

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 12:30 pm

Members Present:

Dennie Mann, Chairman

Bert Jocks, Vice Chairman

Paul Paulson

Lyndell Petersen, County Commissioner

Members Absent:

Brain Barber

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant

Mike Stenson, SD Dept. of Ag

Lon VanDuesen, Rapid City Parks Department

Paul Paulson called the meeting to order at 12:26 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 December 9, 2015 meeting made by Jocks and seconded by Mann, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Guffey stated the past procedures. The board agreed that the Vice Chairman would move up to Chairman and that there would be an election for the Vice Chairman. Motion made for Dennie to be Chairman and Jocks to be Vice Chairman by Peterson and all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Craig Smith and Scott Guffey attended.

GRANT FUNDING: The cost share grant was denied with reason being it was too broad and the amount of reimbursement was too low. Guffey argued the point of smaller acreages in Black Hills and lower chemical costs. Cost share could come out of the \$6100 grant money which comes in from buying chemical and then ask for the county to reimburse. Another option would be to just wait and try to get approval for it next year. Mann suggested we try it so that we know the interest which will help write up the request for next year. Guffey stated that there are people who do call looking/asking for this type of service. This would also allow them to learn about quality chemical. Guffey will work with the Auditor's office also. Benefits will be that we can say we have a program and we will include details on the spray letter. Mike Stenson stated that he was in favor of the program and it makes sense. Jocks made a motion and Paulson seconded, for a 50-50 chemical cost-share program for Pennington County private landowners, funds to come from the \$6,100 SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant – all eyed.

Biocontrol grants were approved as well, one will be for Dalmation Toadflax bio-control agents in the amount \$5,000 for Pennington County and Meade County, Pennington County will administer the grant funds. The other one will be for Poison Hemlock for selected counties in SD, Pennington County will be one of the counties to receive bio-control agents, the grant will be administer by the Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards.

Stenson was thanked for his support for our program. Conference was good. Guffey got new ideas from the Chemical companies and their speaking.

Weed & Pest Director Position Job Description

County Commissioners approved the renaming the Weed & Pest Director's position. The new name is: Grade 23, National Resources Director. Mann stated his thankfulness for the County Commissioners and Guffey and the weed board. The County wondered if the whole department should follow the name change. Weed Board consensus was that would be best to be left alone for now.

Mt Pine Beetle Update / Shaded Fuel Break Update

The crew finished up the pine beetle work. Tree Cutting – 1530 total trees cut of which 191 were green trees, the rest were dead hazard trees along ROWs. Contract cutters cut trees in Stots Canyon on the WY border and Bulzer Gulch off of Sheridan Lake Road around Forest Service Cabins the bug trees were cut down before the timber sale moved in. The ROW had 1400 dead trees (just a few green hit) which were cut by the County crew. The Hazard trees were chunked into 6Ft links and left.

This month we will start on the Pilot project Shaded Fuel Break. Saw logs and POL will be removed, remaining vegetation will have to be treated. There is interest from timber companies to do the project, timber and pol will offset the cost of the treatments. Will go out for bids once the marking is done. Rules are being followed for the Hardwood trees / snails / bats / stream bank. 30ft space between big trees. Tracer paint was given to us by the forest service and must be returned to them. Depth of marking is 200 foot from center of the road. Guffey thinks the marking may be done in 2 weeks.

Budget spreadsheet

Guffey passed out a spreadsheet for accountability for the board to watch the spending of the department. He explained the new expenditures of this budget. Guffey stated this will become a part of the meetings and that it is also a check & balance with the auditor.

NEW BUSINESS

2016 Application Rates

Guffey proposed the 2016 application rates for Weed Spraying- Labor - \$20/hr; Equipment: Truck Sprayer -\$35/hr, Atv/Utv Sprayer - \$25/hr, Backpack Sprayer \$15/hr; Chemical 10% mark up. Pest Control – Labor - \$20/hr, Prairie Dog town poisoning \$10/acre; Pesticides will follow state rates or 10% mark up. Paulson, made the motion accept the 2016 rate proposal, seconded by Jocks – all eyed.

2016 Weed Spraying Agreements

Agreements are looking good this year. Guffey showed the projects he is working on for the 2016 spray season. \$10,000 State and Private Forestry Grant – on private acres adjacent to FS ground; \$6,000 W & P (cost share); FS Weed Spraying \$85,560; SDDOT \$24,950; SDDOTRR \$7,500

VanDusesen – Asked what triggers W & P to spray in the city. Guffey only sprays on verified ROW areas. The City has quit mowing the rural roads and the city really doesn't have a plan. City says that the property is to be cared for to the middle of the road by the property owner. Stated his appreciation for the work done by the department in spraying and that the agreement may need to be updated to get the coverage needed to do things correctly.

Japanese Beetle

There will be a meeting next Wednesday at the outdoor campus to combine efforts of the County/state/city on the Japanese Beetle work. Trap results will be looked at. Guffey said that the St Martins area should be treated again. Consistent Reduction is important. The city found more beetles downtown by the civic center.

Zika Virus

Update and explanation of what the Zika Virus is which came from the Zika forest in Uruguay in the 1940s. The mosquitos that carry Zika don't exist in SD, at this point won't be an issue for Pennington County. Guffey doesn't foresee a large mosquito issue, but dryness may encourage an increase in West Nile Virus cases. VanDuesen stated the city does still do fogging and residual spraying --- esp. for big events (Hills Alive/Fat Tire). Then the people complain about the fogging chemical, he sees it to continue for public events on public lands.

Sheep Mountain Common Mullein

Paul Paulson on 1/26 passed on a Common Mullein complaint from Frank Bloom. It's is coming from the Badlands National Park to Buffalo Gap National Grasslands to Frank's alfalfa field. Guffey has talked to Frank Bloom and has organized a tour to look at the problem with Mr. Bloom, along with representatives from Badlands National Park Service, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and SD Dept of Agriculture.

Crew Update

Crew is busy marking trees for the next few weeks, with a few more trees to cut. Spraying will begin soon after that for the bare ground. Currently have a 4 full time employees on staff and seasonal staff will begin to come on at the end of May. This schedule works well for our returning school teachers. Not much training will be needed since most will be returning employees.

Crew will be using android tablets in the trucks this season to track where herbicide applications are made. Guffey gave a demonstration on how they work. Looking forward to the added efficiency this program will give the spray crew.

Additional Items

None Reported

AGENCY REPORTS

Mike Stenson – SD Dept. of Ag. Mike shared a PowerPoint about the grants.

C17-11 \$10,000 requested but not funded.

C17-13 Association of W&P Boards / Hemlock Biocontrol Pilot \$2500 fully funded. Moths will be purchased.

C17-18 \$5,000 requested and fully funded. Dalmatian Toadflax. We have good bug cites in RC and bugs are collected from them and moved elsewhere. There are new spots out there that need to be treated. Cost is possibly .50 for each bug. Bugs have cleaned up Bear Butte and Skyline Drive in the past. M Hill and St Martins now have infestations.

C17-2 Contractual Grant / Chemical Cost Share of \$5700 are estimated.

SDDA Secretary Lucas Lynch will be stepping down.

Lon Vanduesen – Andy Behnard is the new city urban forester - beetles – ips, turpentine; Ash borer. MPB is not much of a concern. Putting together a plan to address the dead Elm trees. Incentive program details are being worked on.

ADJOURN

Paulson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 p.m., seconded by Jocks.

Next meeting will be May 11, 2016.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain