

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ANNUAL WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING 2
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 9:00 am MT
The Lodge, Deadwood, SD

Chairman Darwin Kurtenbach called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, February 18, 2026.

Members Present: Commissioners Chuck Anderson, Dennis Feickert, Deb Schultz, Darren Bauer, Darwin Kurtenbach, Department of Transportation Representative Christina Bennett; School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield; Association of SD County Commissioners Representative Charles Verhulst; Game Fish & Parks representative Ryan Wendinger (on phone), Non-Voting Members - SDSU Representative Eric Jones and Commission Secretary and Plant Industry Program Manager Brenda Sievers.

Dennis Feickert made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Deb Schultz. Roll Call: Anderson – yes; Bauer – yes; Bennett – yes; Feickert – yes; Greenfield – yes; Schultz – yes; Verhulst – yes; Wendinger – yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Kurtenbach asked for any changes to the minutes from the December 15, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Brock Greenfield to approve the minutes. Seconded by Deb Schultz. Roll Call: Anderson – yes; Bauer – yes; Bennett – yes; Feickert – yes; Greenfield – yes; Schultz – yes; Verhulst – yes; Wendinger – yes. Motion carried.

Old Business

No old business presented.

New Business

Requests for Locally Declared Noxious Weeds & Pests

(R) = Renewal / (N) = New request / **(NN) = New & not in Rules, would need rules hearing**

Butte County – Musk & Plumeless Thistles (R), Scotch Thistle (R), Common Burdock (R),
Common Mullein (R), Common Tansy (R)

Clark County – Bull Thistle (R), Spotted Knapweed (R)

Custer County – Common Mullein (R)

Davison County – Common Mullein (R)

Day County – Musk & Plumeless Thistles (R)

Fall River County – Scotch Thistle (R)

Faulk County – Flowering Rush (R), Houndstongue (R), Musk & Plumeless Thistles (R)

Hamlin County – Bull Thistle (R), Yellow Toadflax (R), Poison Hemlock (R)

Harding County – Scotch Thistle (R), Houndstongue (R), Musk & Plumeless Thistles (R),
Common Burdock (R), Common Mullein (R)

Jackson County – Bull Thistle (N), Common Mullein (R), Musk & Plumeless Thistles (R)

Jerauld County – Puncturevine (N), Common Mullein (R), Bull Thistles (R)

Lawrence County – Common Mullein (R), Spotted Knapweed (R)

Pennington County – Common Tansy (R), Spotted Knapweed (R), Puncturevine (R), Yellow Toadflax (R)

Tripp County – Diffuse Knapweed (R), Spotted Knapweed (R), Musk & Plumeless Thistles (R),
Common Mullein (R), Bull Thistle (R)

Discussion was held on the locally noxious weed requests. Darren Bauer made a motion to approve the locally noxious requests from Butte, Clark, Custer, Davison, Day, Fall River, Faulk, Hamlin, Harding, Jackson, Jerauld, Lawrence, Pennington, and Tripp Counties. Seconded by Dennis Feickert. Roll Call: Anderson – yes; Bauer – yes; Bennett – yes; Feickert – yes; Greenfield – yes; Schultz – yes; Verhulst – yes; Wendinger – yes. Motion carried.

The Weed and Pest Coordinator Report was given by Brenda Sievers. Department staff assisted at weed booths, Sievers helped at the Black Hills Stock Show booth and received good questions. For the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS), there are two summer interns hired.

Jeremiah Phelps, Weed and Pest Program Specialist, also worked at booths at Sioux Falls Farm Show, Black Hills Stock Show and Watertown Farm Show. He also attended and presented at a meeting in Bennett County with Eric Jones, SDSU Weed Specialist. Good questions were received at the booths. He has been working to compile and complete the 2025 annual weed and pest report.

