Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023

The November 14, 2023 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:04 PM by Rittberger.

Board members in attendance were Klinton Rittberger, Tom Patterson, June Johnston, Jim Lintz, and Bob Smith (call-in). 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 October 10 meeting were approved with a motion from Johnston and a second by Patterson.

Old Business:

- Enforcement updates:
  - Weed enforcements:
    - A couple property owners appeared to carry out minor treatment prior to cold weather. A third property was not treated. No action from the Board until next spray season.
- Prairie dog complaints:
  - Hermosa Hills Tract:
    - Commercial applicator treated area and is working with owner of drive-in theater to treat as well. Heavy prairie dog presence around the drive-in. No recent digging on property from original complaint. Will continue to monitor.
  - Gregerson property:
    - Property placed under enforcement last November. Dogs were treated last winter and numbers dropped significantly. However, prairie dogs have increased over the summer and they started coming back over to neighbor's property. Baldwin performed a count and a letter was sent to the landowner. Landowner said that they will treat again in December.
  - Informal complaint by Flodcn.
    - Complaint against Melius property again. This property was treated in 2022 and again earlier this year and numbers declined significantly. However, prairie dogs have increased over the summer. Baldwin conducted a count on November 1 and observed increases. Voluntary compliance letters were mailed to Melius and three other landowners with prairie dogs in the immediate vicinity. Will continue to monitor.
- Control of curlycup gumweed:
  - Topic was tabled at the previous meeting. Baldwin estimated that control of gumweed would add roughly 20 percent more time to completing right-of-way

spraying. Time estimate is crude since gumweed is not an issue on all roads and overall abundance is not known. The estimated increase is due to more frequent trips to refill tanks with water and chemical. Water refills are currently restricted to the Weed & Pest shop in Custer or the County Highway shop in Buffalo Gap. Lintz noted that the West Highway Shop near Hermosa should have water delivery soon. Baldwin will inquire into that timeline. Rittberger also asked Baldwin to speak with Highway about the use of a water tender truck to reduce drive time.

- State grants:
    - Baldwin submitted the applications for 2024-2025 Weed & Pest Commission Contractual Grant. He is also working with the SD Association of County Weed & Pest Boards on funding for a state-wide noxious weed poster.

New Business:

- Chemical cost-share grant status and final payout:
    - The total receipts received to date, adjusted for $1,000 maximum payout, is $47,383.71. At 50% cost-share, payout amount equals $23,691.86. Not enough funds remain to allow for an increased cost-share percentage so Baldwin has begun processing all remaining payments at the 50% rate.
- Yellow bluestem discovered in the county:
    - Baldwin reviewed the new discovery of the invasive grass on the Black Hills NF. Baldwin shared photos and details about the location.

Other Business:

- District 4 Weed & Pest Meeting:
    - Baldwin attended meeting on November 8 in Rapid City at the Outdoor Campus. New hire, Michael Sellevold, attended as the second representative from the county to qualify for State weed and pest grants.
    - State Conference is scheduled for February 21-23 in Spearfish.
- Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership meeting, Outdoor Campus, Rapid City, Nov. 2:
    - Yellow bluestem added to priority management list.
    - Baldwin reviewed other weeds observed this past weed season.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz, seconded by Johnston to adjourn meeting at 1:30 PM.