

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ANNUAL WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING 2
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 1:30 pm CT
Crossroads Hotel & Huron Event Center, Huron, SD

Chairman Darwin Kurtenbach called the meeting to order at 1:32 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 (SPL) 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 Ryan Wendinger. Motion carried.

Chairman Kurtenbach asked for any changes to the minutes from the September 10, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Brock Greenfield to approve the minutes. Seconded by Bruce Helbig. 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**

- Beadle County – Bull Thistle (R)
- Clark County – Musk & Plumeless Thistle (N), Field Bindweed (N)
- Custer County – Black Henbane (R), Houndstongue (N)
- Edmunds County – Palmer Amaranth (R)
- Fall River County – Common Mullein (R), Houndstongue (R)
- Hyde County – Bull Thistle (R), Houndstongue (R), Palmer Amaranth (R)
- Minnehaha County – Bull Thistle (N), Musk & Plumeless Thistles (N)
- Pennington County - Houndstongue (R), Japanese Beetle (R)
- Potter County – Palmer Amaranth (R), Yellow Toadflax (N)
- Spink County – Yellow Toadflax (R)

Discussion was held on the locally noxious weed requests. Brock Greenfield made a motion to approve the locally noxious requests listed. Seconded by Ryan Wendinger. Motion carried.

The Weed and Pest Coordinator Report was given by Brenda Sievers. The department updated Weed and Pest Manual and distributed copies to the weed supervisors at the morning training. The manuals hadn't been updated for many years with an actual printed copy and jump drives of the information were also handed out. Weed and Pest Staff set up and assisted at the Association of SD County Weed and Pest Board booths at Sioux Falls Farm Show, Black Hills Stock Show, and Watertown Farm Show. Emerald ash borer was found in Brookings last summer which extended our quarantine, and it was also found in North Dakota about 70 miles north of Aberdeen.

Jeremiah Phelps, Weed and Pest Program Specialist, has been compiling the annual, fiscal and inspection summary reports sent in. All counties that applied for grants did get their reports in. He also reported on shows he assisted at.

District reports were given by:

District 2 Representative Darwin Kurtenbach – he assisted at Sioux Falls Farm Show and the Black Hills Stock Show, answering many questions.

District 3 Representative Bruce Helbig – talked about the red seed head weevil in sunflowers, grasshoppers affecting people and the multi-county annual weed meeting last March that was well received.

District 4 Representative Chuck Anderson – last year had good moisture but then dried up, grasshoppers were sprayed privately.

Agency reports were given by:

School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield – talked about the grasshopper history of spraying starting about two years ago which ended up being 11 times bigger than anticipated, SPL were sprayed by lessees, many benefited since a large area worked together, Mike Cornelison has been with SPL office for 46 years.

SDSU Representative Eric Jones reported that Graig Reicks has been hired as the Extension Weed Ecology Field Specialist. He will be in Brookings and will assist with field trials and other program duties.

Department of Transportation Representative Christina Bennett – for FY2025 they have spent about \$873,000, with 80% going on non-interstate highway ditches, with the remaining 20% going toward the interstates. March and April are bid lettings for weed spray contracts and there are typically 36-40 contracts.

Game, Fish and Parks Representative Ryan Wendinger – sprayed about 11,000 acres in 2024, they have 725 game production areas across the state, amounting to 290,000 acres to control in the Wildlife Division, there are another 100,000 acres in the Parks Division. There were about 60,000 acres that were grazed, hayed or burned in 2024. There are some concerns with the drought monitor for spring control but have hired a lot of their seasonal positions.

SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Representative Bill Smith - reported on late fall pockets of mountain pine beetle in the Black Hills. The Conservation Commission will have an upcoming grant round at their next meeting. Bill reported on the legislative session currently taking place and the two bills his division is tracking. Bill answered a question on how many dollars the Conservation Commission grants out. Each year they have \$500,000 available to grant out but have had a growing balance and must meet the requirements of the coordinated plan for natural resources conservation. Districts must provide approximately 50% local match with a minimum 25% landowner match, and other state or federal money doesn't count toward the match. Bill also answered questions on the Ips beetle and if there are control programs for landowners.

CAPS/Bio Control – Jeremiah Phelps reported surveying the *Rhinusa pilosa*, for yellow toadflax with galls found in Brown County. Due to a mechanical issue at the rearing site that killed off the insects, no releases were received last fall. Brenda Sievers reported the status of the federal funding for CAPS programs is unknown at the present time, but one intern has been hired, and work will proceed if funding becomes available. The State Survey Coordinator position has been hired and will start in June.

Harding County's regular/contractual grant application didn't arrive at the Department. Harding County Weed Supervisor Misty Koan put together a letter explaining when she had mailed the application and asked the Commission to allow her county's grant since she hadn't missed a deadline in her 12 years with Harding County. A motion made by Bruce Helbig, seconded by Ryan Wendinger, to accept Harding County's grant application. Motion carried.

