

Custer County Weed and Pest Board

Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

The September 13, 2022 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:00 PM by Johnston.

In attendance were June Johnston, Marci O'Connell, Tom Patterson, Bob Smith, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Today's agenda and the meeting minutes from the July 12 and August 1 meetings were approved with a motion from Patterson and a second by O'Connell.

Old Business:

- Enforcement status of property located off of Hard Scratch Lane (Legal description = Hard Scratch 20 Subdivision – Lots 3 & 4 in E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 32, Township 3S Range 5E, B.H.M, Custer County, SD, 11 Plat 433):
 - Baldwin updated the Board that the property was sprayed on 8/17 by a commercial applicator. The landowner agreed to pay the costs and stated that they plan on spraying the area again next spring.
- Prairie dog complaints.
 - Property located off of Lower Spring Creek Road (Legal description = E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 35, Township 2S, Range 10E, B.H.M., Custer County, SD):
 - Property was treated by a commercial applicator in July and was paid for by the landowner.
 - The adjacent landowner, Shaye Floden, who filed the complaint against this property, filed a new written complaint against her neighbor to the east (Legal description = NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, Township 2S, Range 10E, B.H.M.). Floden had also filed a complaint against this owner in 2021. The property was treated by a commercial applicator earlier this year and a significant reduction in prairie dogs was observed (~75-80%). Baldwin contacted the landowner and asked him if he would be willing to treat them again since it would be easier and cheaper to do it now, rather than waiting until their numbers increased. The landowner agreed and said he would do the poisoning himself this time.
 - Property adjacent to Mineral Drive east of Custer (Legal description: Tract Rhoades of Harbach Placer, Sections 19/30, Township 3S, Range 5E, B.H.M., Custer County, SD):
 - Reportedly, this property has been or will be sold to a developer. The developer is planning on building a campground and one or two shops. DOT is aware of engineering work already planned or completed.

Therefore, DOT has stated they are willing to wait under the assumption that the prairie dogs will have to be removed by the developer prior to construction.

- Patterson stated that he would like to see it treated this year. Motion made by Patterson to confer with DOT on status of complaint (i.e., whether complaint is active or withdrawn). If complaint is active, Baldwin will communicate to DOT that the Board wants to move forward with enforcement process. Motion seconded by Smith, motion carried. Baldwin will contact DOT and then update the Board.
- Property east of SD Hwy 79 between Fairburn and Buffalo Gap (Legal description: W ½ E ½ Section 9, Township 5S, Range 7E, B.H.M., Custer County, SD:
 - No action has been taken by the landowner for the abovementioned property. Baldwin completed a prairie dog count on 9/12 and sent a follow-up letter to the landowner. At a previous meeting, the Board agreed to give the landowner until November 1 to control the prairie dogs, otherwise the Board will consider enforcement actions. Smith inquired why the Board is giving them until 11/1 instead of acting sooner. Baldwin mentioned the pesticides Rozol and Kaput are not allowed to be used until October.
- Property owned by Lintz:
 - Written complaint was filed by Jeff Vetter against Jim Lintz. The State did not share the complaint with Baldwin. The State will likely handle the entirety of this complaint due to Lintz's positions on the Weed and Pest Board and the County Commission.

New Business:

- Spraying progress:
 - County right of ways:
 - The second round of spraying is near complete with approximately 30 miles remaining. The lack of a second sprayer during all of July delayed our progress. It is late in the season, but spraying of certain species is still effective.
 - Some roads were spot-sprayed three times because of our late spring – roads sprayed at the start of the season required two additional sprayings due to late emergence of weeds.
 - Weather permitting, seasonal employees will work until the end of the month. Duties include complete spraying, winterize equipment, and perform any needed maintenance.
- Chemical cost-share grant status:
 - To date, landowners have submitted receipts totaling \$17,071.98. One receipt was over the maximum allowed; therefore, the adjusted total is \$16,634.48. At 50% costs-share, our current payout would be \$8,317.24. Baldwin would like the Board to meet in early November to discuss final cost-share payments.
- USFS spray agreements:
 - 2022 Buffalo Gap National Grassland agreement for 23 acres:

