

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Weed & Pest Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, December 11, 2019 12:30 pm Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Dennie Mann  
Paul Paulsen, Chairman  
Mark DiSanto, County Commissioner (*attended mid-way through the meeting*)  
Dell Petersen, Vice Chairman  
Bert Jocks

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Scott Guffey, Director  
Jerry Hirschhoff

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Additional Items / Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Mann to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Jocks to approve meeting minutes for the August 14, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mann, motion carried.

**Budget Report**

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 6.6% left for the remainder of the year, a \$37,000 budget supplement from over-collected revenue has been approved by the county commissioners and yet to be posted to the budget. Natural Resource budget (616) is at 23% for the remainder of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Shaded Fuel Break Update**

Crews are working on finishing up the fuels work on Edelweiss Mt Road, waiting for the ground to freeze to finish-up fuels mitigation work. Will look to move into the Norris Peak Rd shaded fuel break next month, will begin on merchantable removal. Working on getting a SPA in place with the Forest Service for Sheridan Lake Rd. Guffey is optimistic it will get done soon, with the new Mystic District Ranger and Timber Management Administrator in place should speed the process up. East Slate Road and South Rochford Rd are also in discussion on getting an agreement in place.

**SD Weed & Pest Grant Application**

Two grants were submitted to the SD Dept of Ag for the SD Weed & Pest Commission Funds. A grant in the amount of \$11,350 for surveying and treating invasive weeds in the Cheyenne River watershed, focusing on salt cedar and phragmites. The other grant was the county grants, that are available to all SD counties that meet the requirements – will probably be around \$5-6,000 for that grant.

**District 4 Weed & Pest, BHIPP, Conservation Leaders Meeting**

Mann and Guffey attended the District 4 meeting on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, two members are required to attend the meeting to qualify for the grant funding. The SD Weed & Pest Board Association is proposing to change the term of its officers to a two-year term. This will allow the president more time to get comfortable with the position and get more things accomplished. The by-law change will be voted on by its membership at the SD Weed & Pest Conference in February. Guffey thought it was a good change, the weed board agreed and will vote in favor of it. The BHIPP meeting was held on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, Guffey attended. Tall Buttercup was added to the priority list in the class A category, it is short-lived perennial and is toxic to livestock. It has been found in the Dumont area. Toadflax Hybrid was also added to the priority list, it is a hybrid of Dalmatian and Yellow toadflax. It is taller and has a broader leaf than Yellow Toadflax. It's believed to be found in the Black Hills. All the Toadflax species were lumped together on the priority list in class B to include all hybrids. DiSanto and Guffey attend the Conservation Leaders Meeting was held on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> in Custer at the US Forest Service Office. Steve Hasenohrl was introduced at the new Black Hills

Resilient Forest Strategy, just waiting to see what organization we can run the funding through. Guffey discussed that possibility with the Black Hills Council of Local Government, they wanted to review it some more and decide at their January meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2020 SD Weed & Pest Conference, February 18-21, Aberdeen, SD.**

In order to qualify for the SD Weed & Pest Commission grants, counties need to send two representatives to the annual SD weed & pest conference. Motion by Mann seconded by Petersen to send Guffey and Craig Smith to the 2020 SD Weed & Pest Conference in Aberdeen.

### **Locally Declared Weed & Pest List**

Houndstongue, Sulfur Cinquefoil, and Japanese Beetle are set to expire on the Pennington County's locally declared weed & pest list. Guffey recommended the board renew all of them for another 5-year designation. Motion by Petersen seconded by Jocks to renew Houndstongue, Sulfur Cinquefoil and Japanese Beetle on the Pennington County's locally declared weed and pest lists, motion carried.

### **Weed & Pest Budget Supplement**

At the December 3<sup>rd</sup> County Commission meeting the Board of County Commissioners approved a \$37,000 budget supplement to the (615) weed & pest budget. Guffey said all the supplemented amount was supported by over-collected revenue from weed & pest. The over-collected revenue came from grants and weed spraying agreements.

### **Gallagher Wage Study**

The county hired Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. to conduct a wage study on the county employees. Guffey was not impressed where they placed the weed & pest department positions. Guffey did appeal the ratings with Gallagher, he is not optimistic they will change any of them. Petersen asked what was the next step, Guffey said the county commissioners still need to vote to accept the Gallagher wage study. If they do accept, hopefully there will be the flexibility to make changes to it. Petersen and Jocks said they would be willing to meet with whoever to appeal the weed & pest ratings.

### **Crew Update**

Crew is currently working on finishing up the Edelweiss Shaded Fuel Break. John Ball, SD Certified Forester, conducted a chainsaw safety workshop for the weed & pest and highway department. He talked about the increasing use of battery powered chainsaws and in five years you will see a lot more.

### **Agency Report**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Motion made by DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 1:55pm, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Next meeting will be February 26, 2020.

Submitted by Scott Guffey