

**PENNINGTON COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD**  
**Pennington County Natural Resources Office**  
**3607 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD**  
**Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 12:30 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Paul Paulsen, Chairman  
Jerry Hirschoff  
Casey Knuppe  
Bert Jocks  
Travis Lasseter, County Commissioner Liaison

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Scott Guffey, Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Additional Items / Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Knuppe to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocks, motion carried. Motion made by Jocks to approve meeting minutes for the April 24, 2024 meeting, seconded by Hirschoff, motion carried.

**Budget Report**

Scott Guffey presented Budget Report for Weed & Pest (615) and Natural Resources (616) budgets. Weed & Pest (615) has 86% remaining, Forestry budget (616) is at 23% for the remainder of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Shaded Fuel Break**

County did not get past the pre-proposal phase to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for their America the Beautiful grant to vegetation management on the BHNF, the pre-proposal was \$556,800. Hopefully there is some other funding for projects, one possibility is the SRS Title II funds that the BHNF oversees. Guffey will bring it up at the next NFAB meeting.

**Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision**

Not much to report, it has stalled out again. Some concerns are that the cooperating agencies will be cut out of some of the process.

**BLM Prairie Dog Complaint**

Guffey has scheduled a meeting with the BLM to discuss the Eisenbraun & Kjerstad prairie dog complaints to discuss management practices. The meeting will be June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Outdoor Campus, the board is welcome to attend. Guffey also invited the SDGF&P, SD Ag & Natural Resources and congressional representatives. All have indicated they will have representation at the meeting.

**Weed Spraying Agreements**

We have signed weed spraying agreements with SD DOT, BHNF, BGNG, City of Rapid City. Waiting on agreements from SD DOT RR and White River Grazing District. Guffey has received grants from the SD Weed & Pest Commission, SD state forestry, and RMEF. Guffey said projected revenue from the grants and agreements will be around \$200,000.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2025 Budget**

Budget directives for 2025 is to prepare a conservative budget and be prepared to make cuts. Budget funding will be tight with new buildings, remodels, and a new wage scale implantation. Guffey said he will look at freezing operations costs and increase revenue projections.

### **Crew Update**

One of the two new seasonal hires backed out, advertised and hired a new seasonal. Crews are busy spraying on the BGNG and railbed now, finished bare ground spraying last week. Started spraying some Leafy Surge areas along the Hwy 79 corridor.

### **Additional Item**

### **Agency Report**

## **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Rossknecht to adjourn the meeting at 1:10pm, seconded by Hirrschoff, motion carried.

Next meeting will be August 14, 2024.

Submitted by Scott Guffey