District reports were given by:

- District 1 Representative Dennis Feickert – talked about 2025 and how dry it was initially, then June had rain. Areas to the south had too much rain and experienced flooding, they had fall regrowth, and he is hopeful that 2026 will not have the winds to help the weed programs spray.
- District 2 Representative Darwin Kurtenbach – 2025 was a dry year but they had timely rains and it was the best harvest he had seen with dryland corn averaging over 200 bu., he talked about phragmites in many low areas near him, it is dry now but has hopes to get moisture, he assisted at Sioux Falls Farm Show and the Black Hills Stock Show, answering many questions.
- District 3 Representative Darren Bauer – his area was green longer than most areas and has concerns with marestail in Ziebach and Corson Counties.
- District 4 Representative Chuck Anderson – moisture varied greatly in his area, from 28 inches of rain south of Lemmon to 40 inches just 15 miles from him, hay was tough to dry and new flushes of weeds came through the year. And areas further south were really dry. He feels it will be a challenge going forward for weeds.
- At Large Representative Deb Schultz – has been a crop adjuster for 20 years and never saw a year quite like last year. She is located in between the higher moisture areas. Calving could be a challenge this year.

Agency reports were given by:

- Association of SD County Commissioners Representative Charles Verhulst – is new to the Commission last fall. He is learning and had no report for the group at this time.
- Game, Fish and Parks Representative Ryan Wendinger – some areas are wet and some dry. They sprayed about 10,000 acres in 2025, which is down about 1,000 acres from 2024. Some sites maybe had better control, or they were short staffed in an area which could have also contributed to less acres sprayed. They do address complaints when they are called in. For 2026, staff and equipment are looking good, and they are gearing up for the summer work.
- School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield – talked about the large-scale grasshopper spraying program a couple years ago, and when alerted, they respond to any issues they know of.
- Department of Transportation Representative Christina Bennett – They spent \$982,546.50 on weed control, with most of it for state highway rights-of-ways, just over \$200,000 was for interstate, as well as intends to get proposals for control on certain areas for state owned railroad. The current timekeeping system allows them to track costs by function coded and people, but they hope to map where they have sprayed in the future with another program they will implement. Part of their funding comes from vehicle registrations which are currently down.
- SDSU Representative Eric Jones reported that they have a new department head Dr. Karen Sanguinet, who started around July. Graig Reicks is the Extension Weed Ecologist, who started about one year ago. His other updates will be in his report coming up.
- SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Representative Bill Smith was unable to be at the meeting so Brenda Sievers gave a short report on department activities and legislation.
- CAPS– Grace Bedford gave an update on Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey activities. For 2026, there will be a small grain survey and she is looking for fields for survey work. Grace encouraged those counties that may know of small grain fields to survey to reach out to her so those fields could be potentially surveyed.
- Bio-Control – Jeremiah Phelps reported that we no longer have federal funding for yellow toadflax, so there will be limited work done for that. The department does plan to continue with leafy spurge bug collections

Chairman Kurtenbach announced it was time for the public comment period. No comments were received.

Weed & Pest Competitive Grant Reports from FY2026 were given by the following:

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-C26-1	SDSU Extension Service	Weed Management	Eric	Jones	Investigating New Herbicide Mixtures & Application Methods
WP-C26-2	Assn of SD	Co. W/P Bds	Gary	Pribyl	2025 Awareness Project

Chairman Kurtenbach declared a break at 10:02 am. The meeting was reconvened at 10:30 am.

WP-C26-4	Brown	Co.W/P Bd	Chris	Hemen	Yellow Toadflax Biological Control
WP-C26-5	Brown	Co.W/P Bd	Chris	Hemen	Yellow Toadflax Mapping and Spot Spraying Project
WP-C26-6	Pennington	Co.W/P Bd	Scott	Guffey	Absinth Wormwood and Common Tansy Reduction Project
WP-C26-9	Deuel	Co.W/P Bd	Keith	Goens	Eradication of Common Mullein

FY2027 Regular Weed & Pest Grant Applications - \$350,000 divided amongst qualifying applicants

