

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, July 11, 2018 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks
Dennie Mann, Chairman
Dell Petersen
Paul Paulsen
George Ferebee, County Commissioner (via conference call)

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Dwayne Buckmier, District 4 Representative of SD Weed & Pest Commission

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

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Paulsen to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Petersen to approve minutes for the May 16, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. 63% of the Weed & Pest (615) Budget is remaining for the year, half way through the season is in good shape – UTV purchase to come out. 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

Finally received the SDRRDOT agreement, county commission chair signed and returned. BHNH asked for some additional funding from the regional office and received \$21,000 for treatment of 161 acres in the Canyon Hills Sale area west of Black Hawk. Funds can be used in 2018 and 2019, will look treating half the acres this year keying in on spotted knapweed in the area and using the remaining acres next year.

2019 Budget Proposal

In the provisional budget, all general funded county budgets – which includes both (615) weed & pest and (616) natural resources management budgets, received a 1.9% cut. That equals a to a \$4k cut to (615) weed and pest and a \$1,500 cut to (616) natural resources management budget.

Secured Rural Schools Act Title III Funds

Guffey presented the new allowable uses of the funds to the board of county of commissioners at his budget hearing. No decision was made for use, that will be made in September.

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

Guffey attended and said once again it was good learning and discussion camp. They showed a sheep grazing plot on Dalmatian toadflax on Fort Meade, it took awhile for the sheep to graze the weed – once it ate it, it liked it and sought it out. It will be interesting to see the weed and bio-control agent response next year. Also looked at riparian area along Spearfish Creek north of Spearfish, area that was being invaded by Russian olive. NRCS said the riparian area looked good, Guffey brought up the Russian olive – denial by some that it is a threat and feel it's a good wildlife tree and livestock shelter. Guffey noted the lack of advocacy of herbicide at the camp.

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

Guffey attended, rode over with Mike Stenson, SDDA and Nathan Jagim, Meade County Weed & Pest. Last year Guffey was the only one from SD to attend and this year about dozen attendees from SD. Couple of classroom presentors from Idaho talked about how they have been dealing with both invasive grasses, which has been established there for long time now. One producer talked about using round-up on patches and having the cattle seek out the treated areas due to what he believes the

salt content in the herbicide. Field tours looked at various field treatments, looked like fall treatments of Plateau worked the best.

NEW BUSINESS

BHNF Invasive Species Action Plan FY 2018-2020

Guffey presented the BHNF Invasive Species Action Plan FY 2018-2020. He noted the declining acres treated on forest service from a high of over 15k acres in 2006 to little over 3k the last four years. The plan outlines two plans of either increase to 8k acre target for the next 5 years at estimated total cost of \$10,280,000 or 16k acre target for the next 5 years at estimated total cost of \$20,560,000. Guffey would like to have a meeting this fall with partnering agencies and forest supervisor Van Every to get area agencies adopt resolutions of support of the plan and to help identify possible funding sources.

RMEF Grant Application

Guffey said the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant application is open with a deadline of July 25. Guffey is going to ask for another \$5k in funding for the oxeye daisy project in the Crow's Nest Peak area. Guffey said after three years of treating the area that we are gaining ground. He had some concerns about forb damage, but look at it earlier this week with Marty Pedersen, BHNF Invasive Species Coordinator and Justin McConkey, Range Specialist Hell Canyon Ranger District. They observed that the native forbs are still present, just stunted where escort treatments were done. This is encouraging, since the oxeye daisy is being removed as result of the herbicide treatments. Definitely improving the range condition and improving the carrying capacity of livestock and wildlife.

County Surplus Sale

The county surplus sale is scheduled to take place July 19th at the central states fairgrounds. The weed and pest department will be surplus our Suburban, one of the Jeeps, ATV and the Argo. Everything is pretty well worn out, except for maybe the Argo. Crew fears that Argo is going to break down somewhere it can get it out. Board of Commissioners approved surplus the 2013 Yamaha rhino UTV for the purpose of trade on a new Kubota UTV. Jenner Equipment is taking \$2,500 off the price of the Kubota for a total cost of \$9,215 for the UTV.

Enforcement Update

Guffey said Dave Holst has been doing a good job on enforcements. Guffey didn't have a count on letters sent so far, but said the majority so far have been for leafy spurge and have began to send out Canada thistle letters out. For the most part landowners are taking care of their weed problems.

Crew Update

The spray crew is finishing up the railroad along hwy 44. Have begun spraying the oxeye daisy west of Deerfield Lake in the Dry Beaver Timber Sale, which has a 99 acre target. Private land in the area will be treated for oxeye daisy using funds from the RMEF grant. Timber sale areas in the Mystic Ranger District will be treated starting next week, with a 172 acre target on that district. Crews have begun to treat on the Common Tansy grant project, 250 landowner letters were sent out in the rapid creek headwater shed. Only a few landowners had concerns and one didn't want us spraying on their property.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Petersen to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m., seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Next meeting will be August 15, 2018.

Submitted by Scott Guffey