Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2025

The May 13, 2025 meeting of the Custer County Weed and Pest Board was called to order at 1:00 PM by Smith.

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

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Motion made by O'Connell to approve meeting minutes from the March 11 board meeting and today's agenda, seconded by Johnston, motion carried.

New Business:

- Status of seasonal help:
  - Remington Miklos returning as seasonal, start date is 5/21.
  - Michael Sellevold has left current position to take the PM maintenance position. Currently advertising for a replacement.
- Status of US Forest Service invasive weed management funding:
  - As of now, agency does not have funding for weed control on National Forest or National Grassland.
  - Black Hills Weed & Pest Departments are pushing a resolution through their County Commissioners that requests invasive weed funding be restored. Custer County Commissioners have approved the resolution.
- Invasive species grants from SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Forestry:
  - Funding made available to counties for weed control on or adjacent to US Forest Service property. Mike applied for $6,000 to help with herbicide cost-share for landowners living adjacent to the National Forest. Waiting to hear if proposal was approved.
- County noxious weed booklet:
  - Draft sent to Board for review. No changes were requested, so Mike will send to printer for a quote and to print.
- Annual newsletter:
  - Ready to print, will send to printer once Mike has the quote for the county weed booklet.

Old Business:

- State Noxious Weed ID booklet:
  - Draft sent for review to Association of South Dakota County Weed & Pest Boards. No feedback yet.
- Watch list / enforcement properties:

- Postcards mailed to enforcement properties and to landowners that received voluntary compliance letters in 2024.
- Board discussed issuing a deadline for all weed enforcement properties to have their weeds treated. Motion by O'Connell to send letters with June 10 deadline, seconded by Johnston, motion carried.

- Prairie dog complaints:
  - Prairie View Rd area:
    - Received a verbal complaint against Lyons property. Visited the property and observed a few on the Morse property and several on Lyons property. Morse had his treated three times last fall/winter. Lyons had his treated in January. As of now, have not received written complaint.

Other Business –

- Miscellaneous updates:
  - Mike Met with Bruce Schroeder, SD DOT, on March 26
    - DOT will contract work for right-of-way spraying, out for bid at time of visit.
    - Sounds like they do not spot check. Mike expressed concern about presumed lack of spraying in certain areas. I was asked to let them know if I see issues and they will get it taken care of.
  - BHIPP meeting, March 27 in Rapid City
    - Discussion on lack of invasive weed funding for Forest Service. Discussed putting together resolution for county commissioners to request restoring funding.
    - Ventenata in Harding County is more wide-spread than previously known. Now estimated to be several hundred acres in the county.
    - Yellow bluestem confirmed in Wind Cave NP.
    - Tariffs could impact herbicide costs.
    - Applicator training tomorrow at 4H building in Rapid.
  - FSA meeting on 4/15 with Fall River W&P for County Committee meeting, Kari Sanders, County Executive Director
  - BHNF Plan Revision - Resolution against new additions of wilderness/scenic rivers passed by Commissioners
  - article in paper – on to-do list

Next meeting:

- Next meeting scheduled on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Johnston to adjourn meeting at 1:35 PM, second by O'Connell, motion carried.