Custer County Weed and Pest Board
Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2025

The August 12, 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, Tom Patterson, and Jim Lintz. 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:

- Motion made by Patterson to approve the agenda and meeting minutes with corrected spelling error from the July 8 board meeting, seconded by O'Connell, motion carried.

New Business:

- Spray progress:
    - Second round of spraying nearly complete with approximately 5 miles of roads left to spray. Spraying completed at county airport, highway shops, and miscellaneous county property.
    - Issues with Russian thistle and curly-cup gumweed continue on certain roads.
    - Spray crew will conduct mop-up spraying on roads, once 2nd round is complete.
- Herbicide cost-share status:
    - To date, receipts from 43 individuals have been received. Receipts total $17,036.84, and 50-50 cost-share payments (adjusted for maximum payments) equal $8,231.01. Cost-share payments made as they are received.
    - Payment mistake was made at Auditor's office on one payment. Voucher was misread and a payment of $1,575 was made to one person when the person was only due $1,000. The office said they will correct the mistake.
- New weed issues/complaints:
    - To date, 66 compliance letters have been mailed for various weed issues.
    - St. Johnswort:
        - Large patches of St. Johnswort on property owned by Rodney Wilson, Jr. and Jeffrey Wilson. Initial weed complaint received from SD GF&P. No response received from attempts to contact landowners.
        - Motion by Patterson to send certified mail to landowners, give 10 days to reply, and absent appropriate reply, place property under enforcement. Second by Lintz, motion carried.
    - Leafy spurge:
        - Pass Creek:
            - Large patches of leafy spurge on property owned by Donna Alexander. Daughter of Donna called office in July and said was hiring a contractor. As of last visit to property on Aug. 11, no spraying was detected.

        - Motion by O'Connell to send certified mail to landowner, give 10 days to reply, and absent appropriate reply, place property under enforcement. Second by Patterson, motion carried.
    - Near French Creek Supply:
        - Leafy spurge on property owned by Snake River Homesites, LLC (Cleve Trimble). Mr. Trimble called the office in July and stated that it would be sprayed. As of today, no detectable spraying was observed. Patterson will speak to the landowner. Mike will continue monitoring the property.
  - Mullein:
    - Property located at 14082 SD Hwy 36. Smith noted that some of the mullein looked like it was sprayed, but others were not. Mike will continue monitoring.
  - Canada thistle:
    - There are a few properties near Custer and Pringle that are being monitored for thistle.
- US Forest Service invasive weed management funding:
  - Black Hills NF: $10,000 awarded (~74 acres) for spraying on the Forest. Received final approval yesterday to begin work. Funding can be used through the 2027 spray season.
  - Buffalo Gap NG: $3,000 awarded (~25 acres) for spraying on the Grassland. About 10 acres of spraying completed so far. Work must be completed this spray season.

Old Business:

- Watch list / enforcement properties:
  - Evans Ranch: Sheriff's deputy hand-delivered letter to Anna Evans. However, Anna is no longer the property owner. It was transferred to her daughter, Lisa Anderson. Mike mailed a certified letter to Lisa's address. Post office attempted delivery, but it was not picked up as of today's meeting. Mike is also trying to schedule a meeting with the States Attorney to ensure the proper procedure is followed.
  - Patterson motioned that after conferring with the State's Attorney, request that the Pennington County Sheriff's Office deliver a letter to Lisa so that delivery is documented. Give Lisa 10 days to take corrective action. All costs incurred are to be added to her bill. Second by Lintz, motion carried.
  - Streff property: Remaining weed issues on property were hayed.

Other Business –

- Miscellaneous updates:
  - County Fair - Garden Club booth displayed weed & pest information that Mike shared with them.
  - Remington's last day is next Wednesday.
  - Mike provided update on army cutworm outbreak along SD Hwy 36, west of Hermosa. Outbreak appears to be confined to the area impacted by the recent hailstorm.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting scheduled on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM unless a meeting is needed sooner.

Adjournment:

- Motion by O'Connell to adjourn meeting at 1:47 PM, second by Johnston, motion carried.