Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2024

The May 14, 2024 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:00 PM by Rittberger.

Board members in attendance were Jim Lintz, Tom Patterson, Klinton Rittberger, Marci O'Connell, June Johnston, and Bob Smith. Also in attendance was Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Meeting minutes from the April 9 meeting was approved with a motion from Lintz and a second by Patterson.

New Business:

- Seasonal help:
  - Remington Miklos was hired as new seasonal employee. With the addition of Mike Sellevold, we will have two support staff for the season.
- Invasive weed management training:
  - Free training for herbicide applicators will be held in Rapid City on May 22. Topics covered include weed identification, equipment maintenance, record keeping, equipment calibration, herbicide safety, and more. Baldwin will send both Sellevold and Miklos to the training. ATV training will also be offered on the 23rd. Both employees will attend this as well.
- Black Hills National Forest weed spraying agreement for 2024:
  - Agreement was approved by County Commission and is now active. Provides up to $5,000 for noxious weed control on National Forest property adjacent to private property.
- Enforcement updates:
  - Property owned by Lila Streff (Parcels 001606 and 001608 on Wind Song Valley Rd):
    - Said she will spray leafy spurge and absinth wormwood patches, and will have contractor mow Canada thistle patches in June (between 6/15-6/30) and again at end of July.
    - After discussion, motion by Smith to set deadline of June 21 to have spurge and wormwood sprayed and to have first mowing completed. Also, to set July 21 deadline for second mowing of thistle patches. Motion seconded by Lintz, motion carried.
  - Property owned by Anna Evans (Parcel 001958 on US Highway 385):
    - Called office and said that she will have property sprayed; however, no date specified.
    - Motion by Smith to set June 21 to spray property, second by O'Connell, motion carried.

- Property owned by Helga Szameit (Parcels 004199 and 004200 on Hapeka Trail):
  - Certified letter sent in April was returned unclaimed.
  - Motion by Patterson to spray property if no action taken by June 21, second by Smith, motion carried.
- Property owned by Lowell Swedlund (Parcel 006004 on Wind Song Valley Rd):
  - Certified letter mailed in April was received and signed for, but no response received.
  - Property may be in the process of foreclosure. Baldwin will check status at Courthouse.
  - Motion by Smith to set June 21 deadline to spray property, second by Lintz, motion carried.
- Property owned by Neal and Sharon Moad (Parcels 005400 and 005401 on Hard Scratch Lane):
  - Sharon stated that she plans on rehiring contractor to spray again. Contractor sprayed in 2022 and 2023. Will continue to monitor property to ensure spraying is completed.
- Property formerly owned by John Dumire (Parcels 015894 and 006142 on Hard Scratch Lane):
  - New home built on potion of property and grass planted. Couple of camper pads put in as well. Property likely to be mowed continuously. Will continue to monitor property.

Old Business:

- Grants available through SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Forestry Division (SD DANR-RCF):
  - $35,064.36 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding available to 12 counties for prevention and suppression of potentially damaging weeds on land adjacent to National Grasslands or National Forestlands. Applied for $6,000 for chemical cost-share support. No word yet if will be funded.
  - Invasive Species funds – $15,000 available to 12 counties for same purpose as the BIL funds. Applied for $580 to cover portion of newsletter costs.
- Newsletter:
  - Ready for printing, only waiting on results from grant application. Baldwin was told that he should receive notification soon from the State.

Miscellaneous:

- Rittberger informed the board of active prairie dog holes in the county right-of-way on South Fork Road. Baldwin will investigate and contact adjacent landowner.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz, seconded by O'Connell to adjourn meeting at 1:46 PM.