

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD

Pennington County Weed & Pest Office

3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 12:30 pm

Members Present:

Dennie Mann, Chairman
Bert Jocks, Vice Chairman
Paul Paulson

Members Absent:

Brian Barber
Lyndell Petersen, County Commissioner

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
LouAnn Blain, Administrative Assistant
Max Bailey
Chancey Odell, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands
Tyrell Schmelz, SDGF&P

Dennie Mann called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Bert Jocks made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional item of Play Clean Go Partnership added to today's Board Meeting, seconded by Paul Paulsen, motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2016 meeting made by Paulsen and seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Budget Report

Getting close to the end of the year with little over \$32,000 remaining in the weed & pest budget. Will be replacing the copier, we have had the current one for 6 years. The maintenance agreement on the new copier will be ½ the price of the current maintenance agreement and is at a fixed rate. The old copier will be sold at the surplus sale.

\$119,000 left in the MPB Budget. Large amount left is due to the fact the contractors have not started on the Edelweiss Mt Road shaded fuel break yet, looking to start after the first of the year. In order to pay for the \$145,000 project, Scott will need to ask for a supplement from 2016 budget to 2017 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Mountain Pine Beetle Update / Shaded Fuel Break Update

The equipment diamond head mower and a skidsteer were talked about at last meeting. SDGF&P has a bid at \$20,500 for the head and \$50,000 is estimated for the skidsteer. The carryover from this year's budget would be able to purchase this. Guffey will present this proposal to the commissioners after the first of the year. There is a possibility of sharing the machine with the Hwy department during the summer months and they could share on the maintenance cost. Idea was presented during Guffey's annual review to the commissioners there.

Test Plots of herbicide control on pine regeneration originally was to be with Dr John Ball, SDSU in Custer state park, but no follow through has happened on that end. Guffey approached Mike Battaglia, USFS research forester that oversees the Experimental Forest in the Black Hills. He was interested in researching the test plots; problem was it was not covered under NEPA. Rhonda O'burne, BHNH Northern Hills District Ranger authorized the test plots within the Experimental Forest under an existing NEPA. Scott will work with Bill Walker with Crop Production Services on getting the test plots out, they will begin next summer.

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

Mann and Guffey attended. Went well, Lawrence county is looking at having the Sheriff issue a citation of \$500 for having any noxious weeds starting the summer 2017. No compliance letters are of concern to Guffey and Mann in this new program and also to where this collected money would be going. Guffey was voted in as the Chair again and will continue to sit on the state association board as the district 4 representative.

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant Applications

\$5,000 regular grant, Salt Cedar Grant of \$15,000 for Cheyenne River area and the Creston Rock Quarry, tributaries, stock dams, etc. February 2017 Conference is where we find out results of grant funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Weed & Pest Board Term Limit – Municipality Representative

Mann's term is up this year. Holli, the county commission office manager will advertise for the position. Mann is willing to serve again.

Administrative Assistant Position

Efficiency is important so Guffey has been planning some office changes. Max Bailey is a Weed & Pest Tech II now and the plan is to phase Max into LouAnn Blain's job. On his daily morning hours, he can check up on administrative things and then again at the end of the day. The ½ time administrative assistant position will be eliminated. Bailey would move to a Staff Assistant IV to account for his new job duties, with the job title change he will move from a grade 9 to grade 12. He is presently is scheduled to take a GIS mapping short course next week, this along with his field knowledge of the roads and things will be helpful. The transition will net a \$2,700 savings for the county.

Weed & Pest Personal Protection Policy

The county has a broad handbook of policy. Last year the Hwy dept. made some changes specific to their department for work boot replacement. The county policy is a \$100 replacement reimbursement to the employee every 10 years. Guffey visited with the HR director on how weed & pest department could receive the same reimbursement as the highway department. HR director said that the department director can adopt the policies specific to their department. Guffey adopted a personal protection policy for the Weed & Pest department; the policy includes a \$100 reimbursement for work boots yearly for full-time employees, similar to the highway department's policy.

SD Weed & Pest Conference, February 22-24, Huron, SD

Guffey asked for a motion to send two individuals to represent the county at the 2017 SD Weed & Pest Conference in Huron. Counties are required to have two individuals attend the conference to qualify for the SD Weed & Pest Commission grants. Paulsen made a motion and Jocks seconded it to send Guffey and Craig Smith as representatives of the county at the conference.

Enforcement Report

3 prairie dog complaints filed with the county....Bradsky Rd, Longview Rd, North of the mall...all three responded positively and are taking action to control the prairie dog towns.

Crew Update

The crew poisoned a 32-acre prairie dog town.

Crew is busy cutting hazard trees along right-of-ways. Had been working around Black Fox but appears the snow will stop work in that area. Guffey met with the Hill City county highway foreman to look at Old Hill City Rd. There are about 15-20 hazard trees scattered along the road within the right-of-way adjacent to private land. We can cut them, but most will have to come down across the road and will create a mess. Highway department will provide some personnel and equipment to assist in the cleanup and traffic control.

2017 Weed & Pest Board Meeting Schedule

2017 Weed & Pest Board Meeting Schedule sent out in the mail for member's approval. Guffey asked the present members, if there is any conflicts with the 6 scheduled meeting dates. The meeting dates are tentative and can be changed should a conflict arise, as well as meeting dates can be added if necessary.

Additional Items

Play Clean Go Partnership is a public awareness campaign targeting outdoor recreationalist. Guffey read definition of the group which seems to be geared towards people using public lands for recreation. Ad campaign with no cost to join. Guffey read those organizations already supporting the program. Guffey sees a benefit in using their public awareness material, we could add a couple their well-produced public awareness videos to our website. Jocks made a motion to join, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Agency Report

O'dell reported BGNG targeted their treatments mostly on hoary cress and sulfur cinquefoil. Guffey shared Hoary cress news about the approval of a new bio-control agent. The cottonwood fire burned through the sulfur cinquefoil, Jackson and Haakon County is the majority of the burned acres – Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) funding requested for 2 years.

Schmelz, SDGF&P – contracted with MidDakota with Bureau of Rec properties of 950 acres. In Bennett County treated 503 acres. Internally another 1167 acres treated with our staff for a total of 2600. Salt Cedar treated near Angostura. Did purchase a Diamond mower forestry head from RDO at a bid price of \$20,500 and shared the breakdown of where the money will come from. Discussion about skid steers and wheeled vs tracked. SDGF&P have been happy with their tracked skid steer. Suggested to use Federal Bid price, if planning to purchase one. They have used Jenner Equipment (David Jenner).

ADJOURN

Paulsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m., seconded by Jocks.

Next meeting will be March 8, 2017.

Submitted by LouAnn Blain