

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ANNUAL WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING 1**  
**Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 1 pm CT**  
**Crossroads Hotel & Huron Event Center, Huron, SD**

Chairman Darwin Kurtenbach called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, February 19, 2025.

**Members Present:** Commissioners Chuck Anderson, Bruce Helbig, Darwin Kurtenbach, Game Fish & Parks representative Ryan Wendinger, Department of Transportation Representative Christina Bennett; School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield; Non-Voting Member - SDSU Representative Eric Jones; SD Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources Representative Bill Smith; and Commission Secretary and Plant Industry Program Manager Brenda Sievers.

Brock Greenfield made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Chuck Anderson. Motion carried.

Chairman Kurtenbach asked Sievers to read the Committee recommendations for funding the FY2026 grants. The Grant Committee met on January 7<sup>th</sup> in Pierre. The Committee consisted of Chairman Darwin Kurtenbach, Bruce Helbig, School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield, SDSU Representative Eric Jones and Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Representative Bill Smith.

The Committee recommended funding the following Competitive Grants:

- WP-C26-1 – SDSU Extension Service – Investigating New Herbicide Mixtures and Application Methods - \$50,000
- WP-C26-2 – Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards – 2025 Awareness Project - \$55,000, but did recommend funding Factor 360 for website/social media since it is the association's website and those types of activities have not been previously funded
- WP-C26-4 – Brown County Weed & Pest Board – Yellow Toadflax Biological Control - \$2,000
- WP-C26-5 – Brown County Weed & Pest Board – Yellow Toadflax Mapping and Spot Spraying Project - \$1,000
- WP-C26-6 – Pennington County Weed & Pest Board – Absinth Wormwood and Common Tansy Reduction Project – \$10,000
- WP-C26-9 – Deuel County Weed & Pest Board – Eradication of Common Mullein - \$3,100

The Committee recommended not funding the following Competitive Grants:

- WP-C26-3 – Fall River County for Salt Cedar
- WP-C26-7 – Butte County for Belle Fourche River/Whitewood Creek Riparian Weed Survey and Control Project
- WP-C26-8 – Codington/Clark conservation districts – mowing cooperative
- WP-C26-10 – Meade County Weed Board – Tamarix Project

The Committee recommended the following adjustments/reminders for the regular/contractual grants: Those grants listing equipment will be for equipment updates only and will not be for licensed vehicles including side by sides and 4 wheelers, since those have not been funded for many years.

WP-26-20 – Corson County – listed mapping and billing software and hardware, the Commission hasn't paid for ongoing expenses and that would be considered part of funding their own program.

Sievers gave an overview of the Committee reasons for those competitive grants not recommended to receive funding. Discussion took place on the committee recommendations.

Chairman Kurtenbach opened the public comment period. There were several that spoke about allowing the salt cedar grants regardless of length of the funding to the counties, due to cost of treatment. Other comments referred to the statute and criteria, and those projects are no longer new.

A motion was made by Ryan Wendinger, seconded by Brock Greenfield, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Kurtenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

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Brenda Sievers  
Commission Secretary

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Darwin Kurtenbach, Commission Chairman  
(Approved Minutes)

DRAFT