

MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION
April 30, 2020 – 1 pm CDT
TeleConference

Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, April 30, 2020, via conference call. The public was able to listen to SDPB livestream with 27 people participating.

Members Present: Chairman Lynn Deibert, Commissioners Dennis Feickert, Floyd Muntefering, Duane Buckmeier, and Craig Magedanz; Department of Transportation Representative Tony Ondricek, Game Fish and Parks Representative Paul Coughlin and School & Public Lands Representative Ryan Brunner.

Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members Present: Dept. of Ag representative Tom Gere, SDSU representative Paul Johnson, and Commission Secretary/Plant Industry Program Manager Brenda Sievers.

Chairman Deibert asked for any changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Dennis Feickert, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

Chairman Deibert asked for any changes to the minutes from the two February meetings held. A motion was made by Duane Buckmeier, seconded by Ryan Brunner, to approve the minutes from Meeting 1 and Meeting 2 held on February 19th. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

Chairman Deibert turned the meeting over to Hearing Officer Catherine Williamson from the Hearing Examiners Office to conduct a public rules hearing to add Absinth Wormwood as a statewide noxious weed, remove Russian Knapweed as a statewide noxious weed, remove Absinth Wormwood from the listing of locally noxious weeds and add Palmer Amaranth to the listing of locally noxious weeds.

One written comment was received from Pennington County Weed & Pest Board supporting the addition of Absinth Wormwood as a statewide noxious weed.

Discussion was held on the proposed changes to the statewide and locally noxious weed lists.

A motion was made by Duane Buckmeier, seconded by Dennis Feickert, to add Absinth Wormwood to the statewide noxious weed listing, remove Russian Knapweed from the statewide noxious weed listing and to add in the scientific names to the statewide noxious weed listing. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

A motion was made by Brunner, seconded by Magedanz, to remove Absinth Wormwood from the locally noxious weed listing and to add Palmer Amaranth to the locally noxious weed listing. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

Activity Reports

Department of Agriculture

Brenda Sievers reported that staff continues to work remotely. The upcoming contractual grant will be \$4,500 for qualifying counties. The contractual and competitive grant agreements for FY2021 went out in mid-April. Sievers presented programs at 5 county annual meetings prior to the remote work order, with the other counties cancelling their meetings. Sievers also gave reports for Weed Specialist Jeremiah Phelps, who had an update on new supervisors in Jerauld and Corson Counties. He attended two annual weed meetings and a Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership meeting prior to remote work. Sievers presented Dale Anderson's CAPS report which gave an overview of the surveys planned for 2020. Interns will begin their duties on May 11th. Sievers gave Mike Stenson's report on bio control plans for 2020. Poison hemlock collections should begin in May and the department has requested yellow toadflax insects from USDA-APHIS to release on US Forest Service properties and in NE South Dakota. Since purple loosestrife and leafy spurge collections generally involve more than 10 people, collection activities may have to be modified. There should be a large number of biennial knapweed bioagents available for collection this year.

USDA APHIS-PPQ Report

Amy Mesman, State Plant Health Director, gave updates on emerald ash borer and the plans for the upcoming federal deregulation. She also updated the Commission on the grasshopper plans for this year. USDA APHIS-PPQ recently worked with SDDA on an exotic disease that originated out of the country and affected three South Dakota greenhouses, in which plants had to be destroyed.

District Reports

District reports were given by Craig Magedanz, At Large – he attended annual weed meetings and farming is going good; Floyd Muntefering, District 2 – still wet in his area but drier than last year, wormwood sage is coming on and the weed pressure will be worse this year; Dennis Feickert, District 1 – small Canada Thistle are showing up and the roads in his area are in bad condition; Duane Buckmeier, District 4 – guys are getting ready to spray in his area, some are farming now and some aren't; and Lynn Deibert, District 3 – their county hired a weed supervisor and the roads are also bad in his area.

Department of Agriculture

Tom Gere reported that staff are working remotely. Development of an online commercial applicator test has taken place which required coordination with EPA for approval. The hemp bill passed the legislature and they are working on the USDA plan as well as the rule making process. Gere gave a legislative update on the fee increase bill, which will provide more dollars for the recycling and regulatory programs.

