Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2025

The June 10, 2025 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, Bob Smith, June Johnston, Tom Patterson, 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 Patterson to approve meeting minutes from the May 13 board meeting and today's agenda, seconded by Smith, motion carried.

New Business:

- Status of seasonal help:
  - Now fully staffed. Remington started on May 21. The 60/40 replacement was hired, Nathan Benjamin, and he began last Monday. He is now a certified applicator.
- Spray progress:
  - Approximately twenty percent of the roads have been sprayed. So far, spraying has been focused within the Hills area.
- US Forest Service invasive weed management funding:
  - Approached by both Black Hills NF and Buffalo Gap NG – they may have funding available Waiting to hear additional details.
  - BHNF could be $10K with an expiration date of 2/14/2028 (date current agreement expires), with potential for more funding if use up $10K prior to end date.
  - BGNG could be $3K for this year, no other details provided.
- New weed issues/complaints:
  - There are several properties that Mike is watching for issues with leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and wormwood. Letters were sent to the landowners. Will inspect properties after deadlines have passed.
  - Mike inquired if the board had any properties of concern. Smith spoke on a couple properties with leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Mike will investigate.

Old Business:

- Watch list / enforcement properties:
  - After last meeting, certified letters were mailed to weed enforcement properties. Letter gave a deadline to spray or else the Board would hire a contractor to have it sprayed. Heard from Moad – said hired same sprayer. Evans called – asked if I had inspected yet and wondered if looks okay. No other responses received.
  - Letters to Helga Szameit and Lowell Swedlund not signed for.

- Will inspect properties once deadline has passed

Other Business –

- Miscellaneous updates:
  - County noxious weed booklet:
    - Booklet was printed and is available at the County Courthouse (near the Treasurer's office) and the Weed & Pest office.
  - Annual newsletter:
    - Printed and mailed
  - Article in newspaper:
    - Jason has it on the to-do list. It could possibly be in next week's edition of the Chronicle.
  - No word on State grant application for $6K through the SD DANR, Resource Conservation and Forestry:

Next meeting:

- Next meeting scheduled on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Johnston to acknowledge date of next meeting and to adjourn meeting at 1:30 PM, second by O'Connell, motion carried.