

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 12:30 pm

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant
Aaron Weeks, City of Rapid City

Dennie Mann called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.m.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Paul Paulson 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 June 29, 2016 meeting made by Jocks and seconded by Paulson, motion carried.

Budget Report

\$25,000 supplement to the weed & pest budget was approved by the County Commissioners yesterday. There has been a need for increased work and chemical this season.

OLD BUSINESS

Mountain Pine Beetle Update / Shaded Fuel Break Update

RFP Deadline is next Wednesday at 2PM. Sanford logging has been pursuing it all along. So Guffey is expecting one solid proposal and this company can do all aspects of the work. Suggested roads and NEPA agreements to work on. Sheridan Lake Road is one requested. Forest Service and Guffey will meet and set up a list of roads and prioritize from that list and use in the years to come of where to work.

MPB epidemic seems to have been declared done by all indicators. The state will continue to man a small crew. The main area is in Custer County and the cost share should be available for at least one more year.

2016 Weed Spraying Agreements

Spraying crew is moving along and presently working on Forest Service. We are spraying under different payment rules and have made adjustments. Asked for overtime as of last week which should be about 10 hrs. per week per employee to get the forest service agreement completed in time. Three days were spent on the Oxeye Daisy project. Results from last year look good and positive progress has been made. Landowners have requested the spraying of shrubby cinquefoil. Spotted Knapweed seems to be flourishing this season. Priorities for spraying are Spotted Knapweed and Oxeye Daisy. Spotted knapweed near mall drive has been sprayed twice and on the 2nd spray they used 500 gallons! There is also a patch near Redrocks which was sprayed again and seems to be getting smaller. Bio-control was present at that site, no releases have been made near there. DOT Contract is still open and we can do some fall spraying. County roads dicamba and 2-4D were used on the bindweed. The plan to pick up and go over the bad areas/roads for the fall spraying. City work – west side of skyline drive near water trail we will pursue in the fall. There was a neighborhood complaint from the trails, thistle is near the burn piles.

Pennington County Chemical Cost-Share Program

The program has spent about \$2000 and had about 20 participants. Seems to be going well.

2017 Budgets

September 6th is the County Commission meeting where the final budget and all changes will be finalized. There was a change because of the \$40,000 money we received from RAC. Guffey suggested that it be put into 2017 monies to be spent.

Resources Advisory Project Proposals

Along with the shaded fuel break proposal we got the \$10,000 for Oxeye and Spotted Knapweed. Mann suggested that we also ask for the Nieman money to come into next year's budget also. RAC money will be reappointed next year which should help in its future designations.

NEW BUSINESS

SD Weed and Pest Commission Fall Meeting (Watertown, SD - September 14 & 15)

This fall meeting and tour is a yearly meeting. SD Weed & Pest Board is meeting and Guffey plans to try to teleconference in.

Weed Enforcement Report

Passed out the current numbers that Denny Saxor compiled. Seems to be an average number for mailing letters out.

Crew Update

Two seasonal employees have left for their school teaching jobs. Dennis Saxer plans to be done this week which coincides with the end of the pay period. 2 additional seasonal employees and ATVs would have been helpful this season. It has been good to realize just what we can accomplish and how to bid the forest service in the upcoming years. The use of time and adding new projects. There have been weather setbacks also. The plan is to keep them all going until the September pay period.

Additional Items - None**AGENCY REPORTS**

Aaron Weeks– City, asked about Grant money for chemical and equipment. Guffey explained how we get some of the grants. Guffey stated that he will share with him the request for Grant paperwork when it becomes available. Aaron worked seasonally since 2014, went to the airport for fulltime work and then was able to get on for the parks division after Tim retired. Guffey and Aaron will get together and share what weed spots the county has and is working on. Peterson suggested that he work with Guffey in picking out the spray that works for the area. Guffey suggested Bill Walker from Spearfish also.

ADJOURN

Jocks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m., seconded by Paulsen. (1:30 adjournment is the plan as there is a tour set up for Edelweiss Mt. Rd shaded fuel break project by the BH National Forest Advisory Board).

Next meeting will be October 19, 2016.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain