

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 12:30 pm Annual Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Max Bailey, Staff Assistant

Bert Jocks called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Dennie Mann to approve the agenda, seconded by Paul Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by Paulsen to approve minutes for the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Dell Petersen, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Scott Guffey stated previous election procedures, Vice Chairman usually promoted to Chairman. Motion made by Paulsen to vote in Dennie Mann to Chairman, seconded by Jocks. Motion made by Jocks to vote in Paulsen to Vice Chairman, seconded by Petersen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Not a lot of money spent out of the Weed & Pest (615) Budget so far. The Forestry Mower Head was bought with the equipment line in Natural Resources. Guffey and Craig Smith's wages come out of the Weed and Pest budget all year. The other three full-time employees' wages come out of Natural Resources but will switch over to Weed & Pest soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Weed & Pest Board – Unit 1 & 2 Representatives

Unit 1 is Hwy 79 west to the county line, Unit 2 is Hwy 79 east to the Cheyenne River and Unit 3 is the Cheyenne River east to the county line. Officials run three-year terms, can serve two consecutive terms and more after that if appointed by the board of county commissioners. Jocks is running another term as Unit 1 Representative and Petersen replaced Brian Barber as Unit 2 Representative. Petersen has lived here most of his life. He is an engineer and has over 30 years of experience was the coordinator of the super-fund clean-up at Ellsworth Air force Base, currently a rancher along lower Spring Creek Road.

Mountain Pine Beetle/ Shaded Fuel Break Update

The crew has been cutting hazard trees. They never got into Edelweiss Mountain Road to work on the shaded fuel break because the ground never froze enough to bring the large equipment in to harvest the remaining commercial trees. The new plan is to get in there this fall/winter to resume work. South Rochford Road is planned next and having a 300 ft. shaded fuel break from the center of the road. Waiting on the final realignment to come through, before forest service puts together an agreement. Sheridan Lake road is another road being looked at for realignment and for creating a shaded fuel break, as well as Norris Peak Road. There are lots of trees in the right of way of Sheridan Lake Road that would become county property, furthermore creating the possibility of revenue. Hoping to have two or three projects ready to start this fall.

SD Weed & Pest Grant Applications

Guffey applied for the standard county grant for \$5,000 from the SD Weed & Pest Commission, which was accepted. A \$15,000 grant was also awarded for the Common Tansy Headwater Project. The Rapid Creek watershed above Pactola Reservoir will be surveyed and treated for Common Tansy.

SD Weed & Pest Conference, February 17-20, Rapid City, SD

Guffey and Craig Smith attended the SD Weed & Pest Conference in Rapid City at the Ramkota. Federal, State and counties from across the state attended. There were supervisor meetings, presentations from speakers, all around a positive conference and attendance turn out. Guffey invited Brian Mealor, with the University of Wyoming out of Sheridan WY, to come over and talk about Medusa Head and Ventenata, the two invasive grasses that are becoming a problem in Wyoming the last few years. Ventenata can be found as east as Gillette.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 Weed Spraying Agreements

DOT agreement has been submitted to the board of county commissioners for approval and chair signature in the amount of \$24,999. The herbicide Piper is being replaced with Lockdown for bare ground this year, it is a cheaper chemical that allows for the spraying of more weed acres. KV funding is down this year with the USFS, a 72% reduction of acres and we will lose ground on previous years gained. There may be addition funding out there but it depends on where the USFS decides to send it. City and State contracts to be mailed out soon, Road District letters to be sent out soon as well. \$40-\$50,000 projected less revenue for the year due to the loss of Forest Service acres.

BHNF Forest Noxious Weed Funding Letter

Guffey passed out BHNF Noxious Weed Funding Letter to the Weed Board members that he asked the board to send to the BHNF Supervisor Mark Vanevery. All have reviewed and are in agreement. Motion made by Jocks to approve BHNF Funding letter, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Absinth Wormwood State Listed Noxious Weed Support Letter

Guffey passed out Absinth Wormwood support letter to the Weed Board members, all have reviewed and are in agreement. Absinth Wormwood is declared as a locally noxious weed in 39 counties and Guffey thinks it should be added to the State List of Noxious Weeds. There are only seven weeds declared noxious state-wide and it would make sense to add it to the list. There is much growth seen in Pennington County. Motion made by Jocks to approve the support letter, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Chemical Cost-share Program

The Chemical Cost-share Program is a 50-50 share in the price of the chemicals used in the treatment of noxious weeds by landowners. Pennington County Weed & Pest has been participating in the program for the last two years and has been a big help in educating landowners. The share of chemical costs tops out at a \$100. A little over \$4,000 was used last year. Motion made by Paulsen to keep the cost-share program going in the total amount of \$1,500, seconded by Petersen, motion carried.

Enforcement Update

State poison oats are not to be used after March 1st and the Rozol label halts use at Feb.15th. The crew treated a couple of prairie dog towns recently with Kaput-D, a new method of treatment that allows use until the end of March.

Crew Update

The crew has been working in the Creston Quarry treating Salt Cedar, there is \$5000 left on that grant. They treated some mature trees with foliar treatment last fall and are now doing cut stump treatments with the use of the Bobcat mower head and chainsaws. They chop it down and then spray the stump with a bark oil. Seasonal employees will start to return in late May.

Additional Items

SD Game, Fish & Parks has been using a paperless system for entering spray records called Survey 1,2,3. Guffey is looking at the system for use in Weed & Pest this summer, will make pesticide application record keeping easier for the crew.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Jocks to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 p.m., seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Next meeting will be May 16th, 2018.

Submitted by Max Bailey