SDSU

Paul Johnson has approval for his crew to do test plots for this summer, though they will only travel with one person per vehicle and won't be staying out overnight. Johnson has a supply of weed books on hand now, and with the changes to the state and locally noxious weeds, will plan to make changes to the books and brochures as supply is depleted.

Game Fish and Parks

Paul Coughlin reported they are seeing delays in operations to maintain safety. Plans include general operations with permanent staff, still have spring work to do on production areas as well as the effects on the state park areas. They have experienced delayed/reduced hiring of seasonals and interns.

Department of Transportation

Tony Ondricek reported the central office is working remotely, with some staff assisting Department of Health. Maintenance is considered essential, and they are allowed a couple people in each vehicle. They are waiting on the back to work plan. They are still planning to spray ROWs, which includes contract work as well as their own staff applying herbicides as well.

School & Public Lands

Ryan Brunner stated his staff is small and they are able to work and get things done. They did hold lease auctions in March and April, utilizing the outside steps at courthouses. Leases were mailed to avoid contact with constituents and they allowed bids to be taken on conference lines.

Old Business

Weed and Pest Conference

Brenda Sievers read a report from Gary Pribyl on the 2020 Conference. There were 164 registered attendees of which 9 exhibitors at the Conference. The scholarship program account earned about \$7,500 above the scholarship this year. The hospitality room attendance was down in 2020, and there were several communication issues with the hotel in Aberdeen. The 2021 Conference will be in Spearfish February 17-19, and they are taking motel room reservations now.

Locally Noxious Weed Requests

Hyde County and Edmunds County had made a request to add Palmer Amaranth to their listing of locally declared noxious weeds in February. Craig Magedanz made a motion, seconded by Duane Buckmeier, to approve the addition of Palmer Amaranth to Hyde County and Edmunds County's locally declared noxious weed listing, which will take effect after the rules are filed with the Secretary of State's Office. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

New Business

Locally Noxious Weed Request

Potter County sent in a request to add Palmer Amaranth as a locally declared noxious weed. The request was submitted as an emergency request after the last meeting, but Chairman Deibert decided to act on it at this meeting, since the rules hearing was already scheduled. Motion was made by Dennis Feickert, seconded by Craig Magedanz to approve the addition of Palmer Amaranth to Potter County's locally declared noxious weed listing, which will take effect after the rules are filed with the Secretary of State's Office. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

Long Range Objectives & Annual Work Plan

The Long Range Objectives and Annual Work Plan were presented. Brenda Sievers discussed the changes in the Annual Work Plan, including the calendar and meeting dates. A motion was made by Craig Magedanz to accept both the Long Range Objectives and the Annual Work Plan. Seconded by Duane Buckmeier. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

Annual Work Plan

A motion was made by Neal VonEschen to accept the Annual Work Plan. Seconded by Craig Magedanz. Motion carried.

Elections

Chairman Deibert turned the meeting over to Paul Johnson to conduct elections. Paul Johnson called for nominations for Chairman. A motion was made by Craig Magedanz, seconded by Duane Buckmeier to nominate Lynn Deibert for Chairman. A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Ryan Brunner, to have nominations cease. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no. A second roll call vote was taken to cast a unanimous ballot for Lynn Deibert as Chairman: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no. Chairman is Lynn Deibert.

Paul Johnson turned the meeting back to Chairman Deibert. Chairman Deibert called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Dennis Feickert nominated Craig Magedanz for Vice-Chairman. Duane Buckmeier seconded. A roll call vote was taken for Craig Magedanz to be Vice-Chairman and cast a unanimous ballot: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no. Craig Magedanz is Vice-Chairman.

Public Comment Period

No requests were received, or items submitted for the public comment period.

Approval of Bills


A motion was made by Duane Buckmeier, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, to pay the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for meetings attended. Roll call vote: Brunner – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Coughlin – yes; Deibert – yes; Feickert – yes; Magedanz – yes; Muntefering – yes; Ondricek – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no.

Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.



Brenda Sievers

Commission Secretary



Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman

(Approved Minutes)