

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks
Dennie Mann
Paul Paulsen, Chairman
Dell Petersen, Vice Chairman
Mark DiSanto, County Commissioner

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Max Bailey, Staff Assistant
Andy Bernard, Rapid City Parks Department
Jon Berglund, Rapid City Parks Department

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

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Motion made by Dennie Mann to approve the agenda, seconded by Bert jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Jocks to approve meeting minutes for the December 12, 2018 meeting, seconded by Dell Petersen, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Motion made by Mann to elect Paulsen as chairman and Petersen vice-chairman, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Budget Report

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 80% left. 2016 Toyota Tacoma was purchased for just under \$30,000 to replace 2001 Jeep. Kept under budget and has 16,000 miles with a 100,000-mile warranty on powertrain. 2001 Jeep Cherokee that was being used by weed enforcement officer will be auctioned to be replaced by the 2008 Tacoma. Natural Resource budget (616) is at 72%. Three of the four full-time employees run out of the (616) budget but will get switched to (615) budget soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Weed & Pest Board – Unit 3 Representative

Paulsen reappointed as Unit 3 representative to the Weed & Pest board through an interview process and an approval from the Pennington County Board of Commissioners.

Weed & Pest Supervisor Evaluation

Guffey had his annual evaluation by the commissioners with them agreeing with the weed board on compensation.

Shaded Fuel Break Update

Still working on the Edelweiss Mountain Road fuel break project. The loggers have completed their work but left around 1 mile of timber left that was undesirable to log. The crew is logging the remainder of the trees by use of the skid steer and their experience in tree removal, along with the training and help of the Forest Service. There are protected sensitive areas so the crew is working to get the work done before the ground thaws out. Timber West is taking the smaller logs and Neiman is taking the larger ones. The revenue generated will offset the cost of the work. Future roads are East Slate Road, county is doing a realignment so they need to remove some trees there. Sheridan lake road is another one that is being held up at the moment. South Rochford Road is another road that is on the agenda.

SD Weed & Pest Commission Grant Applications

Guffey received the standard grant at around \$6000, will find out soon what exactly how much. This year put in for two competitive grants, one for common tansy headwater that was awarded in the amount of \$9,675. This is the second year of treating the Rapid Creek Drainage, this year will concentrate on Pactola Reservoir to Rapid City. The other grant applied for was the prairie dog surveillance test plot in the amount of \$1,725. It would use game cameras on the prairie dog towns before the treatment to figure the percent of control. Would then have photographic evidence of whether it worked or not. Also, is would possible show where they came from. That grant was not approved, Guffey said the commission could not give a good reason why it wasn't. The board would like to move forward the idea, Guffey will plan on purchasing some cameras for a test plot area this fall.

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

Guffey and Craig Smith attended the Conference, Dow and DuPont have merged. Corteva is the name of the new company. They will soon be introducing a new product with Milestone mixed with 2-4 D. Milestone is coming off of patent so there will be a price drop as the generic forms come out. John Ball spoke about Emerald Ash Borer. Guffey wants to get a survey of the Rapid Valley area and see how many Ash trees there are. Andy Bernard from the city says it is about 20% of the city's right of way and city property is covered with ash trees. The city bought a new tree shredder and plans on taking out any Ash trees as they get infected.

NEW BUSINESS

Absinthe Wormwood Request for Local Listing

Guffey Estimates about 35 acres in the county. Over 40 counties out of 67 have it listed as a noxious weed. Custer and Meade county have listed it recently. If listed, Guffey wants to do a press release. Grant money has been used to treat it on private property, would be good to treat the problem. Motion made by Mann to add Absinthe Wormwood to the locally declared list, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

2019 Weed Spraying Agreements

One agreement so far, Hell Canyon area for 76 acres. Mystic Ranger district 575 acres, carryover agreement for about 116 acres in the Canyon Hills sale area. Guffey met with Cory Neuharth with the BLM about entering into an agreement with them, looking at about \$10,000. National Wild turkey foundation, Guffey received \$3000 from them. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant for \$5000, Guffey put in for a \$5,000 from state and private forestry funding administered by the SD Dept of Ag, will hear back soon. DOT agreement is usually \$25,000; SD DOT Railroad \$3-5,000. Road district letters will get sent out soon as well, informing them of their responsibility to control their rights-of-way for weeds and to offer our services to assist them. Guffey said we should be able to meet our \$140,000 revenue projection for this year.

Letter of Support for the Black Hills Resilient Strategy

Guffey talked about the strategy, the point of it is to be proactive before the MPB epidemic begins again. Ponderosa Pine grows better here than mostly all of the other places where ponderosa pine grows. This strategy aims to diversify the age class, density, and species of trees in the BH region for improved fire and MPB prevention. Motion made by Bert jocks. Seconded by Mann, Motion carried. Part of the strategy deals more with pre-commercial thinning. Guffey spoke at the Botany Workshop last week to explain the Resilient Strategy.

Chemical Cost-Share Program

Weed & Pest Department has been using the chemical cost-share program for the last few years. 27 Landowners participated. A little over \$2000 was given out to them. Guffey asked the board if they wanted to up the reimbursement from \$100 to \$150. This Program is designed to direct landowners to buy the right chemicals to treat their weeds. Motion made to approve the chemical cost-share program and to raise the reimbursement to \$150, motion made by Mann, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Crew Update

Crew is working on Edelweiss, will be switching over to bare-ground treatments in about a month and half. The county lots will be treated along with guardrails, cattle guard and bridge abutments. Seasonal crew will come on the end of May. A couple of teachers will be returning, a good summer job for them.

Additional Items

Outdoor Campus, partnership meeting tomorrow. Invasive Species action plan. The BHNH target for weed control was very low last year and they want to increase acre targets. In April, Guffey was asked by the Forest Supervisor to attend a meeting with the congressional staff, BHNH, Custer County over a complaint by the county about the BHNH.

Agency Report/Public Comments

Bernard and Berglund from Rapid City Parks Department, working closely with them to cover the city weeds and the ash trees.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Jocks to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 p.m., seconded by Mann, motion carried.

Next meeting will be May 15th, 2019.

Submitted by Max Bailey