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-27-1	Minnehaha	Co.W/P Bd	Jason	McCubbin	Chemical
WP-27-2	Pennington	Co.W/P Bd	Scott	Guffey	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-27-3	Brown	Co.W/P Bd	Chris	Hemen	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Educational/Promotional
WP-27-4	Beadle **	Co.W/P Bd	David	Jensen	Chemical
WP-27-5	Codington	Co.W/P Bd	Steve	Molengraaf	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Spray Equipment Updates
WP-27-6	Brookings	Co.W/P Bd	Misty	Moser	Chemical
WP-27-7	Yankton	Co.W/P Bd	Jim	Liebsch	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-27-8	Davison	Co.W/P Bd	Tyler	Page	Chemical, Equipment
WP-27-9	Lawrence	Co.W/P Bd	David	Heck	Chemical
WP-27-10	Aurora	Co.W/P Bd	Skyler	Kehn	Chemical
WP-27-11	Bennett	Co.W/P Bd	Troy	Kuxhaus	Chemical, Spray Equipment, Educational
WP-27-12	Bon Homme	Co.W/P Bd	Jon	Vilhauer	Chemical
WP-27-13	Brule	Co.W/P Bd	Mike	Schlaffman	Chemical
WP-27-14	Buffalo	Co.W/P Bd	Lee	Sinkie	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Newspaper and Radio Ads, Update Spray Equipment, Informational Mtgs
WP-27-15	Butte	Co.W/P Bd	Dwayne	Heidrich	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor
WP-27-16	Campbell	Co.W/P Bd	Kyle	Rossow	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Equipment, Supplies
WP-27-17	Charles Mix	Co.W/P Bd	Josh	Rouse	Chemical
WP-27-18	Clark	Co.W/P Bd	Brian	Jenkins	Chemical, Spray Equipment Updates, Advertising
WP-27-19	Clay	Co.W/P Bd	Corey	Doherty	Chemical

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-27-20	Corson	Co.W/P Bd	Craig	Hunter	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Equipment Updates, Public Education
WP-27-21	Custer	Co.W/P Bd	Mike	Baldwin	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Bio Control, Cost Share with Landowners, Education, Update Equipment
WP-27-22	Day	Co.W/P Bd	Jordan	Schmieg	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Equipment
WP-27-23	Deuel	Co.W/P Bd	Keith	Goens	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Equipment Updates
WP-27-25	Douglas	Co.W/P Bd	Kim	Klein	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Equipment Repairs/Updates, Advertising
WP-27-26	Edmunds	Co.W/P Bd	Mike	Jager	Chemical
WP-27-27	Fall River	Co.W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Upgrade Equipment, Educational/Promotional Materials
WP-27-28	Faulk	Co.W/P Bd	Aimee	Law, Auditor	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-27-29	Grant	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Mueller	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Application Equipment
WP-27-30	Gregory	Co.W/P Bd	John	Jensen	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Newspaper Ads
WP-27-31	Haakon	Co.W/P Bd	Virgil	Smith	Chemical, Update Equipment
WP-27-32	Hamlin	Co.W/P Bd	John Cody	Michalski	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-27-33	Hand	Co.W/P Bd	Randy	Peck	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-27-35	Harding	Co.W/P Bd	Misty	Koan	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-27-36	Hughes	Co.W/P Bd	Joe	Boxley	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-27-37	Hutchinson	Co.W/P Bd	Clifford	Tjaden	Contractual Labor
WP-27-38	Hyde	Co.W/P Bd	Dave	Tatum	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Sprayer Updates, Education
WP-27-39	Jackson **	Co.W/P Bd	Dennis	Lottman	Chemical, Personnel, Fuel
WP-27-40	Jerauld	Co.W/P Bd	Ann	Scheel	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Spray Equipment Updates
WP-27-42	Kingsbury	Co.W/P Bd	Tanya	Flegel	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Supplies, Educational
WP-27-44	Lincoln	Co.W/P Bd	Terry	Fluit	Chemical
WP-27-46	McCook	Co.W/P Bd	Geralyn	Sherman	Chemical, Publish Notices
WP-27-47	McPherson	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Hoffman	Chemical, Sprayer Updates
WP-27-49	Meade	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Jagim	Chemical
WP-27-51	Miner	Co.W/P Bd	Kent	Terwilliger	Chemical
WP-27-52	Moody	Co.W/P Bd	Tim	Ullom	Chemical
WP-27-53	Perkins	Co.W/P Bd	Loyson	Carda	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Promotional/Educational Material
WP-27-55	Roberts	Co.W/P Bd	Tammy	Johnson	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-27-56	Sanborn	Co.W/P Bd	Shari	Kogel	Chemical, Labor, Parts, Supplies
WP-27-57	Spink	Co.W/P Bd	Jeff	Haessig	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Promotional Items
WP-27-58	Stanley	Co.W/P Bd	Lee	Smith	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-27-59	Sully	Co.W/P Bd	Paula	Barber	Chemical, Educational
WP-27-60	Tripp	Co.W/P Bd	Duane	Wetzel	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-27-61	Turner	Co.W/P Bd	Brad	Georgeson	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor
WP-27-62	Union	Co.W/P Bd	Shawn	Tabke	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Promotional Materials
WP-27-63	Walworth	Co.W/P Bd	Tom	Hanman	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Equipment Repair, Educational Materials

