

MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION
September 15, 2021 – 1 pm CT
McCrary Gardens
631 22nd Ave., Brookings, SD

Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM, September 15, 2021.

Members Present: Chairman Lynn Deibert, Commissioners Darwin Kurtenbach, Craig Magedanz, and Duane Buckmeier; Department of Transportation representative Tony Ondricek; Game Fish & Parks Representative Paul Coughlin; SD Association of County Commissioners Representative Brenda Hanten; and School & Public Lands Representative Ryan Brunner.

Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members Present: Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources Representative Bill Smith, SDSU representative Paul Johnson, and Commission Secretary/Plant Industry Program Manager Brenda Sievers.

Also present were those listed on Exhibit #1.

A motion was made by Brenda Hanten, seconded by Craig Magedanz, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert asked for any changes to the minutes from the April meeting. Hearing no changes, the Chairman declared the minutes approved as presented.

Activity Reports

Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Brenda Sievers gave an update on programs. We've had several noxious weed complaints this year, including those weeds that got above the short freeze damaged grass this spring, which provoked a lot more calls than usual. The drought has been challenging, but with the fall moisture, now presents an excellent opportunity to fall spray, since plants are actively growing again.

Jeremiah Phelps reported on the new weed supervisors in several counties across the state.

District Reports

District reports were given by Duane Buckmeier, District 4 – reported landowners are working on prairie dogs; Darwin Kurtenbach, District 2 – attended a leafy spurge bio control collection near Meckling this summer and has seen Canada thistle all over this year; Craig Magedanz, At Large – attended the June Sica Hollow Native Plant Tour, noting it was very interesting, he has also found snow-on-the-mountain in his area and fall spraying would be good this year; and Lynn Deibert, District 3 – his area has been really dry, though they had three inches of rain in just the last three weeks so things are looking like spring, yellow toadflax spots are up this year, there will be some corn and a lot of silage in his area, but some areas near Aberdeen received hail.

Association of County Commissioners

Brenda Hanten reported that counties and townships should get their small structures inventoried, since funding will be based off that; and Codington County has put together a medical cannabis ordinance.

Department of Transportation

Tony Ondricek reported on weed spraying and the dollars spent not only by utilizing their own sprayers, but also with contract sprayers as well.

School & Public Lands

Ryan Brunner reported they are working on prairie dogs and contractors on control. He also reported on the Weed & Pest Fund Reserve and possibly turning funds back to the Weed & Pest Fund that funds the grants.

Game Fish & Parks

Paul Coughlin reported that control efforts are up but not many more complaints. They have seen an increase in prairie dog calls.

SDSU

Paul Johnson reported that the grass didn't grow in the spring, but the weeds did. With the haying that has taken place especially with CRP getting released, there are lots of thistles in those areas. He said the noxious and range and pasture guides are updated.

Department of Agriculture

Bill Smith reported the Emerald Ash Borer flight period is now over. He has been working on the Riparian Buffer Initiative with 3000 acres of buffers. He updated the group on openings and new hires within the division, and about Conservation Commission Meeting planned for Spearfish.

CAPS

Jeremiah Phelps gave the bio control report, talking about new site for yellow toadflax, 40 releases for poison hemlock, three public collections for leafy spurge, eleven releases of *larinus* for spotted knapweed, and the new bio agent *Rhinusa pilosa* to be released in Brown County for yellow toadflax. Dale Anderson reported on the CAPS surveys, with traps still to collect. So far karnal bunt samples were negative. Japanese beetles were found in traps around Mitchell, and Rapid City had low numbers. Gypsy moth traps have produced one positive so far and most traps for the pest detection work were collected.

USDA APHIS-PPQ

Mike Stenson reported on the grasshopper surveys in western South Dakota. On the national level, cuts are proposed to the grasshopper program. Gypsy moth mail out trap program was conducted again this year.

Public Comment Period

Chairman Deibert opened the meeting for public comments. Tom Hedrick was asked about chemical prices, and Paul Johnson talked about shortages of fertilizer on the horizon.

Chairman Deibert declared a break at 1:54 pm. Business resumed at 2:20 pm.

Old Business

DakotaFest

Jeremiah and Brenda provided updates on the show. Gary Pribyl stated there were 164 registration received. Brenda and Paul did TV ads with Ag Week on noxious weed control.

Brown County Fair

Jeremiah and Brenda reported good foot traffic at the Fair. 74 people signed up for the giveaway.

State Fair Update

Paul Johnson reported that though the first day had rain, the booth was busy when people came into the building. There were 560 people who signed up at the registration box, with 350 of those completed properly.

New Business

Grant Criteria for FY2023

The grant criteria for the FY2023 fiscal year was discussed. The Commission has \$450,000 for spending authority. A motion was made by Darwin Kurtenbach, seconded by Ryan Brunner, 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 Craig Magedanz, seconded by Duane Buckmeier, to leave the grant criteria the same as 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: Ryan Brunner, Craig Magedanz, Paul Johnson, Paul Coughlin, and a Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Representative.

Weed & Pest Conference/District Meetings

Gary Pribyl with the Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards went over the meeting dates.

The District Weed Meetings are –

- District 4, October 26 in Rapid City
- District 3, October 27 in Pierre
- District 1, November 3 in Redfield
- District 2, November 4 in Mitchell

The 2022 Weed and Pest Conference will be held at the Ramada at Mitchell on February 17 & 18th. The Commission Meeting and Supervisor's Training will be held on February 16th. The Association is asking for any suggestions for speakers.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Darwin Kurtenbach, seconded by Paul Coughlin, to pay the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for meetings attended. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)

DRAFT