Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2025

The July 8, 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, Jim Lintz, and Tom Patterson (call-in). Also in attendance was Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted. For the purpose of continuity, these minutes are not necessarily in chronological order.

Approve Minutes/Agenda:

- Request by Baldwin to add "New legislation on open meeting laws" to New Business.
- Motion made by Lintz to approve the amended agenda and meeting minutes from the June 10 board meeting, seconded by Johnston, motion carried.

New Business:

- Spray progress:
  - First round of spraying nearly complete, ~6 miles of roads left to spray. Expect to be completed with first round by end of week. Some roads have already been sprayed a second time.
- Herbicide cost-share status:
  - Receipts from 17 individuals have been received. Receipts total $6,010.71, and 50-50 cost-share payments equal $3,005.39. Payments are processed as they are received.
- New weed issues/complaints:
  - Currently 26 properties that are being watched for noxious weed issues. Letters were sent to all landowners and a deadline was given to treat. The deadline for many of those properties is later this week. Mike will re-inspect those properties after that deadline has passed.
  - Majority of current issues are for leafy spurge. Also working on complaints for mullein and Canada thistle
  - Several properties with weed issues within Custer city limits. Those were forwarded to the city to handle.
  - Smith shared information for additional properties with weed issues.
  - Mike shared concern raised by county resident who was worried about the expansion of leafy spurge around Custer and Hill City.
- New legislation on open meeting laws:
  - Mike discussed new requirements related to open public meetings. The board is now required to annually review the State's publication "A Guide to South Dakota's Open Meetings Laws". Board will review the State's document in the fall after the spray season has ended.

Old Business:

- Watch list / enforcement properties:
    - Most enforcement properties were acceptable except for those owned by Anna Evans and Lila Streff. Lila has someone coming to cut the area but was delayed due to weather. In early June, Anna stated that she would have someone treat the area in a couple weeks. As of today's meeting, the area has not been treated, and Mike has been unable to reach her.
    - Motion by Johnston to deliver letter to Evans, via the Sherrif's office, giving her 3 days from receipt of letter to take action. Second by Lintz, motion carried.

Other Business –

- Miscellaneous updates:
    - Noxious weed article was published in the June 25 edition of the Custer Chronicle. Mike received multiple responses/questions in response to the article.
    - SD DANR, Resource Conservation and Forestry grant application was awarded for $6,000 for herbicide cost-share for landowners adjacent to U.S. Forest Service property.
    - US Forest Service invasive weed management funding:
        - Mike has not received any updates since our last board meeting.
- Smith discussed his concerns with lack of weed control on the National Forest. Suggested they should be required to maintain a 1-mile weed-free buffer and that letter(s) from the Board should be sent to the offices of Thune, Rounds, and Johnson. Mike mentioned the county resolution that requested the US Forest Service restore funding for invasive weed management. Mike mailed a copy to each office (Thune, Rounds, Johnson), but has not heard a reply. All agreed that weeds have not been adequately controlled on the National Forest for many years.

Next meeting:

- Motion by Johnston to schedule next meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 1:00 PM unless a meeting is needed sooner. Second by Lintz, motion carried.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Lintz to adjourn meeting at 1:46 PM, second by Johnston, motion carried.