RC&D. This money will be available to use in 2016.

Cold-Storage Building

Clery delivery truck was delayed but should be here by next Wednesday rather than today. This is pushing the end of the year deadline.

District Meeting Report

Mann, Guffey, Bolka attended. DOW has new Grasslan herbicide tordon mixed with 24D ... low odor and a better volatility. Vastlan is another new one used for tree and shrub killing. Salt cedar with an aquatic label. Another new offering is equipment credits by buying more product than the year before offers a credit to be used for equipment (Warne Chemical). This is a nice offer to take advantage of. Perspective haying/grazing and Milestone aquatic label have not yet been approved.

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grants

Guffey partnering with Meade County submitted a biocontrol grant to purchase Dalmatian toadflax agents. This would add to the bugs that are working well in those areas. Pennington/Meade county dual use.

Weed & Pest Board state association submitted a Poison Hemlock bio-control grant for counties, we have tried the bio-control agent in the past near the fairgrounds with mixed results.

Standard grant is available to all counties that meet certain criteria in the amount of \$5,000 to \$6,000. Chemical purchased by the county is used as match.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Weed & Pest Director Position Job Description

Mann and Guffey went to the commissioners together. The majority of the conversation was about the wage study. Commissioner Trautman suggested that the name of Guffey's title was the drawback. Recommendation was to change the name of the position. Guffey's researches lead him to a Colorado example and definition of the title "Natural Resource Director". Guffey wants to remain clear that the position is protecting Ag. Mann stated that other states have this title and the county following it makes sense. Commissioners wanted the renaming of the position not to hinder the relationship we have with the state. It was suggested that "Weed and Pest Supervisor" be in the Job description. Peterson added clarity with suggested changes to the write up. Guffey will make corrections and email out to the board again. Guffey passed out a list of responsibilities that he does above and beyond others in the state. This was requested by Trautman. Petersen complimented Guffey on his high quality of work and discussions were made with corrections to add to the report. In Conclusion...the commissioners requested a formal letter which Guffey handed out and read and corrections and suggestions were made for the letter. Mann made a motion to accept those changes, Barber seconded, motion approved for the letter to be issued. Nick from Human Resources will present it as package for next Tuesday's commissioners meeting.

2016 SD Weed & Pest Conference, February 16-19, Aberdeen, SD

This conference will tell us the results about the funding of the grants. All are invited and welcome and two representatives are required. A motion was made to send Smith and Guffey by Mann and seconded by Barber, motion carried. This meeting will also recertify their commercial applicator licenses. Credit given for 1A (range ground) and 7 (right of way). Guffey will be sharing at the supervisors training about the "Data Collections" apps they are using on their phones and tablets.

2016 Weed & Pest Board Meeting Schedule

This schedule was sent in the last board letter, Guffey asked for any date conflicts known already. The June meeting date was moved to later in the month due to Canadian Thistle reinforcements. The plan is to target repeat offenders.

Enforcements

Guffey had sent 3 letters out in October with a list of commercial prairie dog applicators. Compliance deadline was December 1. The land is located south of the Airport on Bradsky Road. Bigger landowners had been coordinating it (Crawford) but he was not able to contact the owner of an adjoining piece. Guffey sent a letter after viewing the property. The owner called and information was given to Crawford. The landowner didn't have money, but it seems that they may have got things worked out. The other 2 pieces of land were located north of the Mall. Bassinger has 100A with prairie dogs and he complained about two 40A neighbors with prairie dogs. Guffey stopped out there Monday and they said that nothing had been done. The plan is to have the 3 neighbors coordinate and get the job done. At this point Guffey stated that they are taken care of unless we hear differently.

Crew Update

Employee evaluations are being done. Crew is cutting trees and will start shaded fuel break work areas when approved. New highway foreman in Hill City has been calling with bad trees that need to be cut and is working well with the crew

Additional Items

None Reported

AGENCY REPORTS

USFS – Gene Bolka talked of his budgets. Gene will be retired 12/31/15. Kelly is adding Gene's work to her Botanist duties. 5-year contract is being worked on for the new contractors. Historically there has only been one bidder. IDIQ stands for...Indefinite deliverables indefinite quantity. Guffey asked for their business and stated that he thinks his crew does a very good job. Guffey asked about the RAC Title II dollars. RAC committee isn't a quorum, and members are waiting to be vetted. Pizza Hut Retirement party for Gene will be held December 17, Noon, Mystic office conference room, all are welcome.

ADJOURN

Jocks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m., seconded by Barber.

Next meeting will be March 9, 2016.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain