

Custer County Weed and Pest Board

Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2021

The December 14, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 12:56 PM by Klint Rittberger.

In attendance were June Johnston, Marci O’Connell, Klint Rittberger, Jim Lintz, Tom Patterson (call in), Jeff Vetter, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the November 9 meeting were approved with a motion by O’Connell and seconded by Johnston.

Old Business:

- Status of previous prairie dog complaint:
 - The landowner who filed the initial complaint has filed a written complaint against a second neighbor. Baldwin contacted this neighbor of the complaint via certified mail and conducted an inspection on December 8. New burrows were confirmed on the property belonging to the person filing the complaint. A follow up letter was sent to the neighbor notifying them of the confirmed encroachment of prairie dogs onto the complainant’s property. The letter gives the landowner until January 10 to initiate control measures.
 - Baldwin is expecting to receive a written complaint from another landowner in the same area. This complaint, if/when received, will be against a different property owner than previously discussed above, but in the immediate vicinity. A voluntary compliance letter was sent to this landowner.

New Business:

- Vacant Board position:
 - Baldwin informed the Board that a public notice was published in the Custer Chronicle. People interested in the position are to send a letter of interest to Baldwin. Candidates will be reviewed by the Board at the next meeting.
- Gypsy moth confirmed in the county:
 - The gypsy moth, a State declared pest, was confirmed in Custer County this summer by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Moths were captured in APHIS traps at two campgrounds in the Custer area. APHIS plans to do more extensive trapping next year.
- 2022 State Weed and Pest Conference:
 - The next conference is scheduled for February 15-17 in Mitchell. Baldwin plans on attending but will need a second person to attend – a requirement for the State

grants that we receive. The second person does not have to be a Board member but must be a resident of Custer County.

- No-spray requests:
 - Baldwin presented to the Board a revised form for landowners requesting that no pesticide be used on county right-of-ways adjacent to their property. Baldwin asked the Board to review the form and get back to him with any comments. He will place this item on next meeting's agenda for approval.
- Chemical cost-share reimbursement:
 - The Board discussed a reimbursement request by Jeff Vetter that was previously denied at the November Board meeting. A partial reimbursement was received by Vetter, but a full reimbursement was denied on the basis that the other herbicides purchased are for small grain or row crop applications. Vetter presented his case for why those chemicals should be approved. After discussion, a motion was made by Lintz, seconded by O'Connell, that Vetter was given fair consideration and was given partial reimbursement for chemicals purchased, and that the previously denied chemicals were for row-crop agriculture; therefore, no additional reimbursement should be given. Motion carried.

Other Business:

- No items

Next meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz, seconded by O'Connell to adjourn meeting at 1:48 PM; motion carried.