

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

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Max Bailey, Staff Assistant

Chairman Mann called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Bert Jocks to approve the agenda, seconded by Paul Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by Paulsen to approve minutes for the October 24, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Dell Petersen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Into the last month of the fiscal year and both budgets are looking good. Weed & Pest (615) has 13% left. There will be a shortfall in estimated revenue this year due to the reduced forest service acres, estimate to be about \$8,000 short. The weed and pest budget will have to offset the short fall in revenue with at least the amount unspent in the budget at the end of the year. Natural Resource budget (616) is sitting at \$11.5k or 10% remaining for the year, main existing expense is three FTE wages.

OLD BUSINESS

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant Application

Guffey applied for two SD Weed & Pest Commission grants, one was for continue to treat the common tansy in the Rapid Creek drainage and the other one would be for 10 game cameras for prairie dog surveillance. Guffey came up with the idea, after a discussion at the district weed and pest meeting on prairie dog enforcements. The lawsuit filed in Fall River County, the judge questioned how the county figures the percent of control is achieved. The current method is to watch a prairie dog town and count the prairie dogs, it makes for long unproductive time wasted counting prairie dogs. Guffey also applied for a grant from the National Wild Turkey Foundation for \$5k.

Weed & Pest Supervisor Evaluation

County Commissioners will likely evaluate Guffey in February, was supposed to be in November but they did not have a quorum of people together. They amended the evaluation process to better fit the Pennington County employee handbook by scheduling the evaluation for the department head one month before their anniversary hire date. If any wage adjustments are made, they will go into effect one month after their anniversary hire date.

NEW BUSINESS

Unit 3 Board Member Term Limit

Paulsen has reached his limit as Unit 3 Member. Since it was his first term, he is eligible to run again. Paulsen is willing to run for another term. Guffey will notify Paulsen on when the opening is advertised.

SD Weed & Pest Conference February 19-22, Huron, SD

Annual SD Weed & Pest Conference will be February 19-22 in Huron, SD. By state weed & pest commission rules, two people need to attend for the county to be eligible to apply for the grant funds. Guffey and Craig Smith are usually the ones to go. Motion made by Jocks to send Guffey and Smith to the Conference, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried.

2019 Weed & Pest Board Meeting Schedule

Guffey handed out and discussed the 2019 schedule for the weed & pest board meetings. They are scheduled about the same as this year. There does not seem to be any conflicts from any of the board members at this time. A new county commissioner will replace George Ferebee as the commission representative on the board next year.

Shaded Fuel Break Update

Progress is underway again on the Edelweiss Mountain Road shaded fuel break. Loggers are finishing up removing the remaining merchantable timber along the road. County crew will cut and deck a few remaining saw logs near Bear Gulch. County Crew can now finish up the fuels mitigation work that remains. The mastication work will begin first to avoid future snow-covered rocks. The forest service requested the lop and scattered brush from the logging activity within 60 feet of the road be chipped and thrown back away from the road. Sheridan Lake road moved up on the priority list, in hopes the work can be done, before the construction begins to add turning lanes. East Slate is another road that will be under construction there is not much salvageable material.

Crew Update

The crew has been cutting dead hazardous trees in the S. Rochford Road area. Did some flagging between Bear Gulch Road and Pactola Estates while loggers on Edelweiss Mountain Road cut and skidded trees. Starting shaded fuel break work on Edelweiss Mountain Road next week on the Silver City side and trying to get as much done as they can before any deep snow builds up. New tires put on two of the crew trucks, new shocks on one of them.

Additional Items

Joe Miller, the new county highway department superintendent was hired and started December 1st. Mystic Ranger District should have a new district ranger in place by April.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Paulsen to adjourn the meeting at 1:39 p.m., seconded by Petersen, motion carried.

Next meeting will be March 15th, 2019.

Submitted by Max Bailey