

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Bert Jocks, Chairman

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Max Bailey, Staff Assistant

Brian Barber called the meeting to order at 12:55 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 made by Mann to approve minutes for the August 23, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by George Ferebee, motion carried.

Budget Report

Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets were presented. During this pay period, Scott Guffey shifted Max Bailey, Dave Muller and Peter Heffron over to the Natural Resources budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Mountain Pine Beetle/ Shaded Fuel Break Update

Draft agreement has been reviewed by USFS and Guffey to cut hazard trees along road right of ways, this agreement will be 5 year as opposed to a year agreement. This allows county weed & pest to cut hazard trees on forest service along roads. The Shaded Fuel Break project will be back underway once the ground freezes and the crew will come in behind them to start cutting. South Rochford Road is up next and will be cut to 300 feet on each side, as opposed to the 200 feet cut on Edelweiss Mountain Road. More revenue will be generated with the increase timber salvaged. Furthermore, the bigger the better for shaded fuel breaks because it gives way to more of a break to fuels during a fire. Through state wildland fire, there is a 100% cost-share for private lands.

Equipment Purchase

Went out for bid for the new Bobcat skid steer. Received only one bid, from Jenner Equipment and it came in at \$66,000 with the forestry package and bucket. The forestry head is not included and will be purchased after the start of the new year. Half of the cost and usage will be shared with the Highway Department. Around \$25,000 of the cost came from a donation from Neiman Timber. Three 4-wheelers were taken down to Chadron at Bauerkempers for repairs. Seems to be a quicker turn around to get the equipment worked on than in the Black Hills area.

2018 Budgets

Pennington County Commissioners approved the 2018 budget. Created a \$30,000 reduction to the Natural Resources budget. Employees got a 1% cost of living raise and a 1.5 pay grade step. Scott Guffey had to make a budget cut at around \$3,000 to fit the raises.

NEW BUSINESS

SD Weed & Pest District Meetings, Nov 1st, Rapid City, SD

The SD Weed & Pest District Meetings will be on November 1st in the Walt Taylor 4H Building. Two representatives of District 4 are needed to attend. Guffey and one other will go; he will present the County Inspection Summary. The summary estimates how many acres of weeds are in the county. This way the state has some numbers to run off of. Jackson County has Russian Knapweed but Pennington County does not see a whole lot of it, due to other species taking over the ground where it begins to invade.

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grants

Due November 17th are the SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant requests. One is a non-competitive grant that all counties can receive if the required meetings are attended, usually comes in at around \$5,000. The other is a Competitive Grant. There is about \$350,000 in the Competitive Grant pool. One idea Guffey has is to tackle the Rapid Creek Common Tansy problem, as it is spreading downstream. The best way to approach the issue is probably to start at the headwaters up around Rochford and work downstream. The lower half of the creek hosts more homes. Will probably cost around \$15,000 for the project.

Enforcement Update

There are a couple of prairie dog complaints but the crew will wait for better, wetter weather conditions before the towns are poisoned. The end of February is the limit on treatment. Chemical cost-share program went well, had a 47 landowners participate. \$3900 was reimbursed back to landowners with a match of over \$1300 from them. Guffey believes that the program is getting more acres treated in the county and educating landowner on how to properly apply and use the correct herbicide.

Crew Update

Jeff Dargatz, who has been with and loyal to Weed & Pest for over 20 years, is going to take the winter off. He will be back to spray weeds next summer. Peter Heffron has been placed into the full time position for the tree-cutting season. The crew is currently working on spraying Salt Cedar on the Cheyenne River in the Creston Quarry. Sal

Additional Items

None

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Barber to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m., seconded by Mann, motion carried.

Next meeting will be December 6, 2017.

Submitted by Max Bailey