

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ANNUAL WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING
April 18, 2023 – 1:00 pm CT
SDSU Regional Extension Center, 412 W. Missouri Ave., Pierre, SD

Chairman Darwin Kurtenbach called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, April 18, 2023.

Members Present: Commissioners Duane Buckmeier, Bruce Helbig, Darwin Kurtenbach, Dennis Feickert, Association of SD County Commissioners Representative Lynn Deibert; Department of Transportation Representative Thomas Druyvestein; Game Fish & Parks representative Ryan Wendinger; and School and Public Lands representative Brock Greenfield. Non-Voting Members - SD Department of Agriculture representative Bill Smith; SDSU Representative Paul Johnson; and Commission Secretary and Plant Industry Program Manager Brenda Sievers. (Exhibit #1)

Duane Buckmeier made a motion to approve the agenda (Exhibit #2). Seconded by Ryan Wendinger. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lynn Deibert, seconded by Dennis Feickert, to approve the minutes from Meeting 1 and Meeting 2 held on February 15th. Motion carried.

Chairman Kurtenbach turned the meeting over to Hearing Officer Catherine Williamson from the Hearing Examiners Office to conduct a public rules hearing to add Wild Parsnip to the listing of locally noxious weeds.

No written comments were received on the proposal. Commission members discussed the changes.

A motion was made by Lynn Deibert, seconded by Duane Buckmeier, to accept adding wild parsnip onto the locally noxious weed listing. Motion carried.

The rules hearing concluded at 1:17 pm. A five-minute recess was taken to allow the hearing officer and court reporter to gather their items and leave the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 1:22 pm.

Activity Reports

Weed & Pest Coordinator's Report – Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Brenda Sievers reported that contractual grant amounts for FY2024 were \$5,700 for the full amount and \$3,400 for those who only had one person at the Conference. Grant agreements have gone out for the Weed and Pest Grants.

District Reports

District reports were given by Dennis Feickert, District 1 – they had lots of snow but grass is starting to green up, encourages counties to not combine highway and weed departments; Darwin Kurtenbach, District 2 – attended annual weed meeting in Hutchinson, had wanted to attend more but wasn't able to, it is getting dry in his area; Bruce Helbig, District 3 – attended Info Meeting with Hand, Hyde, Hughes and Stanley Counties, weather did play a part in attendance, but they still had a good crowd, Hughes County Weed Board lost their weed supervisor who resigned; and Duane Buckmeier, District 4 – everyone is getting ready for controlling noxious weeds, there have been some controlled burns in his area.

Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Bill Smith, Division Director of Resource Conservation & Forestry, reported on staffing changes and the upcoming Conservation Commission Meeting where there will be a spring grant round with funds available to conservation districts.

Department of Game Fish & Parks

Ryan Wendinger reported they are transitioning into spring by hiring interns and seasonal help. There is a woody habitat summit with GFP staff that is a voluntary program, hoping it will help provide cost share from a wildlife standpoint.

Department of Transportation

Tom Druyvestein reported that his agency is glad winter is over. Living snow fences and getting producers to not combine corn along areas of interstate helped with snow issues on the roads. They are working on weed and pest contracts with counties, but not all spray contracts have been let out yet.

School and Public Lands

Commissioner Brock Greenfield reported that Mike Cornelison is doing lease auctions now, and they are seeing an increase in the per acre rate. They partner with lessees for noxious weed control, to be good stewards of the land. The lessee pays for the application and SPL provides the chemical.

SDSU

Paul Johnson introduced the person who will be taking over for him - Weed Management Specialist Eric Jones. They are hoping to have some plots available in District 4 for this fall's tour.

Association of County Commissioners

Lynn Deibert reported that the county commissioners regional jail bill was denied by legislators. It would have helped a lot of counties that need a jail who are now driving long distances. The County Commissioners Association Meeting will begin April 19th.

Old Business

Lyman County Locally Noxious Weed Request

A motion was made by Dennis Feickert, seconded by Tom Druyvestein, to deny the Lyman County request since the paperwork wasn't received by the deadline set by the office for locally noxious weed requests. Motion carried.

New Business

Weed & Pest Conference 2023 & 2024

Gary Pribyl reported attendance info for the 2023 Conference. There were 110 in attendance for Wednesday, 157 for Thursday, and 155 for Friday. They had two applicants for scholarships this year, and the Association received \$6,000 from the pickup sales donation to go to the scholarship fund. The next Weed and Pest Conference will be held February 21, 22 & 23, 2024, at the Spearfish Convention Center in Spearfish.

Long Range Directives

The Long Range Directives were presented. Brenda Sievers explained the changes made to the document from last year. Discussion was held and Commission members wanted Section V, D1 changed to state Sisseton-Wahpeton, and add in Flandreau Santee Sioux. A motion was made by Lynn Deibert, seconded by Bruce Helbig, to approve the Long Range Directives with the changes made. Motion carried.

Annual Work Plan

The Annual Work Plan was presented. Brenda Sievers went over the changes made, including the new dates on the calendar of events. The fall Commission Meeting is scheduled for District 4 on September 13th, with the fall tour September 14th. A motion was made by Duane Buckmeier, seconded by Ryan Wendinger, to approve the Annual Work Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Elections

Chairman Kurtenbach turned the meeting over to Brenda Sievers to conduct elections. Sievers called for nominations for Chairman. Dennis Feickert nominated Darwin Kurtenbach for Chairman. Bruce Helbig seconded that nomination. A motion was made by Duane Buckmeier, seconded by Lynn Deibert, to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Darwin Kurtenbach for Chairman. Motion carried. Sievers turned the meeting back over to Chairman Kurtenbach.

Chairman Kurtenbach called for nominations for Vice-Chairman position. Bruce Helbig nominated Lynn Deibert. Duane Buckmeier seconded that nomination. A motion was made by Brock Greenfield, seconded by Dennis Feickert, to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Lynn Deibert for Vice-Chairman. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

Chairman Kurtenbach opened the meeting for public comments, with a 10-minute limit per speaker. John Jordan who ranches in Meade and Pennington Counties, spoke to the Commission on concerns with a commercial applicator license situation with property in his area, and he had a question on statute 38-22-16, which addresses public nuisance on noxious weed control. Paul Johnson addressed the commercial applicator question since he has been at the commercial/private applicator meetings, stating that an applicator must be licensed in South Dakota to spray on lands. Chairman Kurtenbach asked Sievers to address the statute question. Sievers read the statute and explained that the only weeds that can be addressed by the statute are those that are state or locally declared noxious weeds. Kochia and Russian thistle are not on either listing, so could not be addressed by that statute. Chairman Kurtenbach stated that the issues addressed were technically not a Commission problem since there wasn't anything the Commission can do about them.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Lynn Deibert, seconded by Dennis Feickert, to pay the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for meetings attended. Motion carried.

Chairman Kurtenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.



Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary



Darwin W. Kurtenbach, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)