

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**

**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office  
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD  
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 12:30 pm**

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Paul Paulson

**Others Present:**

Scott Guffey, Director  
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant

Dennie Mann called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

**Additional Items / Approve Agenda**

Brian Barber made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional items of SD Society of Range Management Conference and Department Head Performance Evaluation for today’s Board Meeting, seconded by Bert Jocks, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2016 meeting made by Jocks and seconded by Barber, motion carried.

**Budget Report**

\$60,000 remaining for the end of the year. Wages will account for about ½ of that and Guffey plans to purchase needed tires and order more chemical. Perspective and Milestone may be going up in price in 2017. Earlier in the year a \$25,000 supplement was added to our budget for labor and chemical needed with additional contractual work agreements. There is a statter on an ATV that needs repair and we just ordered the part. ATVs and vehicles will all be gone through as weather permits. Barber asked process of how to turn money back in. Guffey stated that it goes back into the general fund. Each year it seems that our department has been able to under spend vs maximizing the money in our budget.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Mountain Pine Beetle Update / Shaded Fuel Break Update**

The contractor is in place for the Edelweiss fuel break work. Sanford will be doing the work, a local Black Hills company. Custer Gulch to Raspberry Gulch residences the fuels will be masticated vs lap and scatter, which is best for fuel reduction and more expensive. The back side will be lap and scatter – further from residences and cheaper. The cost of this work averages out to \$407 per acre. Total cost for the project is \$145,000 for the removal. Start date should be soon. Tom Wilse approved road closure to local traffic only and our crew will add traffic control when necessary.

Meeting with Forest Service, Weed & Pest, Hwy Dept and SD Wildland Fire was held to develop a priority list for the future. 8 more roads were added. The next road will be Old Hill City Rd. SD Wildland Fire will coordinate with private landowners at the same time to offer fuel reduction cost share programs for private landowners along the roads.

Shaded Fuel Break Road List		
Road Name	Acres	Cost
1 Edelweiss Mt Road	307	\$144,985
2 Old Hill City Road	115	\$54,310
3 S. Rochford Road	283	\$133,650
4 Reno Gulch Road	303	\$143,095
5 Mystic Road	392	\$185,126
6 Rochford Road	449	\$212,045
7 Palmer Creek Road	128	\$60,449
8 Deerfield Road	498	\$235,185
9 China Gulch Road	586	\$276,744
	3061	\$1,445,589

\$128,000 left this year for contractual  
\$110,000 for 2017, with possibility of Nieman’s contributions

Guffey showed a video on a Diamond Mower which is \$20,000, and a skidsteer/bobcat would be needed to run it. Mann shared previous experiences and suggested rubber tracks over tires. Jenner Equipment was suggested and checking into the possibility of seeing some demos done. Guffey is shopping and looking and it may be a possibility in the 2018 budget. There seems to be savings to the county over this upcoming project. There are also other uses in the weed area and maybe even other departments in the county.

**2016 Weed Spraying Agreements**

Presently working on the billing for the 2016 season. State and Private Forestry Grant monies came in at \$10,000. Oxeye Daisy was down from 400 to 60 Acres, a rewarding drop. We spent 3 days on it this year. Guffey showed pictures of the project. Some areas were very successful and others didn’t show much improvements. Whether funding or not, this seems to be down to manageable area now. Black Fox Campground has quite a bit and this is a concern. The Forest Service has done some treatment but we need to set up a plan.

Spotted Knapweed – 6 A last year, this year 39 A. Some of that jump is from the discovery of new areas.  
Leafy Spurge

Yellow Flag Iris

DOT ROW – treated 150A last year and 130A this year

DOT RR – 32 A vs 31A

Forest Service – 650A this year. Last year's figures are hard to calculate but it looks like it was about 90A.

Equipment has been winterized.

### **Pennington County Chemical Cost-Share Program**

So far 33 landowners participated for a reimbursement of \$2,267. This does seem like a good start but it could be advertised better. There was \$6000 in the budget. We could consider bumping up the reimbursement percentage for next year. It seems like it was a positive direction given to the landowners. It was sent out with the letter and was nice to offer with the letter.

### **2017 Budgets**

Budgets were approved at the September meeting and Weed & Pest was approved as submitted. 2% was added to the county wages for employees.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **District 4 meeting, November 2, SDGF&P Outdoor Learning Center, Rapid City, SD**

9-3pm, Free Lunch, speakers are good, Guffey and Mann will attend. It is free and all can attend.

#### **SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant Applications**

Applications are due November 19. Guffey is considering a grant proposal for the salt cedar at the Creston Quarry. The quarry is now vacant and locked. Jocks will add a lock allowing Guffey in to evaluate the thistle also. The plan is to take care of it in house during the Winter. Jocks asked question about the salt cedar. If cut it would be good to use a stump treatment. Winter time cutting is better for not spreading weeds.

Cost Share program could be applied for also. The general subsidy is \$5000.

#### **Enforcement Report**

335 letters sent, a few short of what was sent out last year. Guffey showed areas of letters via online map.

3 prairie dog complaints have been filed. Guffey will get letters out next week to be finished by Dec 1. Chances are the owner near Bradsky Rd will be need to go to enforcement. The applicator would be hired to do all neighboring lands and then assess the non-participant portion to the owner's taxes due. Total area may be 4-500 Acres with multiple landowners and residences involved.

#### **Crew Update**

Winterizing done, Chainsaws out and tree cutting has begun. Agreement with FS for the ROW. Traffic control for the shaded fuel break area.

Japaneze beetle traps collected. Total of 56 counted last year and 58 collected this year. Guffey passed out a map with counts. Looking at no treatment next spring to see if it is a stagnant number we are dealing with. A decrease would have been nice.

#### **Additional Items**

**South Dakota Society of Range Management Conference**, November 9-10, Mineral Palace in Deadwood. Cost is \$70. The speakers look quality and Guffey has not attended before. Guffey asked for approval from the board to attend. Motion made by Jocks for approval, Barber seconded, approved.

**Department Head Evaluation** – Every year the commissioners do an evaluation and appraisal on all the department heads. Guffey serves under a user board and so the Weed & Pest Board actually is his boss. Passed out Guffey's self-evaluation and went over it with the Board. Mann will add a cover letter explaining the process and adding confirmation. Mann will update and Guffey will send out for approval allowing the whole board to add to it. Lyndell suggested adding "My team would describe me as...." And Mann shared outgoing personality, and Barber stated his availability/willingness to go and confront and negotiate with landowners as well as use the county dollars being well spent, Peterson added open minded. Barber shared his appreciation of Guffey's work on this and his humility.

#### **ADJOURN**

Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 p.m., seconded by Jocks.

Next meeting will be December 7, 2016.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain