

Custer County Weed and Pest Board

Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021

The April 13, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:09 PM by Bob White.

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

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from March 9, 2021 were approved after a motion by Lintz and a second by Johnston.

Old Business:

- Conservation District's CIS proposal:
 - Baldwin updated the Board on the progress of the Conservation District's proposal. A draft was completed with input from NRCS, USFS, and the Conservation Board. Jeff Vander Wilt, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, provided a courtesy review of the proposal prior to final submission. Jeff provided two main comments, which Mike is working to address. Proposals are due 4/15.
- Newsletter:
 - Baldwin is on schedule to finish the spring newsletter for release by May 1. He was unable to obtain an email distribution list from the County or NRCS; however, he was able to significantly reduce the number of newsletters needed. The physical mail distribution list that had over 12,000 addresses contained many duplicates. After removing duplicates, the list was reduced to 4,460 addresses. In the newsletter, residents will be asked to share their email address to reduce future mailing costs.
 - Board declined to combine the newsletter with the Conservation District's newsletter – a request made by the Conservation Board. The Weed Board felt a combined newsletter would be too wordy and detract from the main purpose of the letter.
- Landowner affidavit:
 - Baldwin updated the affidavit per the Board's recommendations during the 3/9 meeting. The following text was added to the document: "I understand that these services are subject to availability of staff and resources."
 - Motion by Patterson to approve revised landowner affidavit, seconded by Lintz, motion carried.

New Business:

- State Weed & Pest Control Commission Grant:

- FY2021 grant:
 - A reimbursement request was submitted to the SD Weed & Pest Control Commission for expenses during state fiscal year 2021. The County should expect to receive the full grant amount of \$4,500.00 from the Commission. These funds were used to support the chemical cost-share program and some chemical expenses. In 2020, the department received cost-share reimbursement requests totaling approximately \$17,000, of which, \$12,828.70 were qualifying chemical expenses. A total of \$6,414.35 (50% of previous total) was paid out to landowners.
- FY2022 grant:
 - In March, a notice of grant approval was received from the SD Weed & Pest Control Commission. The grant is for \$4,000 and will support chemical cost-share and some chemical expenses this in fiscal year 2022.
- Seasonal help:
 - Six applications were received. Three applicants have been interviewed so far and two more will be interviewed this week.

Other Business:

- Forest Service agreements:
 - Baldwin received and approved a draft of an agreement with Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Currently waiting on final document for signatures.
- Black Hills Resource Advisory Council (RAC) grant:
 - The final paperwork for signature was received from the U.S. Forest Service and is up for review and approval by the County Commissioners during their 4/14 meeting.
- A public notice of responsibility for landowners to control noxious weeds on their property will be in the next two issues of the Custer Chronicle.
- Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership:
 - BHIPP will meet on 4/22 from 9:00-12:00 at the Outdoor West Campus in Rapid City. Board agreed that Baldwin should attend.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz, seconded by Johnston to adjourn meeting at 1:45 PM; motion carried.