

Custer County Weed and Pest Board

Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2021

The March 9, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:07 PM by Bob White.

In attendance were Bob White, Klint Rittberger, Jim Lintz, Tom Patterson, June Johnston, Jesse Doyle, Dave Thom, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from January 8, 2021 were approved after a motion by Rittberger and a second by Lintz.

Old Business:

- Landowner affidavit:
 - Board was provided a copy of the landowner affidavit, which has been reviewed by attorney Susan Anderson. Board discussed appropriate application rate to charge. Application rates of commercial applicators were considered. Rittberger recommended charging \$80/hour rate for application, motion seconded by Patterson, motion carried.
 - Motion by Patterson to approve landowner affidavit with addition of text "...subject to availability of staff and resources", seconded by Lintz, motion carried.

New Business:

- Black Hills Resource Advisory Council (RAC) grant:
 - Baldwin informed the board that his grant application was accepted for funding. We are waiting on final paperwork for signature from the U.S. Forest Service. Once received, Baldwin will submit paperwork to County Commissioners for approval and signature. The grant will provide \$11,700 for noxious weed control on the Black Hills National Forest.
- Forest Service agreements:
 - Black Hills National Forest has offered a new participating agreement with the Weed & Pest Department in the amount of \$3,000 for noxious weed control on Forest Service property adjacent to private property. The agreement has been submitted to the County Commissioners for review and approval during the next commissioners meeting.
 - Buffalo Gap National Grassland participating agreement is still in the works. Baldwin is hopeful that an agreement will be finalized in the near future. As currently drafted, the agreement would provide \$3,000 for noxious weed control on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Fall River District.

- Seasonal help:
 - An advertisement for seasonal help was posted in the Custer Chronicle. The ad initially ran for two weeks, but was extended another two weeks. Weed and Pest and the County Highway Department are running the ad to fill a combined position – responsibilities would include spraying, mowing county right-of-ways, and other assigned tasks. Jesse Doyle said there is one applicant so far, but expects four other individuals to apply.
- Newsletter:
 - Baldwin is preparing a spring newsletter for release in late April or early May, but asked the board about target audience. Printing and postage costs can be exorbitant – there are over 12,000 addresses in the county so postage alone would be greater than \$6,000. The board preferred that everyone in the county received the newsletter. The board asked Baldwin to explore ways to cut costs including emailing newsletter to as many residents as possible. An email distribution list does not currently exist. Suggestions from the board included inquiring with the County Equalization office and the NRCS for email lists, or placing an ad in the paper asking residents to share their email address.
 - Motion by Patterson to release newsletter by 1st of May with proposed other routes of delivery, seconded by Lintz, motion carried.

Other Business:

- Conservation District's CIS proposal & producer meeting:
 - Baldwin discussed a proposal by the Conservation District to request cost-share funding from the NRCS via their Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) program. If awarded, the grant would fund rangeland improvement projects in eastern Custer County. Noxious weed control would be one component of the proposal. The Conservation District is hosting a meeting with producers from the region on March 11 to seek their input on the proposal (e.g., livestock water availability, fencing, etc.).
- Auction results:
 - Surplus items from Weed & Pest were included in the County auction last December. These items sold for a total of \$6,048.40 after fees charged by the auctioneer. This money was deposited in the County general fund. Lintz stated if the board sees a need, a request can be made to transfer those funds to the Weed & Pest Department.
- Auxiliary member:
 - The board discussed the need for an auxiliary member, but were not aware of anyone interested. Baldwin will include a notice in the upcoming newsletter.
- Guest/Public comments:
 - Dave Thom, Chair of the Custer County Conservation District Board of Supervisors, expressed his and the Conservation Board's gratitude for the Weed & Pest Board agreeing to share the Weed & Pest Supervisor position with the Conservation District (i.e., 75% W&P, 25% CCCD). Thom reviewed some of the District activities including thinning grants and the funded CIS project for Elk Mountain / Custer Highlands area.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment:

- Motion by White, seconded by Lintz to adjourn meeting at 2:10 PM; motion carried.