

# Custer County Weed and Pest Board

## Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2021

The September 7, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 12:59 PM by Bob White.

In attendance were Jim Lintz, Bob White, June Johnston, Marci O'Connell, Tom Patterson (call-in), and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

### Approve Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the July 13 and August 5 meetings were approved with a motion by Lintz and a second by Johnston.

### Old Business:

- Enforcement update for property: HARD SCRATCH 20 SUBDIVISION – LOTS 3 & 4 IN E ½ SW ¼ SW ¼ SEC 32 T3S R5E.
  - The Notice of Infestation and Declaration of Infestation documents were delivered to the property owners on August 9. A follow-up inspection was conducted on August 16. Weeds were physically removed (chopped down, pulled) by the landowner to a satisfactory level. Herbicides were not applied. The property will remain under enforcement for now.

### New Business:

- Spraying progress along County right of ways:
  - The first round of spraying county roads was completed in late July and the second round of spraying is nearly complete. There are approximately 50 miles left to spray. It is expected that all right of way spraying will be finished this week.
- Chemical reimbursement status:
  - Reimbursement requests for the chemical cost-share program have been received from 51 landowners to date. Total of receipts received so far is \$13,787.15. At a 50% cost-share, the total payout would be \$6,893.58 to landowners.
  - Receipts will be accepted through October 31 or until funds are depleted. If cost-share funds remain after this date, a determination will be made on whether a higher cost share percentage is feasible.
- US Forest Service contracts:
  - Black Hills National Forest agreement for 23 acres:
    - All acreage has been sprayed and documents have been submitted to USFS for reimbursement.
  - Black Hills National Forest RAC grant for 90 acres:

- 49 acres have been sprayed so far. This grant is active through September 2022, so any remaining acreage will be treated next summer. However, additional areas will be sprayed this month, weather permitting.
  - Buffalo Gap National Grassland agreement for 23 acres:
    - This agreement is mostly complete. One more trip is scheduled for this week and that should finish all acreage on the agreement. Only one landowner complaint was received by USFS and CCWP. Baldwin spoke with the landowner and was told the area was too dry and the weeds had already browned out. Therefore this area was not sprayed. Areas that were treated focused on USFS priority areas.
- Consideration on whether to begin enforcement on the following properties:
  - TRACTS 6 & 12 OF LOT 1B OF LOT 1 IN THE MULCAHY SUBDIVISION:
    - The property owner informed Baldwin this morning that a commercial applicator has been booked to spray both lots. Baldwin confirmed with the applicator that an appointment to treat the property was scheduled. Baldwin will follow up to ensure the treatment occurs.
  - TRACT 11 OF LOT 1B OF LOT 1 IN THE MULCAHY SUBDIVISION:
    - Baldwin was notified this morning that the property was sold on June 30 so the weed letters sent by Baldwin were delivered to the old owner. The contact information in Beacon has not been updated since the sale. Baldwin was able to get the new owners' contact information from the Register of Deeds office and he will contact the new owners.
  - TR PEASE OF HES #539 SECTIONS 13/24 T4 R3:
    - Baldwin was contacted by the property owner today and was told that they are trying to line up a commercial applicator. The Board asked Baldwin to stay on top of this to ensure the property is sprayed.
  - Patterson suggested that the Board meet every month due to the response of the aforementioned landowners to the last letter they received and the possibility of the Board taking enforcement actions.
- Prairie dog complaints:
  - Baldwin reviewed the prairie dog complaints received and actions taken. Baldwin performed site inspections for each complaint but did not observe prairie dogs encroaching onto unwanted property. A letter was sent to each landowner notifying them that they are "... under no obligation to take action to remove the prairie dogs at this time. However, if the prairie dogs do encroach onto neighboring properties, the Custer County Weed & Pest Board may take remedial action (SDCL 38-22-23.13) to have them removed."

**Other Business:**

- Control of native weeds:
  - Baldwin asked for input from the Board about controlling native weeds along county right of ways. We have sprayed some areas for sandburs, but have been asked about spraying curlycup gumweed and wild licorice. Gumweed seems more prevalent this year. Board discussed cyclical nature of gumweed and the extra cost for controlling it. Weed and Pest will not spray gumweed in right of ways due to added cost.

- Recycling herbicide containers:
  - Drop-off of empty and rinsed herbicide containers is this Friday, September 10, in Rapid City at the Central States Fair Grounds. Baldwin will have one of the seasonal employees to drop off the containers.
- Third vehicle for Weed and Pest:
  - A surplus pickup from the County Maintenance Department has been transferred to Weed and Pest. It is a 2012 Dodge Ram 1500 ST with 106,496 miles. This third pickup will allow Baldwin to spend more time performing inspections and other spraying duties.
- Patterson spoke with USFS and was told that there may be new or additional contract work available for weed control through the agency. Baldwin was asked to follow up with Fall River Weed and Pest as they might have additional details.

**Next meeting:**

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

**Adjournment:**

- Motion by O'Connell, seconded by Johnston to adjourn meeting at 1:44 PM; motion carried.