

# **Custer County Weed and Pest Board**

## **Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2022**

The November 8, 2022 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:03 PM by Rittberger.

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

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

### **Approve Minutes/Agenda:**

- Today's agenda and the meeting minutes from the September 13 meeting were approved with a motion from O'Connell and a second by Johnston.

### **Old Business:**

- Enforcement update on property NE ¼ SE ¼ SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 4S, RANGE 4E, and NW ¼ SW ¼ SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 4S, RANGE 4E:
  - Property owned by Lila Streff (Parcels 001606 and 001608 on WIND SONG VALLEY RD) was placed under enforcement at the September meeting due to an infestation of absinth wormwood and leafy spruce. In response, the landowner borrowed a tractor, purchased a 5 ft bush hog, and cut the majority of the area. Streff does not want herbicides to be used. The Board will decide on a protocol for Streff to follow to keep the weeds under control that does not include chemicals. This may include a combination of biocontrol, bush-hogging prior to flowering, and use of goats.
  - Rittberger asked to table this item and revisit at the January or February meeting. Baldwin will prepare a letter to be sent by March 1 to Streff. Letter will include a protocol on how the landowner must proceed with control of the noxious weeds on the property. Baldwin will inform the landowner that the Board will be drafting the protocols and that input from the landowner is welcome.
- Prairie dog complaint on property TR RHOADES OF HARBACH PL, SECTIONS 19/30, TOWNSHIP 3S, RANGE 5E:
  - Complaint was filed by DOT against Jan Charles Gray for his property adjacent to Mineral Drive. After the complaint was initially filed, Gray stated to SD DANR that he would treat the area in mid-October. No treatment has been performed to date.
  - Reportedly, the property was to be sold to a developer. At the September board meeting, the Board asked Baldwin to proceed with the enforcement process, with DOT's concurrence. Baldwin sent a compliance letter to Gray and performed an inspection and prairie dog count. After which, it was discovered that the property was sold. Baldwin spoke with the new owner and he plans on developing the property. He will need to address the prairie dog issue prior to development. Baldwin sent him a list of commercial applicators and information on the various

control methods. DOT does not want to take additional action at this time. DOT would like to give the new owner time to treat the problem.

### **New Business:**

- End of spray season review:
  - Both seasonal staff finished at the end of September. During July, we only had 1 sprayer which delayed spraying progress for the season.
  - 1,525 miles of roads were spot-sprayed. Several roads were covered 3 times due to late spring and late growth, but a few road were sprayed once. County roads within Buffalo Gap, Fairburn, and Pringle were sprayed.
  - Custer County Airport – bare-ground application was completed around runway lights, reflectors, etc. Noxious weeds were sprayed between the fences on either side of the runway.
  - Spraying was completed for all US Forest Service agreements to address weeds on public land adjacent to private land:
    - Black Hills National Forest for 23 acres. Waiting on payment.
    - Buffalo Gap National Grassland for 23 acres agreement. Payment received.
    - Black Hills National Forest 90 acres (2-year grant). Payment received.
  - Bare-ground spraying was performed at the Hermosa and Buffalo Gap county highway shops.
  - 46 voluntary compliance letters were sent to landowners and there are 2 active enforcements.
- Chemical cost-share payments:
  - 57 landowners submitted receipts for reimbursement, 20 fewer than 2021. Receipts totaled \$27,257.53. Three receipt totals were over \$2,000, which would exceed the \$1,000 maximum payout at 50 percent cost-share so those totals were adjusted. Board discussed whether to keep cost-share rate at 50 percent or increase the payment based on available funds.
  - Motion was made by O'Connell to increase chemical cost-share payment to 75 percent, second by Lintz, motion carried. Maximum payment of \$1,000 per landowner still stands.
- 2022 budget status:
  - Baldwin reviewed the balance of available funds for supplies and repairs/maintenance. Baldwin discussed need to begin insulating the shop. Funds could be used to purchase insulation. Baldwin would install insulation as time permitted.
- Locally noxious weeds – renewal of expiring locally noxious declarations and consideration of new species to add to locally noxious weed list:
  - The locally noxious designations for St Johnswort, spotted knapweed, and white horehound will expire at the end of this year. Board considered renewal of these species and whether to add a new species to the locally noxious list. Eight is the maximum number of species a county can designate as locally noxious. Locally noxious designations are valid for five years.



- Motion was made by Patterson to renew the locally noxious designation for St Johnswort, spotted knapweed, and white horehound, seconded by Johnston, motion carried. The Board took no action on naming new species.
- State Grant Application:
  - Baldwin has prepared an application for a contractual grant with SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Baldwin asked the Board for input on competitive grant ideas. Application deadline is November 15.
- Consideration of enforcement for prairie dog encroachment, property at W ½ E ½ SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 5S, RANGE 7E:
  - Property belongs to Patricia Gregerson and is located east of SD Hwy 79 between Fairburn and Buffalo Gap (Parcel 010175). Previous site visits confirmed encroachment onto the neighbor's property. At a prior meeting, the Board gave the landowner until November 1 to control the prairie dogs. Two prairie dog counts were completed and letters were sent to Gregerson after each count. To date, no prairie dog control has been initiated. Baldwin invited Gregerson to today's meeting, but she declined.
  - After discussion, Patterson motioned to place the property under enforcement, second by O'Connell, motion carried. Landowner will be given 15 days from receipt of enforcement letter to act. If no action taken, the Board will hire a licensed commercial applicator. Notice of Declaration of Infestation will be delivered by the Sheriff's office.
- Private Road District complaint:
  - Baldwin informed the Board about a dispute within the Painted Horse Road District concerning weed spraying performed by the road district along its road ditches. The dispute does not involve Custer County Weed & Pest. Baldwin provided technical advice and spoke to involved parties.
  - Motion by Patterson for Baldwin to not act any further on the matter, seconded by Lintz, motion carried.

### **Other Business:**

- Weed and Pest District 4 meeting October 25, Outdoor Campus, Rapid City.
  - Baldwin attended and provided a review of the past spray season. Bob Smith attended the meeting to fulfil the requirement of a second county representative in attendance. This is a requirement by SD DANR to qualify for State grants.
- Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership meeting October 20, Outdoor Campus, Rapid City.
  - Baldwin attended this meeting that included representatives from local, state, and federal agencies. Attendees provided a review of the past spray season and discussed other issues such as UTVs and the first documented occurrence of *Ventenata* (*Ventenata dubia*) in South Dakota.
- Weed inspection report:
  - Baldwin provided SD DANR with estimates of noxious weeds in county.
- Gypsy Moth 2022 detections:
  - Gypsy moth was detected in Custer County for a second year. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) conduct summer monitoring for the moths. In 2021, APHIS captured the moths in two locations within the Custer

area. In 2022, APHIS did not capture moths from these same locations; however, they did capture moths from two new locations, also near Custer. APHIS will continue to monitor for moths in 2023.

- State Conference next February 15-17, in Huron
  - Baldwin reminded the Board that he will need a second representative from the county to attend the meeting. Patterson asked to be put down as a potential backup.

**Next meeting:**

- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

**Adjournment:**

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