

# **Custer County Weed and Pest Board**

## **Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2021**

The May 11, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:03 PM by Bob White.

In attendance were Tom Patterson, June Johnston, Klinton Rittberger, Bob White, Jim Lintz, Marci O'Connell, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

### **Approve Minutes:**

- The meeting minutes from April 13, 2021 were approved after a motion by Lintz and a second by Johnston.

### **Old Business:**

- Newsletter:
  - The spring newsletter was printed and mailed the week of May 3. Most county residents should have received a copy by now. Baldwin already received some calls as a result of the newsletter. Most callers were interested in additional noxious weed information and one caller was for a prairie dog complaint. Baldwin will investigate the complaint and contact the land owner. Based on the information received, the prairie dogs have not moved onto the adjoining property, but were encroaching within 100 feet. A motion was made Patterson, seconded by Lintz for Baldwin to contact the landowner with the prairie dogs and state there is a concern by adjacent landowners and by the Weed and Pest Board. Baldwin will speak to him/her about control options. Motion carried.
- Seasonal hires:
  - Two people were hired for seasonal spraying. One will start May 12, the other will start at the end of the month.
  - Training for the new hires:
    - Invasive weed management training for applicators – this free training will be offered on May 26 in Rapid City at the 4-H Walt Taylor Building. Scott Guffey, Pennington County Weed & Pest Supervisor, is organizing the training.
    - ATV/UTV training – Wind Cave National Park will be providing free training on either June 9 or 10 for registered applicators. An online training module will also be completed.
- FY2021 Grant reimbursement:
  - We received the \$4,500 reimbursement from the SD Weed & Pest Control Commission to help support our chemical cost share program. The check was delivered to the county Auditor's office for deposit in the county general fund.

- Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership meeting:
  - Baldwin attended the BHIPP meeting in Rapid City. Representatives from various county, state, and federal agencies were present and discussed current issues and current/upcoming projects.

### **New Business:**

- FY 2022 State Weed & Pest Control Commission Grant:
  - Official confirmation was received that we will receive \$4,000 to support chemical cost-share and some chemical expenses in State fiscal year 2022.
  - A motion was made by Rittberger, seconded by Patterson, to limit maximum cost-share payments to \$1,000 per landowner, and to hold off making cost-share payments until November 1 in case there are sufficient funds to support a higher cost-share percentage (e.g., 75-25 versus 50-50). Motion carried.
- Landowner property visits and complaints:
  - To date, five property visits have been completed. Two weed complaints and one prairie dog complaint (discussed above) were received. An information bulletin and a letter with a friendly reminder to control weeds were sent to the property owners with weed complaints. Follow up visits are planned.
- Moving remaining items out of old Weed & Pest building:
  - Old equipment and tools still remain in the old building. We are in the process of removing those items. All items within the single-vehicle garage bay have been removed. Remaining items will be removed as time permits.
- Work schedule:
  - Baldwin discussed changing his work schedule from 5-8 hour days to 4-10 hour days (M-Th). A 4-10 schedule was used by Caley while she was the supervisor. The Board acknowledged the change in schedule. Baldwin's schedule change will begin Monday, May 17.
- Auxiliary Board member:
  - Patterson introduced Marci O'Connell as a candidate for the auxiliary board member position. Motion made by Lintz, seconded by Johnston to appoint O'Connell to the position, motion carried.

### **Other Business:**

- Board communication via email:
  - Baldwin inquired about preferred communication (e.g., meeting agendas, minutes) among Board members: email or mail. The Board agreed that future communication will be conducted by email.

### **Next meeting:**

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

### **Adjournment:**

- Motion by Lintz, seconded by White to adjourn meeting at 1:47 PM; motion carried.