

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, May 15, 2019 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Bert Jocks  
Dennie Mann  
Dell Petersen, Vice Chairman

**Members Absent:**

Paul Paulsen, Chairman  
Mark DiSanto, County Commissioner

**Others Present:**

Scott Guffey, Director

Vice Chairman Petersen 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 March 20, 2019 meeting, seconded by Dell Petersen, motion carried.

**Budget Report**

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 64% left for the remainder of the year. Natural Resource budget (616) is at 57%.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Shaded Fuel Break Update**

Finishing up logging activities on the Edelweiss Mt Road shaded fuel break. Neiman Timber is hauling logs from site to Hill City mill, have hauled 4 truck loads so far, has probably 2 more to haul off. Neiman is paying the county \$31.50/ton for the logs, approximately 30 tons per truck load - works out to be around \$945 per truck load. The crew will be working on cleaning up the site for the summer, will return this fall to finish fuel mitigation work on the project. Guffey will meet with BHNF Mystic Office tomorrow for a project along Norris Peak Road that has received approval to proceed, section did not get logged during to most recent timber sale in the area. Sheridan Lake Road continues to be a priority to get started on, county is finishing up right of way acquisition for fall 2020 as target start up date.

**Absinthe Wormwood Request for Local Listing**

The SD Weed & Pest Commission approved Pennington County's request to add Absinthe Wormwood to its locally declared list, the county now as has 6 locally listed weeds and 1 locally declared pest. The counties can have up to 8 locally declared weeds and pests on their list. There was discussion by the commission to look at the state list, Guffey presented them information that a few western states are going to a tier listing. It sounds like they may look at removing Russian Knapweed from the state list and replace it with Absinthe Wormwood.

**2019 Weed Spraying Agreements**

Guffey has received back the signed BHNF weed spraying agreements and the SD DOT agreement. Met with the city of Rapid City and will plan on doing similar work as last year and put up 4 boot brush stations. Only (2) road districts have requested the county to spray their right-of-ways, Guffey anticipates there will be a few more that will request us to spray. SD DOT Railroad bid proposal was sent out last week.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 Budget**

Provisional budgets were due at the end of April, guidelines were to submit a reasonable budget request. The budget request breakdown was as follows: Weed & Pest - \$344,816 (1.36% increase from 2018); Natural Resources Management \$79,535 (4.87 increase); Revenue estimates stayed the same, did put in for \$7,600 of the Title III funds for 2020. Budget hearing in front the county commissioners is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am. Guffey has also been helping out the conservation districts on their budget requests this year and they will present their budgets during the weed and pest hearing.

**SD Mosquito Control Grant**

The SD Dept of Health has announced it call for state grant funding for mosquito and west nile virus control. There is \$500,000 available for local control mosquito control programs, individual grants could range from \$500 to \$20,000. Guffey said he

would submit a grant application for an ATV, drone, and larvicide. Guffey said the drone could be used to locate standing pools of water that are mosquito breeding areas, that ATV could be used to access those areas to treat with the larvicide.

#### **Black Hills Resource Advisory Committee**

The BHNH is looking for members for the BH Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC is responsible for advertising for the Secured Rural Schools Act Title II funds. They also make recommendations to the forest supervisor for approval of projects using the funding, that needs to be used on the forest for natural resources or recreation projects. Dennie Mann said he would apply to serve on the committee.

#### **Black Hills Resilient Forest Partnership Meeting**

The Black Hills Resilient Forest Partnership will have it's second meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, Guffey is still serving as the interim-coordinator for the partnership. The group will begin putting together it's action plan for 2019.

#### **Invasive Weed Management Training**

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Invasive Weed Training will be held May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 4-H Walt Taylor Building in Rapid City. The training is designed for seasonal weed spraying staff to teach how to identify noxious weeds, record keeping requirements, herbicide information, equipment calibration, among other things that should know for weed spraying. General public is welcome to attend as well.

#### **Crew Update**

Crew is working on finishing up Edelweiss shaded fuel break for the summer, will be switching over to bare-ground treatments next week. Seasonal crew will start coming on next week, will be up to full staff by early June.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Mann to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m., seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Next meeting will be July 10th, 2019.

Submitted by Scott Guffey