

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, August 23, 2017 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Max Bailey, Staff Assistant

Bert Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Dennie Mann to approve the agenda, seconded by Brian Barber, motion carried. Motion made by Barber to approve minutes for the July 12, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets were presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Mountain Pine Beetle/ Shaded Fuel Break Update

A Shaded Fuel Break project will begin on S. Rochford Road after the Edelweiss Mountain Road work is completed. Edelweiss Mountain Road is being cut to 200 feet on each side of the road and S. Rochford Road possible will be 300 feet on each side. 10.5 miles of S. Rochford Road was voted 3-2 by the Pennington County Commission to be paved.

2018 Budgets

The final 2018 budgets will be approved in September, employee raises are still to be decided.

NEW BUSINESS

Equipment Purchase

\$24,470 was donated from Neiman Timber. \$42,000 came in from Title II grant. Scott Guffey is planning on buying the Bobcat in 2017 and the Forestry Head in 2018. Caterpillar is the only manufacturer that makes steel tracks for skidsteers although the rubber tracks seem to work just as good and have some advantages when used in the winter months, which is when most of the work will be done. The rubber grips on snow much better. With some left over money in the Equipment Line Item, Guffey is looking at the possibility of trading out the Yamaha Rhino for a John Deer Gator or a Kubota. The Rhino is more of a recreational vehicle and is tiring out.

Enforcement Update

Weed Enforcer Lorna Ader has finished out her seasonal employment with Weed & Pest for the year, slightly earlier than expected due to her giving birth to her child. Guffey helped finish the enforcement duties. Lorna sent out 259 letters in total, 125 Leafy Spurge letters and 124 for Canada Thistle. There are normally around 300-350 letters sent out during a summer. A couple of prairie dog complaints were called in and the crew will be following up soon.

Crew Update

Two of the four seasonal workers are finished for the summer, Lorna Ader and Jim Thovson. Jim, who has been working seasonally with Weed & Pest for 12 years, had his first injury in the field, bringing his last week of his seasonal employment to a halt. His 4-wheeler rolled on top of him and he was rushed to the ER with a dislocated shoulder. The occurrence displayed the necessity of wearing a helmet, as his was cracked. Other two seasonal employees will work until mid-September. 500 acres of Forest Service sprayed, 70 acres left to spray. Crew has been spraying Knapweed on Deerfield Trail off of Mystic Road. Boxelder Creek is another area known for Knapweed although it is getting pushed back year after year. Hwy 385 will be sprayed soon as well as the Salt Cedar on the Cheyenne River.

Additional Items - None

Agency Report - None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mann to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m., seconded by Barber, motion carried.

Next meeting will be October 18, 2017.

Submitted by Max Bailey