

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, August 15, 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
Alex Grant, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Wall District Ranger
Patrick Champa, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands

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 Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by Petersen to approve minutes for the July 11, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Budget Report

Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. 49% of the Weed & Pest (615) Budget is remaining for the year, over 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

RMEF Grant

Guffey submitted grant request in the amount of \$5000 to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for noxious weed control in western Pennington County. The focus will be on oxeye daisy, common tansy, and absinthe wormwood. The grant was awarded for \$4,000, there were more request than funding available this year – so most of the requests had some funding cuts or were cut all together. Mystic Ranger District also received a grant in the amount \$4,000 for leafy spurge control in the slate creek dam area, they plan on having the county do the treatments.

NEW BUSINESS

Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Weed Complaint

Guffey met with landowner Rick Horton about a Canada thistle complaint on Buffalo Gap National Grasslands and Badlands National Park adjacent to him. Mr. Horton showed Guffey around his allotment on the grasslands, so he could see the Canada thistle problem first hand. Guffey said there was a fair amount of Canada thistle that needs to be addressed. Guffey stopped in the Wall Ranger District after meeting with Horton; he visited with District Ranger Alex Grant and Range Con Patrick Champa about the Canada thistle issue on the district. Both are fairly new to the district and are eager to improve on the district's noxious weed management. They talked about possible funding sources and the county possibly doing some spraying on the district. Grant wants to build partnerships to improve upon the districts weed management.

South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission District 4 Representative Letter of Recommendation

Guffey stated that the District 4 representative is up and will be appointed by the governor. Moved by Petersen, seconded by Paulsen to have the chairman to sign a letter for Clint Pitts for the District 4 representative.

Enforcement Update

Guffey said Dave Holst last day was last Thursday, he sent out a total of 183 (125 Canada thistle / 58 leafy spurge) noxious weed volunteer compliance letters to landowners. This was down from last year's total of 259 letters (124 Canada Thistle / 125 Leafy Spurge). Guffey attributed the decrease in letters in the fact that Dave was new and there is learning curve on identifying weeds from a distance and where to go in the county.

Crew Update

The spray crew is finishing up forest service acres. Continue to touch up county roads, weeds seeds have continued to germinate with all the moisture this summer. Working on the common tansy project near Silver City and Rochford. A couple of our seasonal sprayers have gone back school to teach, plan on having them back again next summer.

Agency Report

Alex and Patrick said they look forward to building a partnership on noxious weed management. Spoke of their concern on dispersed camping on the district that has grown in popularity and the spread of noxious weeds.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Petersen to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m., seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

Next meeting will be October 24, 2018.

Submitted by Scott Guffey