

MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION
September 10, 2019 – 1 pm MT
Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Rapid City, SD

Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM, September 10, 2019.

Members Present: Chairman Lynn Deibert, Commissioners Ron Thyen, Floyd Muntefering, Duane Buckmeier, and Craig Magedanz; Department of Transportation representative Tony Ondricek, Association of County Commissioners Representative Neil VonEschen, Game Fish & Parks Representative Paul Coughlin and School & Public Lands Representative Ryan Brunner (on phone).

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.

Also present were those listed on Exhibit #1.

Introduction of Commission members was held.

Chairman Deibert asked for any changes to the agenda. Chairman Deibert asked to put Virgil Smith on the agenda under old business. A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Ron Thyen, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert asked for any changes to the minutes from the April meeting. A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Ron Thyen, to approve the minutes from the April 23rd meeting. Motion carried.

Activity Reports

Department of Agriculture

Brenda Sievers gave an update on the seed program changes that included adding palmer amaranth as a prohibited noxious weed seed. Steve Jonas was introduced as the Weed and Pest Program Specialist and he would be presenting the Russian knapweed information that he had been working on.

Steve Jonas introduced himself to the Commission.

District Reports

District reports were given by Floyd Muntefering, District 2 – it was wet in his area and there's a lot of prevent plant acres; Lynn Deibert, District 3 – wet in his area but not as bad as some other areas and there is also a lot of prevent plant acres; Craig Magedanz, At Large – it is wet in his area and they have discovered spotted knapweed too; Duane Buckmeier, District 4 – there's a lot of spurge and Canada thistle, currently working on prairie dogs, and a lot of wheat isn't worth harvesting due to toxicity and no feed value; and Ron Thyen, District 1 – there's a lot of prevent plant acres in his area, as well as an increase in marestalk, Canada thistle and wormwood sage, due to moisture they couldn't get pasture spraying done and only about 2/3 of the county was planted.

Association of County Commissioners

Neil VonEschen reported that only about 50% of the crops were put in and not much spraying was completed.

Game Fish & Parks

Paul Coughlin reported they are trying to overcome challenges with the water and are hoping to fall spray.

Department of Transportation

Tony Ondricek reported \$1.3 million of spraying had been completed out of the \$1.4 million contracted out.

Department of Agriculture

Tom Gere reported about 14 alleged dicamba cases were investigated this season and other states were down on dicamba cases as well; an industrial hemp summer study was held this summer; and looking toward the legislative session – there may be a bill introduced to require liability insurance.

School & Public Lands

Ryan Brunner reported that they continue as they have done for about 15 years to cost share with lessees on herbicides; and they have not had as many prairie dog complaints this year.

SDSU

Paul Johnson talked about losing grounds on noxious weeds this year. He introduced Doug Pavel with Butte Vista Farm at Whitewood, who gave a presentation on the challenges they have faced with Chicory on their organic farm. Paul had some test plots at the farm, but due to the tour schedule and distance we wouldn't be able to look at.

CAPS

Brenda gave the bio control report for Mike Stenson, who was unable to be at the Commission Meeting. Dale Anderson reported on the pest survey work that had been completed.

USDA APHIS-PPQ

Brenda announced that Amy Mesman is now the State Plant Health Director for both North and South Dakota.

Public Comment Period

Chairman Deibert opened the meeting for public comments. Doug Pavel brought up his website information for the group. Virgil Smith talked in Public Comments rather than in Old Business about his salt cedar grant and his concerns on completing the competitive grant he received in February 2019. If he doesn't complete the grant, he will ask to be on the February 2020 meeting agenda. Chairman Deibert mentioned palmer amaranth was found in Hyde County at the request of Dave Tatum, Hyde County Weed Supervisor.

Old Business

Dakotafest Update

Steve Jonas, Brenda Sievers and Gary Pribyl gave reports on comments and questions received.

Brown County Fair Update

Steve Jonas and Brenda Sievers (reporting for Mike Stenson) talked about the questions and comments heard at the Brown County Fair.

State Fair Update

Paul Johnson talked about the good crowds at State Fair. Wild cucumber was featured due to the volume of questions on it this summer.

State Noxious Weed Discussion

There was extensive discussion on the current statewide noxious weeds. Steve presented information on Russian Knapweed and the acres reported by counties in 2018. Many of those counties were unsure of the acres that had been reported since they hadn't been able to find any this year.

There was also discussion on Absinth Wormwood and that 41 counties currently have it listed as a locally noxious weed.

A motion was made by Ron Thyen, seconded by Neil VonEschen, to have a rules hearing at the April 2020 Weed & Pest Commission Meeting to add Absinth Wormwood to the statewide noxious weed list, remove Russian Knapweed from the statewide noxious weed list, and remove Absinth Wormwood from the locally noxious weed list. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert announced a break at 3:10 pm.

Chairman Deibert declared the break over at 3:30 pm.

New Business

Weed & Pest Conference/District Meetings

Gary Pribyl with the Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards went over the dates for the 2020 Weed and Pest Conference, which will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Aberdeen on February 19, 20 & 21. Topics that have been suggested are mapping, specialty crops, bees, promotional/inspirational speaker, soil salinity, and organic crops.

The District Weed Meetings are –

District 4, October 29 in Rapid City

District 3, October 30 in Pierre

District 1, November 6 in Brookings

District 2, November 7 in Mitchell

Grant Criteria for FY2020

The grant criteria for the FY2021 fiscal year was discussed. The Commission has \$450,000 for spending authority, which is a reduction of \$200,000 from the last approximate 5 years. The fund balance had been high, which initially prompted the extra funds to be granted out since around FY2012. Now that the fund balance has been spent down, the amount available for grants must be reduced. A motion was made by Craig Magedanz, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, to have \$230,000 available in regular/contractual county grants and \$220,000 available for competitive grants, for a total of \$450,000 available to be granted out. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Neil VonEschen, seconded by Ron Thyen, to keep the grant criteria the same as it was last year. (In the event that a county or counties don't qualify for funding, the remaining funds will be divided equally to the nearest \$100, amongst those remaining counties that have met the requirements, without exceeding spending authority.) Motion carried.

Chairman Lynn Deibert appointed the following to the grant committee to go over the grants and make a recommendation to the Commission at the February meeting: Paul Johnson, Duane Buckmeier, Paul Coughlin, Lynn Deibert, and a Department of Ag Representative.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Craig Magedanz, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, to pay the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for meetings attended. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)