

Custer County Weed and Pest Board

Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

The October 10, 2023 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:09 PM by Smith.

Board members in attendance were June Johnston, Jim Lintz, and Bob Smith. Also in attendance was Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Today's agenda and the minutes from the September 12 meeting were approved with a motion from Lintz and a second by Johnston.

Old Business:

- Enforcement updates:
 - Weed enforcement on John Dumire property:
 - Property was sprayed on August 31 and was then purchased by a new landowner two weeks later. Johnston spoke with new owner who stated that he will control the weeds. Board will continue to monitor the property next season.
 - Weed enforcement on Anna Evans:
 - Sheriff's office delivered documents to Evans on September 18. The Board gave her 15 working days to respond – today is the 15th day. No action was taken as of this morning. Due to colder weather, Board will likely have property sprayed by June 1 of next year.
 - Weed enforcement on Helga Szameit:
 - Certified letter mailed on September 14 and attempted delivery was made the 16th. A reminder from USPS was made on the 21st, but letter was not picked up. Letter was then returned to sender on October 2. Note: previous certified letter was signed for by Szameit.
 - Baldwin drove by property this morning. It appeared that a few small areas had been sprayed with an ATV, but most of the area had not been sprayed. Due to colder weather, Board will likely have property sprayed by June 1 of next year.
 - Weed enforcement on Lowell Swedlund:
 - Sheriff's office delivered documents to Swedlund on September 18. The Board gave him 15 working days to respond – today is the 15th day. No action was taken as of this morning. Due to colder weather, Board will likely have property sprayed by June 1 of next year.

- Prairie dog complaints:
 - Complaint against Hermosa Hills, LLC:
 - Property was treated a second time the week of September 18. Complainant notified Baldwin that the number of prairie dogs around the home was reduced, but there were still many by the drive-in theater.
 - Baldwin will conduct a new prairie dog count and continue to monitor the situation.
 - Patricia Gregerson property:
 - New complaint issued by neighbor. Prairie dogs were treated late last year, but neighbor stated that the animals have started moving back into his property. Baldwin will perform a new prairie dog count and send a letter to Gregerson if warranted.
- Control of curlycup gumweed:
 - Baldwin asked to table discussion until next meeting.

New Business:

- Chemical cost-share grant status:
 - The total receipts received to date, adjusted for \$1,000 maximum payout, is \$34,093.36. At 50% cost-share, payout amount equals \$17,046.68. Total amount already paid is \$3,797.30. Landowners have until October 31 to submit receipts. Final payout will be determined at the November board meeting.
- US Forest Service spray agreements update:
 - Both agreements are complete and invoices and documentation were submitted. Payments were received and deposited into the County General Fund.
- State grants:
 - Update on 2023 SD-DANR Resource Conservation and Forestry Grant:
 - This grant helps to support our cost-share program, but is specific to landowners adjacent to the Black Hills National Forest. Paperwork is complete and documentation mailed to the State office this morning.
 - Update on 2023-24 Weed & Pest Commission Grant:
 - This is the other State grant that supports our cost-share program. All criteria have been met for reimbursement, but Baldwin will wait until early 2024 to submit reimbursement request. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2024.
 - Applications for 2024-2025 Weed & Pest Commission Grants:
 - Applications are due November 15. There is \$300,000 available for contractual grants and \$200,000 available for competitive grants.
 - Baldwin asked for any input on contractual grant ideas. One that he is considering is a South Dakota noxious weed poster that would be distributed across the state.
 - Smith would like to get an article on the front page of the paper next spring that highlights noxious weeds and the need for their control. Article could be a human interest story. Could also try to publish article in US Forest Service bulletin/newsletter.

- County weed inspection report:
 - Report is a requirement for state grants and is due November 1. The report includes estimates of noxious weed acreages in the county. Input from the Board is welcome.
- Update on Building Maintenance and Weed Sprayer position:
 - New hire was made. His name is Michael Sellevold and his first day is today, October 10.
- District 4 Weed & Pest Meeting:
 - Scheduled on November 8 in Rapid City at the Outdoor Campus. Registration opens at 8:30, meeting begins at 9:00. Baldwin and Sellevold will attend, but Board members are also welcome. Attendance by two people from the county is a requirement for state weed and pest grants.
 - State Conference is scheduled for February 21-23 in Spearfish. Will have Sellevold attend as 2nd person, but Board members are also welcome. Baldwin will share additional information with the Board when it becomes available.

Other Business:

- The next Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership meeting is scheduled on October 19 at the Outdoor Campus, Rapid City. Baldwin plans on attending.

Next meeting:

- Motion by Johnston to schedule the next meeting for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 1:00 PM, seconded by Lintz.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz, seconded by Johnston to adjourn meeting at 1:38 PM.