

PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD
Pennington County Weed & Pest Office
3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD
Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 12:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bert Jocks,
Jerry Hirrschoff, Chairman
Mark DiSanto, Vice Chairman
Paul Paulsen

Members Absent:

Deb Hadcock, County Commissioner Liaison

Others Present:

Scott Guffey, Director
Jim Neil, FSA County Executive Director

Chairman Hirrschoff called the meeting to order at 12:37p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Additional Items / Approve Agenda

Guffey requested that Chemical Cost-share Program added to the agenda. Motion made by Jocks to approve the agenda with the additional item, seconded by Paulsen, motion carried. Motion made by Paulsen to approve meeting minutes for the February 23, 2022 meeting, 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 89% remaining, Forestry budget (616) is at 75% for the remainder of the year. Guffey said the commissioners did approve the budget supplement to the 616 budget from the unspent title III funds. It will be used to pay wages while the crew is working the Norris Peak project.

Farm Service Agency Cooperation and Coordination

FSA County Executive Director Jim Neill visited with the board on grasshoppers and noxious weeds on producers that have a FSA contract and working together to manage those issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Shaded Fuel Break

The crew is currently working on the Norris Peak Timber Sale area, with the shade fuel break project. There is an estimated 200 ccf of commercial logs in there, so far 4 loads have been hauled off. County highway spring load limits are on, should be coming off. There is a stock load of logs to be hauled off, crew is almost done with cutting on the project.

Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision

BHNF Supervisor Jeff Tomac will be meeting with area county commissioners to discuss counties participation as cooperating agencies on the forest plan re-vision on April 18th at the Pennington County Commission Chambers. Guffey will be attending the meeting Commissioner Ron Rossknecht. It will require deliverables from the counties and staff time, whole process will likely take 3 years to complete.

It is important the counties have input in the plan, it will be guiding document the forest service will use to manage the Black Hills for the next 20-30 years.

2022 Weed Spraying Agreements

Guffey said they received the SD DOT agreement back signed and ready to start on the bare ground work soon. Waiting on SD DOT RR from the state. Will meet with the city soon, to go over their MOU on weed spraying.

NEW BUSINESS

Japanese Beetle Maidstone Ct Landowner Meeting

Guffey sent a letter out to 12 landowners who own lots on Maidstone Ct in the Red Rock Highlands development in Rapid City. Guffey said there has been high Japanese Beetle adult trap counts isolated there the last few years. He would like to do a larvicide treatment to the ornamental turf in the area, similar to what was done in the Good Samaritan development near St Martins a few years back. In the letter he said the county would like to do a larvicide treatment in the area and would cost-share the treatments and would meet with interested landowners on April 4, he only had two landowners show up. Has had another three landowners indicate they want to participate in the program. Warne Chemical will once again do the treatments, county will pay half the treatment up to \$100. Guffey will try to meet with the remaining landowners to discuss having the treatment done. Treatments will be done early to mid-May, need water to soak in the treatments.

Seasonal Employees

The county is currently advertising for two seasonal positions, an applicator and enforcement position. The county has been advertising the positions for almost a month now and no applicants so far. Both positions currently advertised at the high end of the A12 grade rating at \$14.02/hr. Guffey said Custer county advertised for their seasonal weed sprayer position at \$18/hr and Lawrence County is advertising at \$15/hr. Guffey said he is going to ask to bump the seasonal position to a grade A13 rating, the entry wage would be \$14.68.

Crew Update

Guffey said that the crew has been working hard on finishing up the Norris Peak timber cut, should be done by the end of the month. Dave Muller has been working on getting equipment ready for the weed spraying season. Max Baily gave his resignation notice effective April 29th. Guffey is working HR on writing a better job description for the position, possible as chief deputy or assistant director type of position.

Additional Item

The weed & pest board agreed to once again offer a \$100 cost-share for private landowners in Pennington County. DiSanto suggested approaching the City of Box Elder on spraying the Radar Hill Rd ROW, Guffey said he will try to get in touch with their public works director.

Agency Report

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Paulsen to adjourn the meeting at 1:45pm, seconded by Jocks, motion carried.

Next meeting will be June 8th, 2022.

Submitted by Scott Guffey