

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks, Chairman
George Ferebee, County Commissioner
Dennie Mann
Paul Paulsen

Members Absent:

Brian Barber, Vice Chairman

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Max Bailey, Staff Assistant

Bert Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Paul Paulsen to approve the agenda, seconded by Dennie Mann, motion carried. Motion by Mann to approve minutes for the March 8th, 2016 meeting minutes. Paulsen seconded the motion, motion carried.

Budget Report

Auditor's budget report for the Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets were presented, still early in the year and not too many big purchases. Chemical purchase came in at \$17,349.70.

OLD BUSINESS

Mountain Pine Beetle/ Shaded Fuel Break Update

Edelweiss Mountain Road project is wrapping up for the year. Project was halted about half-way through due to the warming weather and the loggers' equipment being too heavy to drive on the thawed and softening terrain. Timber removal is put on hold until the next big freeze in the fall/winter. Some of the work had to be done by hand due to the protection of wildlife timing areas. Quite a bit of the wood has been moved out of there. The National Forest Service is having a media day up on Edelweiss Mountain Road to show example of the cleanup and film some of the crew members at work. The current Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic is essentially over.

2017 Weed Spraying Agreements

The verbal agreement for the City of Rapid City was received, spraying in city limits has begun. County Bareground is complete. Road Districts noxious weed law letters were sent out by Scott Guffey. BHNH agreement is for 569 acres on Forest Service at \$130 an acre. \$10,000 Title funds to be used on Forest Service land that will target Oxeye Daisy and Spotted Knapweed. DOT should be for \$25,000 contract. SD railroad has a contract of \$6,000. \$144,000 is what was budgeted out for this year in projected revenue.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 Budgets

2018 Budget guidelines were received from the commissioners. A wage adjustment savings from Weed & Pest budget (615) occurred during the switch from LouAnn to Max in the staff assistant position. Vehicle replacement and adding a new spray truck to the fleet created a \$20,000 difference from 2017-2018. \$18,716 total difference from 2017-2018. \$140,500 total revenue created in 2017. Natural Resources Budget (616) is the budget that the Shaded Fuel Break is being taken from. \$32,437 is the difference from 2017-2018. Over \$102,000 in unspent funds in 2016 were a combination of donation, grant and county general funds. The reason for such a large amount of unspent funds was due to a contractor not completing anticipated fuels mitigation work in 2016. Guffey talked with county highway department about splitting a Bobcat Diamond Head Mower skid-steer. \$50,000 between the two accounts was saved. \$10,000 revenue projected in regards to the Bobcat. Budget hearing is June 23rd, Guffey will attend.

Invasive Weed Management Training, May 17th, Rapid City, Walt Taylor Building

There will be an Invasive Weed Management Training Course in Rapid City on May 17th in the Walt Taylor Building. It's the 14th annual meeting and is held for seasonal employees and many other agencies. Will consist of reading chemical labels, spray gun collaboration, safety procedures, etc. ATV safety course is Thursday, May 18th outside of the Walt Taylor Building.

BHIPP Priority Invasive Weed Management List

The Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership created a list of weeds within a three class system for priority of control. Western Wyoming is the barometer of the data. Class A consists of invasive plants that are not generally found in the region OR have relatively low population size within the region and are of the highest priority. Some of the plants listed in Class A include African Wiregrass, Common Teasel, Meadow Sage Yellow Star thistle, etc. One example of Class A and how it ended up in South Dakota is Giant Knotweed; brought in from Oregon, it arrived on a fire engine that was brought over to fight the Grizzly Gulch Fire. Class B lists Invasive plants that have a moderate population size within the region, established in some areas but less abundant in other areas. Examples of Class B include Absinth Wormwood, Black Henbane, Common Tansy, Leafy Spurge, Dalmatian Toadflax, etc. Salt Cedar is growing strong along the Cheyenne River and will be focused on this Fall. Oxeye Daisy is one of Class B that has been a problem in the past couple of years but has been pushed back quite a bit. White Horehound is a weed that Wind Cave National Park is dealing with currently. Class C consists of Invasive plants that are established in the region, such as Canada Thistle, Common Mullein, Houndstongue and Poison Hemlock. The objective of controlling Class C is to contain established areas and suppress smaller isolated patches.

SD Professionals Range Camp, June 7th-9th, Sturgis

There will be a Range Camp in Sturgis June 7th-9th. Put on by the Society of Range Management, SD chapter. Guffey attended two years ago. Many hands on activities and very helpful in plant and grass ID training. Camp was canceled last year due to not enough sign-ups. Motion made by Mann for Guffey to attend the Range Camp, seconded by Paul Paulsen, motion carried.

Crew Update

County Bareground is complete. Crew has been spraying Hoary Cress around town and the problem is getting taken care of. Summer seasonal employees will be starting May 22nd. Don Hensley and Dennis Saxer will both be retiring, leaving the Weed Enforcement position available. Lorna Ader is a former employee of Weed & Pest and will be hired to fill the Weed Enforcement position. Will be nice to have someone with experience. Guffey will be at a meeting between the SD Association of County Weed & Pest Boards and the SD Secretary of Ag.

Additional Items

Agency Report

ADJOURN

Mann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 p.m., seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Next meeting will be July 12th, 2017.

Submitted by Max Bailey