** Does not qualify for grant – did not meet postmark deadline – Commission decided to not allow at December 2025 Meeting

Competitive Grants FY2027 - \$150,000 available for grants

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-C27-1	Assn of SD	Co. W/P Bds	Gary	Pribyl	2026 Public Awareness Project
WP-C27-2	Hyde	Co. W/P Bd	Dave	Tatum	Hyde County Houndstongue Control Project
WP-C27-3	Butte	Co.W/P Bd	Dwayne	Heidrich	Gravel Pit & Material Stock Pile Weed Control Project
WP-C27-4	Fall River	Co.W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	Salt Cedar & Leafy Spurge Round Up - Fall River County
WP-C27-5	Fall River	Co.W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	The Fall River County "Insider - Edition II" - Educational Booklet
WP-C27-6	Brown	Co.W/P Bd	Chris	Heman	Yellow Toadflax Mapping & Spot Spray Project
WP-C27-7	SDSU Extension Service	Weed Mgmt	Eric	Jones	Improving Noxious Weed Mgmt w/Historical Data & Under Utilized Herbicides
WP-C27-8	Pennington	Co. W/P Bd	Scott	Guffey	Pennington County Spotted Knapweed & Oxeye Daisy Reduction Project
WP-C27-9	Jackson **	Co.W/P Bd	Denny	Lottman	Weed Control County Road Right Away

** Does not qualify for grant – did not meet postmark deadline – Commission decided to not allow at December 2025 Meeting

Discussion was held on the Committee recommendation for funding for the FY2027 grants.

A motion was made by Darren Bauer to approve funding the FY2027 regular/contractual grants as presented. Seconded by Deb Schultz. Roll Call: Anderson – yes; Bauer – yes; Bennett – yes; Feickert – yes; Greenfield – yes; Schultz – yes; Verhulst – yes; Wendinger – yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dennis Feickert to approve funding the FY2027 competitive grants, as recommended by the grant committee. Seconded by Brock Greenfield. Roll Call: Anderson – yes; Bauer – yes; Bennett – yes; Feickert – yes; Greenfield – yes; Schultz – yes; Verhulst – yes; Wendinger – yes. Motion carried.

The Competitive Grants were funded as follows:

- WP-C27-1 – Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards – \$55,000 - 2026 Awareness Project
- WP-C27-2 – Hyde County Weed & Pest Board - \$8,500 – Hyde County Houndstongue Control Project
- WP-C27-5 – Fall River County Weed & Pest Board - \$1,500 – The Fall River County “Insider – Edition II” Educational Booklet
- WP-C27-6 – Brown County Weed & Pest Board - \$1,000 – Yellow Toadflax Mapping & Spot Spray Project

WP-C27-7 – SDSU Extension Service Weed Management – \$50,298 – Improving Noxious Weed Management with Historical Data & Under-Utilized Herbicides

WP-C27-8 – Pennington County Weed & Pest Board - \$8,000 – Pennington County Spotted Knapweed & Oxeye Daisy

Discussion was held on dates for the next meeting. The next meeting will be April 20 at 10:30 am, at the Matthews Training Center at the Foss Building in Pierre.

Chuck Anderson made a motion to approve the bills for this meeting, Weed and Pest Conference and the review committee meeting. Seconded by Brock Greenfield. Roll Call: Anderson – yes; Bauer – yes; Bennett – yes; Feickert – yes; Greenfield – yes; Schultz – yes; Verhulst – yes; Wendinger – yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Kurtenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Darwin W. Kurtenbach, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)