Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2024

The November 12, 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, June Johnston, Jim Lintz, and Bob Smith. Also in attendance was Dave Reyelts (call-in) and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Motion made by Lintz to approve meeting minutes from the September 10 board meeting and today's agenda, seconded by Johnston, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Prairie dog complaints:
    - Right-of-way complaints on Pilger Mountain Road and South Fork Road:
        - County Commission approved and authorized Chairman to sign written complaints of prairie dog encroachment into county right-of-ways. Approval granted at November 7 Commission meeting. Complaints filed against Jim and Patty Watkins (Corriente Camps, LLC) and Bies Ranch Land, LLLP.
        - Prairie dog burrows within the right-of-ways have been treated.
        - Both landowners have been contacted about control on their properties, but no action has been detected. Board discussed deadline for treatment. Motion by Smith to give both landowners until November 30 to treat, second by Johnston, motion carried.
    - Previous complaint filed against Morse property on Prairie View Road:
        - Contractor hired by landowner and area was treated. Baldwin confirmed treatment with contractor. Two more treatments are scheduled in the coming weeks.
    - Complaint filed against Melius property on Prairie View Road:
        - No detectable control measures observed since complaint was filed.
        - Board discussed deadline for treatment. Motion by Smith to give landowner until November 30 to treat, second by Johnston, motion carried.
        - Baldwin will speak to two other neighbors about treating the prairie dogs on their properties as well.
- Enforcement updates:
    - Property owned by Gregerson:
        - No complaints since area was treated last winter, but Baldwin will assess property and conduct new prairie dog count.

- Property owned by Landgrebe:
  - After the September board meeting, Baldwin spoke with the State about the unclaimed and returned certified letters mailed to her. Recommendation was to request that the Sheriff's office personally deliver the enforcement papers to the landowner. Sheriff's office made multiple attempts, but was unsuccessful in delivering papers – landowner moved to eastern SD. However, Baldwin was able to contact her and obtain her new address, phone number, and email address.
  - Board agreed it was too late to spray this year so discussed new deadline during the 2025 spray season. Motion by Smith to give landowner new deadline of June 30, 2025 to spray, second by Johnston, motion carried.

New Business:

- Chemical cost-share status and final payout:
  - Dave Reyelts spoke to the Board via phone to discuss two receipts submitted that were Baldwin believed did not qualify for cost-share. After discussion, Board agreed that the two receipts did not qualify. A third receipt submitted by Reylets did qualify.
  - Receipts received from 95 participants total $44,017.32. Two receipt totals were over $2,000, exceeding the $1,000 maximum payout at 50 percent cost-share so those totals were adjusted. Twenty-one participants requested payments right away ($5,921.09), whereas the rest waited until end of season in case the cost-share percentage increased.
  - Board discussed whether to raise cost-share percentage or keep at 50%. After discussion, motion be Smith to increase cost-share to 65%, second by Johnston, motion carried.
- State grants and US Forest Service spray agreements:
  - Black Hills NF – spraying completed, payment was received and deposited in the county general fund.
  - Buffalo Gap NG – payment received was received and deposited in the county general fund.
  - SD-DANR Resource Conservation and Forestry Grants:
    - Cost-share grant is complete, reimbursement request submitted.
    - Still waiting on reimbursement for newsletter.
    - Application submitted for 2025-26 Weed and Pest grant.
- Locally noxious weed request for 2025:
  - Black henbane's listing as locally noxious in the county will expire on December 31. Also, the county can add another species to locally noxious list if Board desires. After discussion, motion by Smith to request renewal of black henbane designation and to add houndstongue as locally noxious, second by Johnston, motion carried.

Other Business –

- Reminder that there will not be a District meeting.
- 2024 Weed Inspection Report was submitted to the State.

Next meeting:

- Motion by Smith to schedule meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 1:00 PM, second by Johnston, motion carried.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz to adjourn meeting at 2:14 PM, seconded by Smith, motion carried.