

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, May 16, 2018 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks
Dennie Mann, Chairman
Dell Petersen

Members Absent:

Paul Paulsen
George Ferebee, County Commissioner

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director

Chairman Mann called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Petersen to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Jocks to approve minutes for the March 14, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Dell Petersen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. 80% of the Weed & Pest (615) Budget is remaining for the year, seasonal staff coming next week will begin to draw that budget down. 34% of the Natural Resources Management (616) remains for the rest of the year, that budget will not be drawn down until October.

OLD BUSINESS

2018 Weed Spraying Agreements

Guffey reported that the SD DOT weed spraying agreement is in place, waiting on SD DOT RR agreement to be sent back. City of Rapid City MOU is once again in place and Road Districts and Townships letter was sent out, has hear back from one Road District requesting the county to spray. Usually get about a dozen or so that request the county to spray their ROWs. An additional 141 acres added to the FS agreement and the forest service has requested additional funds form the regional office. Guffey figures will be \$10-15k short on revenue projections with the loss of FS acres, that difference will have to be made up in unspent weed & pest budget funds.

BHNF Forest Noxious Weed Funding Letter

Guffey went over the letter sent by the BBNF in response to the weed board's letter concerning the cut in noxious weed acres and funding this year. The forest service letter indicated that the dip in KV funding was the major cause in the reduction, although it appears to be just a one-year dip. The letter also identified a dedicated line item funding source titled "National Forest Vegetation Management – Invasive Species Control", something Guffey was unfamiliar with. Guffey said this is good thing; it is drastically underfunded – but something we can request our congressional delegation to fund. Letter also referred to the additional acres that Guffey had talked about. Guffey said the letter sent by the board had a positive impact.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Budget Proposals

Guffey went over the 2019 budget proposal; the guidelines were to prepare an reasonable budget that includes an employee wage increase of 1-step and an optional merit 1-step on their anniversary date. Guffey reduced the Weed & Pest Budget (615) by \$2,654 due in large part by savings in health insurance change by an employee. Natural Resources Management Budget (616) was reduced by \$23,082 due to the reduction in the equipment line item. The Predatory Control (166) will remain the same at \$3,284 again next year.

Secured Rural Schools Act Title III Funds

Guffey said the Secured Rural Schools Act was renewed in the 2018 Omnibus Bill passed by Congress. The SRS Title III funds go direct to the county for use on the national forest within the county, the restrictions were tight on what they could be used on. The county sheriff used

most it on search and rescue events that happened on the forest service. This year the feds finally made some language changes in the restrictions and now we could use the money on our shaded fuel project. It will be up to the board of county commissioners to decide how they want to use the money going forward.

15th Annual Invasive Weed Management Training, May 15, Rapid City, SD.

Guffey said they had about 50 attendees for their 15th Annual Invasive Weed Management Training, which was held at the Walt Taylor Building on the Pennington County fairgrounds.

2018 South Dakota Professional Range Camp, June 5-7, Sturgis, SD

Guffey asked for permission to attend the 2018 SD Professional Range Camp, June 5-7, Sturgis, SD. Guffey said it has attended the camp in the past and learns a lot about various range management issues and plant ID. Jocks made the motion for Guffey to attend the 2018 range camp, seconded by Petersen, motion carried.

Wyoming Medusahead/Ventenata Field Tour, June 19, Sheridan, WY

Guffey attended last year and would like to attend again this year. As he did last year, he will leave early in the morning and returned the same day of the tour. Guffey said there is no substitute to identifying weed species in first hand in the field setting. Western South Dakota is susceptible to getting both invasive grass species.

Crew Update

The spray crew is finishing up bare-ground work for the county highway department and SD DOT. Hoary Cress and Leafy Spurge is starting to come into bloom and have begun spraying our hot spots in the county. Will have three seasonal employees coming on next week, two are returning and one new. New employee will be assisting on weed enforcements. Two more yet to come, both are teachers and will be starting in a few weeks.

Additional Items

Petersen asked how the Absinth Wormwood addition to the state noxious weed lists went at the SD Weed & Pest Commission Meeting in April. Guffey said the commission was wanting to wait until September to have a rules hearing on it, since it is a drawn out process. The commission felt it was better if is approved to be added to the state lists, it was better that if it is added at the beginning of the year – instead of the middle of the year. Guffey thought it will ultimately will be added to the state list.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

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

Next meeting will be July 11, 2018.

Submitted by Scott Guffey