

Custer County Weed and Pest Board

Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2023

The January 10, 2023 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:00 PM by Rittberger.

In attendance were Klinton Rittberger, Bob Smith, Tom Patterson, June Johnston, Marci O'Connell, 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 November 8 meeting were approved with a motion from Johnston and a second by O'Connell.

Old Business:

- Prairie dog enforcement update on Patricia Gregerson property (W ½ E ½ SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 5S, RANGE 7E, Parcel 010175):
 - Patricia's son obtained a private applicator's license and stated that he applied poison oats to the area – finishing week of Dec. 5. Baldwin performed a prairie dog count on Monday, Dec. 12. However, unless treatment was very effective, the prairie dogs had moved underground to take shelter from the impending winter storm. Only two individuals were observed during the visit and neither were during the official count period. Baldwin's average count during previous visit was 215.
 - Baldwin performed another count on Dec. 28. An average of 4.2 prairie dogs were observed on the Gregerson property and an average of 3.8 p. dogs on the Hunsaker property. Hunsaker numbers were similar to the Oct. and Sept. counts. Conditions were overcast and a bit breezy. Baldwin is cautiously optimistic that treatment was effective. Will monitor the colony and likely do another count when weather improves.
- Weed enforcement on Lila Streff property (NE ¼ SE ¼ SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 4S, RANGE 4E, and NW ¼ SW ¼ SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 4S, RANGE 4E, Parcels 001606 and 001608). Establish protocol and timeline for weed treatment:
 - At last meeting, Board tabled discussion on establishing protocol and a timeline that Lila must follow. Considerations from that meeting were use of biocontrol for the leafy spurge and mechanical control of the wormwood, deadline to complete, and use of goats.
 - Board discussed options and how to proceed if/when reach a point where tactics (e.g., bugs, grazing, mowing) are not working. Baldwin will reach out to State for guidance.
 - Motion by Smith to notify Lila by March 1 and request her to reply to the Board by April 15 with a plan on how she will address the weed problem. She will have

until May 31 to act upon the plan. Baldwin will perform an inspection on June 1 and notify the Board. Motion was seconded by Patterson, motion carried.

New Business:

- Election of officers: Chair and Vice-Chair:
 - Motion by Johnston to nominate Rittberger to Chair, seconded by Smith, motion carried.
 - Motion made by O'Connell to nominate Smith as Vice-Chair, second by Lintz, motion carried.
- State Conference February 15-17, in Huron:
 - Baldwin reminded the Board that he will need a second representative from the county to attend the meeting – a state requirement to qualify for state weed and pest grants. No one from the Board volunteered, Mike will begin asking around for anyone interested in attending.

Other Business:

- Rate of pay for 2023 meetings:
 - Meeting pay remains unchanged for 2023 at \$40 per meeting. Mileage rates have increased to \$0.51 per mile.
- Commission Liaison/Board appointments for 2023:
 - New Board appointments were designated at the last County Commissioner meeting. Jim Lintz will remain on the Weed and Pest Board for 2023. Mike Linde will serve as alternate.
- 2022 Annual and Fiscal Reports:
 - Baldwin provided SD DANR with both reports. Due date is January 31 and their submission is a requirement to qualify for state grants.
- Potential USFS agreements for BHNH and BGNG in 2023:
 - Baldwin is expecting to renew the noxious weed spraying agreement with Buffalo Gap National Grassland for \$3,000. He is also expecting to renew a spray agreement with the Black Hills National Forest for approximately \$5-6,000. More information will be shared with the Board as details emerge.
- APHIS update: grasshoppers, moths, emerald ash borer:
 - Baldwin shared an update from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The update included details on their 2022 rangeland grasshopper program, gypsy moth monitoring and the renaming of the moth, and emerald ash borer status in the state.
- Recent Ventenata detections:
 - Baldwin was recently notified by USFS that Ventenata was found in 3 locations in Crook County last summer. Two locations north of Hulett and one location west of Sundance and south of Devils Tower. The recent detection of Ventenata in Harding County was discussed at the previous Board meeting.
- 2022 budget surplus:
 - Due to timing of when State grants and USFS agreement payments were received, only a portion of these dollars were spent and two payments totaling \$8,000 were left in the County General fund. A third grant for \$4,000 was also left in the

general fund. Total dollars left/returned to the general fund, if include ending balance of weed and pest 2022 budget, was \$39,596.55. Baldwin will explore methods of expediting the payment process for grants/agreements.

- Recertification:
 - Baldwin completed all recertifications required for his Commercial Applicators license. These were set to expire at the end of February.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by O'Connell, seconded by Johnston to adjourn meeting at 1:37 PM.