- All work is complete and invoiced. Payment is expected soon.
 - 2021-2022 Black Hills National Forest RAC grant for 90 acres:
 - Majority of acreage (64.5 acres) was completed in 2021. The remaining acreage (25.5 acres) was treated this season and all work was invoiced. Payment is expected in October.
 - 2022 Black Hills National Forest agreement for 23 acres:
 - All acreage has been sprayed. Invoice and documentation will be submitted to USFS this week.
- Potential enforcement properties:
 - Property owned by Lila Streff (Parcels 001606 and 001608 on Wind Song Valley Rd):
 - Property has an infestation of absinth wormwood and leafy spurge. Owner was initially contacted by letter (sent June 30). Streff left a voice message on 7/14. Baldwin returned the call and spoke to her about the weed problem. She was aware of the problem and stated that she would have the area mowed prior to seed formation. Follow up visits were performed by Baldwin on 7/27, 8/17, and 9/13 and no control measures were taken.
 - Property owned by Helga Szameit, Parcels 004199 and 004200 along Hapeka Trail:
 - Property has an infestation of Canada thistle. Letters sent to landowner on 7/11 and 8/4. Follow up inspections indicated that no control measures were taken.
 - Property owned by John Dumire, 25291 Hard Scratch Ln:
 - Property has a large patch of Canada thistle. Letters sent to landowner on 7/29 and 8/11. Follow up inspections indicated that no control measures were taken. Apparently, Dumire is not living at the residence.
 - Property owned by Pins & Needles, LLC (Triple T Mobile Home Court), Parcels 005193, 013039, and 013038 along Needles View Place:
 - Trailer park is infested with spotted knapweed along the roadway. Baldwin noticed the infestation in August and sent a letter to the landowner. The knapweed was already past peak flowering at the time of discovery so by the time the follow up inspection was completed, it was too late to spray.
 - Discussion on described properties:
 - Board discussed how to proceed with these properties due to time of year and limited effectiveness of spraying. Motion was made by Smith to send a letter of infestation to Dumire around mid-May of next year. Date determined when plants start emerging, which is weather dependent. Patterson seconded motion. Smith then modified his original motion to include the Dumire, Szameit, and Pins & Needles, LLC properties. Patterson seconded, motion carried.
 - Smith stated there is still time to treat the Streff property due to weeds present (leafy spurge and wormwood). Motion by Smith to declare the Streff property as infested and issue a Notice of Declaration of Infestation allowing five business days to respond. Motion seconded by O'Connell,

motion carried. Baldwin will prepare the paperwork and obtain signatures from the Board.

- Pine looper update:
 - Baldwin reviewed the pine looper outbreak near Pringle. The insect is native, but is very sporadic in nature. The last outbreak occurred approximately 20 years ago in an area southwest of Pringle. Prior to that, the last outbreak was in the early 1970s. The pine looper caterpillars feed on the needles of ponderosa pine trees.
 - According to U.S. Forest Service estimate, approximately 7,000 acres were affected this summer. Caterpillars have pupated so defoliation of pine trees has ceased. Adult moths will emerge in May. The outbreak is not expected to occur next year due to past observations (usually 1-2 year outbreaks), but populations will be monitored by SDSU just in case. Trees can survive the defoliation, but survival will be dependent on the amount of spring moisture we receive. If spring is dry, the trees will be very vulnerable to the Ips pine engraver beetle.
 - Baldwin attended a landowner meeting held on 9/2 at a private residence northeast of Pringle. In attendance were SDSU, NRCS, USFS, Black Hills Electric Coop, local fire departments, Custer County, and area landowners. The meeting was featured in the Custer Chronicle.

Other Business:

- Recycling containers:
 - The SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources have scheduled an herbicide recycling day in Rapid City on September 14 at the Central Fairgrounds. Baldwin will have one of the seasonal employees bring our empty containers.
- District meeting October 25, Outdoor Campus, Rapid City:
 - Baldwin informed the Board of the upcoming District meeting and stated the need for either a Board member or county resident to attend the meeting with him. Attendance by both is a requirement to receive State grants. Smith volunteered to attend the meeting.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by O'Connell, seconded by Smith to adjourn meeting at 1:58 PM.