Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2024

The September 10, 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 Klinton Rittberger, Jim Lintz, Tom Patterson, Marci O'Connell, and Bob Smith. Also in attendance was Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Motion made by Lintz to approve meeting minutes from the August 13 board meeting and today's agenda, seconded by O'Connell, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Enforcement updates:
  - Property owned by Matthew Hespen on Hall Drive (Parcels 004564):
    - Property was sprayed, no further action at this time.
  - Property owned by Dakota Greens Nursery at 25086 Shamrock Road (Parcel 015406):
    - Landowner hired commercial applicator and had it sprayed.
  - Property owned by Loyce May on US Hwy 16A (Parcel 015407):
    - Landowner hired commercial applicator and had it sprayed.
  - Property owned by Jody Landgrebe at 12716 Beaver Creek Rd (Parcels 014609):
    - No response from landowner and all three certified letters were unclaimed and returned. It's not clear if letters were ignored or if address changed.
    - Board asked Mike to try finding a phone number for Jody, and also contact State for guidance on whether the Board can proceed with hiring a commercial sprayer, or if must make additional attempts to contact landowner.
    - Motion by Jim to proceed with spraying property if State approves of the attempts already made to contact the landowner, second by Tom, motion carried. Mike will email the Board once he hears from the State.
  - Property owned by Lowell Swedlund on Wind Song Valley Rd (Parcel 006004):
    - Property was sprayed, no further action at this time.
  - Property owned by Lila Streff on Wind Song Valley Rd (Parcels 001606 and 001608):
    - Mike spoke with Lila about cleanup work that needed to occur around structures. She agreed to do so, will continue to monitor.
  - Property owned by Anna Evans (Parcel 001958 on US Highway 385):
    - Property still has areas needing treatment. Mike discussed recent communication with landowner and progress of work. Board asked Mike to continue monitoring property for now.

- Prairie dog complaint update:
    - New prairie dog complaint filed with State against property located at 24620 Prairie View Rd. Property was recently listed for sale. A voluntary compliance letter was mailed to landowners with an October 31, 2024 deadline to treat prairie dogs. No response received to date.
    - No responses received on two other complaints for prairie dogs in the county right-of-ways on Pilger Mountain Rd and South Fork Rd. Both landowners were given October 31, 2024 deadline to treat prairie dogs.

New Business:

- Spraying progress:
    - Second round of spraying county roads completed, working on cleanup areas. Approximately 120 miles of 3rd round spraying completed.
    - Mike provided general comments on how the spray season has gone.
- Chemical cost-share status:
    - Receipts received to date total $25,455.31, from 68 participants. At 50% cost-share the payout will be $11,826.81. This value is up compared to this time last year.
    - Twenty-one requested payments now ($5,921.09), rest waiting until end of season.
- Weed-watch properties and properties under consideration for enforcement:
    - Properties watching:
        - Large infestation of St Johnswort on property located at 25447 Lower French Creek. Voluntary compliance letter was sent, but too late to treat now. Will be a watch-list property for 2025.
        - Handful of properties along Beaver Creek Rd with Canada thistle. Will be watch-list properties in 2025.
        - Complaint by June against 12547 Hazelrodt Cutoff for Canada thistle. Will be a watch-list property for 2025.
- US Forest Service agreements:
    - Black Hills NF:
        - One location left to spray for leafy spurge, all other work is complete.
    - Buffalo Gap NG:
        - Spraying completed, documentation submitted to USFS, and payment was received. Payment was deposited in the County's general fund.

Other Business –

- None.

Next meeting:

- Meeting is schedule on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz to adjourn meeting at 2:02 PM, seconded by Smith, motion carried.