

# **Custer County Weed and Pest Board**

## **25363 US HWY 385**

### **Custer, SD 57730**

The January 8, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 12:57 PM by Bob White.

In attendance were Bob White, Klint Rittberger, Jim Lintz, Tom Patterson, June Johnston, Caley Buckert, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

#### **Approve Minutes:**

- Motion by Lintz and seconded by Johnston to approve minutes from December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

- RAC Proposal:
  - Baldwin reviewed proposal from the Weed & Pest Department to the Black Hills Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The proposal would fund weed control on 90 acres of Black Hills National Forest adjacent to private property. The next RAC meeting to review proposals will be January 28. The first RAC meeting occurred on December 10; however, the committee was not able to complete the review of all proposals. Motion was made by Lintz, seconded by Rittberger to move forward with proposal if it is awarded to the Weed & Pest Department, motion carried.
- Buffalo Gap National Grassland:
  - Buckert and Baldwin provided an update on a potential funding agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for weed control on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland Fall River Ranger District. A draft agreement was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service by Buckert and we are currently waiting on their response. If awarded, the agreement would fund treatment of noxious weeds on 23 acres on Buffalo Gap National Grassland.
- Review change in Local/State noxious species:
  - Baldwin reviewed the change in status of Absinth Wormwood – from locally noxious to a state noxious weed. Wormwood is replacing Russian Knapweed on the state list.
  - Baldwin sent an official request to the SD Weed & Pest Control Commission for the renewal of Common Mullein as a locally noxious weed in Custer County. The renewal will be valid for five years once approved by the state.
- Spray Letter:
  - The Board discussed the landowner affidavit letter for spraying on private land. The letter is meant to help landowners who are unsuccessful in obtaining a

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commercial sprayer to treat their property. The letter was originally drafted by attorney Susan Anderson. Buckert made changes to the document and sent it back to Anderson for revision. Baldwin will follow up with Anderson on the status of affidavit letter. Motion made by Patterson, second by Lintz to proceed with letter once revisions are complete, motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

- Cost Share for Chemical Control of Prairie Dogs.
  - The Board reviewed the feasibility of supporting a chemical cost share program for prairie dog control (e.g., Rozol). The Board discussed the issue but was concerned about the expense of the chemical. Any cost-share program would not be financially supported by SD Dept. of Agriculture so all funding would have to come from the county.
  - The Board asked Baldwin to seek information on landowner expenses for Rozol during 2021. This information would help the Board determine whether a future cost share is feasible. Baldwin will include a section in the spring newsletter to ask landowners to keep track of Rozol costs and acres treated in 2021 and then share that information with the Weed & Pest Department.
  
- Chemical reimbursement greater than \$1,000
  - The issue of whether herbicide cost-share payouts should be capped at \$1,000 per landowner was discussed. Rittberger recommended capping payouts at \$1,000 per landowner. Patterson agreed on a cap and suggested we revisit the issue in a few months. Motion made by Lintz, seconded by Rittberger to cap cost-share payouts to \$1,000 per landowner, motion carried.

#### **Other Business:**

- The State Weed and Pest Conference meeting scheduled for Feb. 17-19 in Spearfish has been canceled due to COVID concerns. We are still waiting to hear from the State if/how requirements to attend the conference will be modified or dropped for this year.
  
- Conservation District:
  - White and Patterson attended the December board meeting of the Custer County Conservation District. Patterson expressed concern about the change in responsibilities/duties of the Weed & Pest supervisor that began one year ago (i.e., supervisor works 3/4 time for Weed & Pest and 1/4 time for the Conservation District). Patterson felt it was not good for either department. White agreed with Patterson's concerns.
  
- White suggested that the Board should seek the addition of an auxiliary member.
  
- This was Buckert's last board meeting.

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**Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

**Adjournment:**

- Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.