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

Weed & Pest Competitive Grant Reports from FY2025 were given on the following:

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-C25-1	Hyde	Co. W/P Bd	Dave	Tatum	Houndstongue Control in Shelterbelts
WP-C25-2	Fall River	Co. W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	Baby's Breath Control Assistance
WP-C25-3	Fall River	Co. W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	Common Mullein Assistance Project
WP-C25-5	Davison	Co. W/P Bd	Tyler	Page	Yellow Bluestem Control Project
WP-C25-6	Clay	Co. W/P Bd	Corey	Doherty	Scout/Map/Treat Purple Loosestrife & Other Noxious Weeds Along Missouri River
WP-C25-7	Assn of SD	Co. W/P Bds	Gary	Pribyl	2024 Awareness Project

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-C25-8	Pennington	Co. W/P Bd	Scott	Guffey	Cheyenne River Watershed Management Project
WP-C25-9	Brown	Co. W/P Bd	Chris	Hemen	Yellow Toadflax Biological Control
WP-C25-10	SDSU Extension Service	Weed Management	Eric	Jones	Implementation of Novel Herbicide Mixtures & Application Methods for Noxious Weed Control
WP-C25-11	Meade	Co. W/P Bd	Nathan	Jagim	Meade County Tamarix Project

A break was declared at 3:45 pm. The meeting reconvened at 4 pm, with Brown County, SDSU and Meade County giving their reports.

FY2026 Regular Weed & Pest Grant Applications - \$300,000 divided amongst qualifying applicants

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-26-1	Minnehaha	Co.W/P Bd	Jason	McCubbin	Chemical
WP-26-2	Pennington	Co.W/P Bd	Scott	Guffey	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-26-3	Brown	Co.W/P Bd	Chris	Hemen	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Radio Ads, Booth
WP-26-4	Beadle	Co.W/P Bd	David	Jensen	Chemical
WP-26-5	Codington	Co.W/P Bd	Steve	Molengraaf	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Spray Equipment Updates
WP-26-6	Brookings	Co.W/P Bd	Misty	Moser	Chemical
WP-26-7	Yankton	Co.W/P Bd	Jim	Liebsch	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-26-8	Davison	Co.W/P Bd	Tyler	Page	Chemical, Equipment
WP-26-9	Lawrence	Co.W/P Bd	David	Heck	Chemical
WP-26-10	Aurora	Co.W/P Bd	Skyler	Kehn	Chemical
WP-26-11	Bennett *	Co.W/P Bd	Troy	Kuxhaus	Chemical, Spray Equipment
WP-26-12	Bon Homme	Co.W/P Bd	Walt	Rentsch	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Equipment Upgrades
WP-26-13	Brule	Co.W/P Bd	Mike	Schlaffman	Chemical
WP-26-14	Buffalo	Co.W/P Bd	Lee	Sinkie	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Newspaper and Radio Ads, Update Spray Equipment, Informational Mtgs
WP-26-15	Butte	Co.W/P Bd	Dwayne	Heidrich	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor
WP-26-16	Campbell	Co.W/P Bd	Kyle	Rossow	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Equipment
WP-26-17	Charles Mix	Co.W/P Bd	Josh	Rouse	Chemical
WP-26-18	Clark	Co.W/P Bd	Brian	Jenkins	Chemical, Spray Equipment Updates
WP-26-19	Clay	Co.W/P Bd	Corey	Doherty	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-26-20	Corson	Co.W/P Bd	Chris	Lynch	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Promotional/Education, GPS Mapping
WP-26-21	Custer	Co.W/P Bd	Mike	Baldwin	Chemical, Bio Control, Cost Share with Landowners, Education
WP-26-22	Day	Co.W/P Bd	Travis	Larson	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Equipment
WP-26-23	Deuel	Co.W/P Bd	Keith	Goens	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Equipment Updates

