MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 15, 2015
Creekside Coolidge Room, State Game Lodge
Custer, SD

Chairman Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, September 15, 2015. Present were Chairman Deibert, and Commissioners Ron Thyen, Craig Magedanz, Duane Buckmeier, and Association of County Commissioners representative Neil VonEschen; Non-Voting Members - SD Department of Agriculture representative Brandon Beshears; and SDSU representative Paul Johnson; and Commission Secretary Brenda Sievers. (Exhibit #1)

Neil VonEschen made a motion, seconded by Ron Thyen, to approve the agenda (Exhibit #2) as presented. Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 9, 2015, meeting was presented. Duane Buckmeier made a motion, seconded by Craig Magedanz to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015, meeting. (Exhibit #3) Motion carried.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

SD Department of Agriculture – Weed & Pest Coordinator – Brenda Sievers
Brenda talked about the amount of weeds that have been seen this year. Ron, Mike and Dale will be giving more detailed reports on the projects that the Department has been involved in.

Weed & Pest Supervisor – Ron Moehring
Ron reported on the turnover that we have been seeing in Weed & Pest Supervisors.

District 1 – Ron Thyen
Ron reported they had been receiving rain and large yields are expected. It will be a great set up for fall spraying.

District 3 – Lynn Deibert
Lynn reported that they've had a good set up for fall spraying with the rain. Wormwood has really been an issue this year. He also reported that there is Yellow Toadflax and Canada Thistle where it has never been before.

District At Large – Craig Magedanz
Craig reported that crops are good and with the fall rain, fall spraying should be good. There are lots of noxious weeds this year.

District 4 – Duane Buckmeier
Duane reported that there has been an outbreak of Canada Thistle. Everyone seems to have it and it is in spots such as shelterbelts too.

SD Association of County Commissioners – Neil VonEschen
Neil said they have also had timely rains and the crops look good. The grasshoppers are thick in many places. There is a lot of Canada Thistle and everyone is in the same boat.

SDSU – Paul Johnson
Paul talked about the timely rains. He talked about the noxious test plots and the 98 plot locations this year.

SD Department of Agriculture – Brandon Beshears
Brandon talked about things happening with the entire Department including State Fair. There has been a change in the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and that person is now Kyle Holt. Also, Jodi Heemstra is the Communication Manager and Dani Hanson is the Policy Advisor. He mentioned the possibility of changes to the pesticide registration fee, but that would be done by the legislature during session.

Survey Updates –Mike Stenson
Mike updated the Commission on work being conducted such as Bio-Control with Yellow Toadflax, Dalmatian Toadflax on BLM ground, Knapweed collections, and Leafy Spurge. Surveys were conducted on the Missouri River for Purple Loosestrife and Salt Cedar, with very little Salt Cedar being found.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Update – Dale Anderson
Dale reported on surveys that are still in progress. There were 3 interns working this year. Karnal bunt samples have been negative so far. Other projects worked on this year were gypsy moth, khapra beetle, retail nursery, and Japanese beetle.

APHIS – Greg Buntrock
Greg reported that Bruce Helbig retired and Dave Hirsh in North Dakota is currently overseeing North and South Dakota. Lauren Hesler, who has been working with Emerald Ash Borer in Brookings, will have her position termed out in May. They will be contracting the EAB work out across the country. Greg reported that grasshopper numbers were up in the last month, but didn't feel it would have a large impact over time.

OLD BUSINESS

Dakotafest Update
Ron Moehring talked about the questions received on various weeds. Brenda and Ron talked about the most questions were on Snow on the Mountain.

Brown County Fair Update
Mike Stenson reported that it was a really hot Fair this year. He also reported that there were good weed questions but less yellow toadflax questions than in the past.

State Fair Update
Paul Johnson talked about the good crowds at State Fair. He thought it was good PR and education not only for the town people but the country people as well. Paul had a Palmer Amaranth display. That plant came from a cattle cleaning station near Corsica. Paul is also working on getting the Weed Book completed. Gary Larsen, retired SDSU Taxonomist, is planning to work on the book. Gary's position has yet to be filled at SDSU.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Couch – Complaint on Wind Cave National Park
Ken visited with the Commission on his concerns with the noxious weeds on the Wind Cave National Park. His ranch borders the Park. He discussed the difficulties he has had and there hasn't been much response from the Park.

US Forest Service – Eugene Bolka
Gene works for one of the four Districts in the Black Hills. He talked about the Timber Sale areas and the ability to use some of the proceeds to spend for control on the ground. The Forest Service has hired Marty Peterson as an Invasive Weed Coordinator (Ecologist). Gene will be retiring on December 31. Forest Service received a complaint on control efforts on DOT Rights of way in Lawrence County.

CAPS 2016 Project Proposals
Dale reported that proposals have been submitted for 2016 pest detection surveys. He is planning for a gypsy moth, small grains (wheat) and karnal bunt. There are plans for a Bio-Control Survey, to get new insectaries.

2015 Weed & Pest District Meetings & 2016 Weed & Pest Conference
Gary Pribyl shared the dates and locations of the 2015 District Meetings.
District 1 - Nov. 2 – Watertown – Codington County Extension Office
District 4 - Nov. 4 – Rapid City – Outdoor Campus
District 3 - Nov. 5 – Pierre – Isaak Walton
District 2 - Nov. 6 – Mitchell – Mitchell Technical Institute

The Weed & Pest Conference will be held in Aberdeen on February 17, 18 & 19, 2016. Current topics being looked into are Drones & FAA, Depford Pink, Department of Interior, Wind Cave and Sand Lake Refuge.

Weed & Pest Grant Criteria / Proposals
Brenda Sievers gave an overview of prior grant criteria and that the Commission has spending authority of $650,000 for this year. Discussion was held on the upcoming grant year requirements. After much discussion, Ron Thyen made a motion, seconded by Neil VonEschen, to have Competitive grants at $320,000 and to have contractual grants available at $5000 per county x 66 counties = $330,000. This includes keeping the requirements as is, including the full contractual grant amount being awarded to counties that meet all attendance requirements with 2 attendees at the Conference; and one half of the full amount of the contractual grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements but only has 1 attendee at the Conference. In addition to the Weed & Pest Conference attendance, two people are required to attend a district meeting and one person is required to attend a training session. In the event that a certain county or counties doesn't receive/qualify for funding, the remaining funds from the Contractual and Competitive grants will be divided amongst the remaining counties that have met the requirements and to divide that funding equally to the nearest $100, without exceeding spending authority. Motion carried.

The Chairman will appoint a committee to review the grants and present a recommendation to the Commission in February. Grant deadline will be November 20, 2015. Also, reports must be submitted to be eligible for the grants.

APPROVAL OF BILLS
A motion was made by Craig Magedanz, seconded by Duane Buckmeier, to pay for the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ron Thyen, seconded by Craig Magedanz, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)