GRANT #	COUNTY	ORGANZTN	FRSTNM	LASTNAME	PROJECT
WP-26-25	Douglas	Co.W/P Bd	Kim	Klein	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Equipment Repairs/Updates, Advertising
WP-26-26	Edmunds	Co.W/P Bd	Mike	Jager	Chemical
WP-26-27	Fall River	Co.W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	Chemical, Upgrade Equipment, Educational/Promotional Materials
WP-26-28	Faulk	Co.W/P Bd	Aimee	Law, Auditor	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-26-29	Grant	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Mueller	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Application Equipment
WP-26-30	Gregory	Co.W/P Bd	John	Jensen	Chemical, Newspaper Ads
WP-26-31	Haakon	Co.W/P Bd	Virgil	Smith	Chemical, Update Equipment
WP-26-32	Hamlin	Co.W/P Bd	John Cody	Michalski	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-26-33	Hand	Co.W/P Bd	Randy	Peck	Chemical, Seasonal Labor
WP-26-35	Harding	Co.W/P Bd	Misty	Koan	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Equipment Updates
WP-26-36	Hughes	Co.W/P Bd	Joe	Boxley	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-26-37	Hutchinson	Co.W/P Bd	Clifford	Tjaden	Contractual Labor
WP-26-40	Jerauld **	Co.W/P Bd	James	Reiner	Chemical
WP-26-42	Kingsbury	Co.W/P Bd	Tanya	Flegel	Chemical, Contractual Labor, Educational
WP-26-44	Lincoln	Co.W/P Bd	Terry	Fluit	Chemical
WP-26-46	McCook	Co.W/P Bd	Geralyn	Sherman	Chemical, Publish Notices
WP-26-47	McPherson	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Hoftman	Chemical, Geo-Reference Areas
WP-26-48	Marshall	Co.W/P Bd	Monte	Hoglund	Chemical
WP-26-49	Meade	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Jagim	Chemical
WP-26-51	Miner	Co.W/P Bd	Kent	Terwilliger	Chemical
WP-26-52	Moody	Co.W/P Bd	Tim	Ullom	Chemical
WP-26-53	Perkins	Co.W/P Bd	Brenda	Kari	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Promotional/Educational Material
WP-26-54	Potter	Co.W/P Bd	Brad	Saltsman	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-26-55	Roberts	Co.W/P Bd	Tammy	Johnson	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-26-56	Sanborn	Co.W/P Bd	Shari	Kogel	Chemical, Labor, Parts, Supplies
WP-26-57	Spink	Co.W/P Bd	Jeff	Haessig	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor, Promotional Items
WP-26-58	Stanley *	Co.W/P Bd	Lee	Smith	Chemical, Contractual Labor
WP-26-59	Sully	Co.W/P Bd	Paula	Barber	Chemical, Advertising
WP-26-60	Tripp	Co.W/P Bd	Duane	Wetzel	Chemical
WP-26-61	Turner	Co.W/P Bd	Brad	Georgeson	Chemical, Seasonal/Contractual Labor
WP-26-62	Union	Co.W/P Bd	Shawn	Tabke	Chemical, Seasonal Labor, Educational Booth

* Does not qualify for grant – no attendance at Supervisor's Training

** Does not qualify for grant – did not meet postmark deadline

Competitive Grants FY2026 - \$200,000 available for grants

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
WP-C26-3	Fall River	Co.W/P Bd	Nina	Steinmetz	Salt Cedar - Fall River County
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-C26-7	Butte	Co.W/P Bd	Clint	Pitts	Belle Fourche River/Whitewood Creek Riparian Weed Survey & Control Project
WP-C26-8	Codington/Clark	Conservation Districts	Deanna	Kunkel	Codington/Clark Mowing Cooperative
WP-C26-9	Deuel	Co.W/P Bd	Keith	Goens	Eradication of Common Mullein
WP-C26-10	Meade	Co.W/P Bd	Nathan	Jagim	Meade County Tamarix Project

Discussion was held on the Committee recommendation for funding for the FY2026 grants. Sievers reported there were two counties that did not sign in and were not present for Supervisor's Training, so would not be eligible to receive funds, per the grant criteria.

A motion was made by Ryan Wendinger to approve funding the FY2026 regular/contractual grants as presented, with the adjustments as needed for those counties that weren't at the Supervisor's Training. Seconded by Bruce Helbig. Motion carried.

Extended discussion was held on the competitive grant funding and the Committee recommendation for that funding.

Ryan Wendinger made a motion to accept the Committee recommendations for funding the FY2026 competitive grants. Seconded by Brock Greenfield. After dissenting votes, Chairman Kurtenbach asked for a show of hands on the vote. Yes – Bennett, Greenfield and Wendinger. No – Helbig, Anderson. Motion carried.

The Competitive Grants were funded as follows:

- WP-C26-1 – SDSU Extension Service - \$50,000 – Investigating New Herbicide Mixtures and Application Methods
- WP-C26-2 – Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards - \$55,000 – 2025 Awareness Project
- WP-C26-4 – Brown County Weed & Pest Board - \$2,000 – Yellow Toadflax Biological Control
- WP-C26-5 – Brown County Weed & Pest Board - \$1,000 – Yellow Toadflax Mapping and Spot Spraying Project
- WP-C26-6 – Pennington County Weed & Pest Board - \$10,000 – Absinth Wormwood and Common Tansy Reduction Project
- WP-C26-9 – Deuel County Weed & Pest Board - \$3,100 – Eradication of Common Mullein

Discussion was held on competitive grant criteria to potentially better clarify qualifications and length of funding, including ongoing funding for some grants. Chairman Kurtenbach asked the Commission members to bring ideas to the April Commission meeting to have a discussion and possibly put together a committee to look at the grant criteria.

Discussion was held on dates for the next meeting. The next meeting will be April 9 at 1 pm, in Pierre. Location to be determined.

Bruce Helbig made a motion to approve the bills for this meeting, Weed and Pest Conference and the review committee meeting. Seconded by Brock Greenfield. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brock Greenfield, seconded by Bruce Helbig, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Kurtenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Darwin W. Kurtenbach, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)

DRAFT