

MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

**Moose Lodge Room, AmericInn
Chamberlain, SD**

Chairman Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM, September 9, 2014. Present were Chairman Deibert, Vice-Chairman Floyd Muntefering, and Commissioners Ron Thyen, Dale Patterson, Game Fish & Parks representative Paul Coughlin; SD Department of Transportation representative Jason Humphrey; SD School and Public Lands representative Ryan Brunner; and Association of County Commissioners representative Ronald Boone; Non-Voting Members - SD Department of Agriculture representative Trudy Wastweet; and SDSU representative Darrell Deneke; and Commission Secretary Brenda Sievers. (Exhibit #1)

Dale Patterson made a motion, seconded by Ron Thyen, to approve the agenda (Exhibit #2) as presented. Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 9, 2014, meeting was presented. Ron Thyen made a motion, seconded by Floyd Muntefering to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2014, meeting. Motion carried.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

SD Department of Agriculture – Deputy Secretary of Agriculture – Trudy Wastweet

In the absence of Brandon Beshears, the new Division Director for Agricultural Services, who would be joining the meeting shortly, Trudy gave an overview of the Division of Agricultural Services.

Weed & Pest Coordinator – Brenda Sievers

Brenda talked about the changes that had taken place at the Department. Ron, Mike and Dale would all be giving reports on the projects that the Department has been involved in.

Weed & Pest Supervisor – Ron Moehring

Ron reported that there are currently 7 counties that have no weed supervisor. He also discussed the district meeting dates and topics. Ron is also looking for topic suggestions for the Weed and Pest Conference that will be held in Rapid City in February.

District 1 – Ron Thyen

Ron reported that they started off the spring with cold and wet weather. Ron didn't see as many galls on the Canada Thistle as he had seen in the past. Also, he didn't think there were as many leafy spurge beetles.

District 2 – Floyd Muntefering

Floyd reported there were lots of grasshoppers in his area. Some areas were really wet this spring, but other areas were dry. They had some hail in the area which damaged crops.

District 4 – Dale Patterson

Dale reported that his area was dry early, but they had had rain ever since. The Mountain Pine Beetle is still a problem for his district. There has been hay put up in areas where it hasn't been put up before.

District 3 – Lynn Deibert

Lynn reported that they've had a lot of rain and wheat harvest lasted for five weeks. They also have a lot of grasshoppers. There is some Yellow Toadflax showing up now, but there is lots of grass. Many of the pastures look like they did when they first turned the cows out.

SD Association of County Commissioners – Ronald Boone

Ron stated that he has the County Commissioners Convention next week. Some counties are doing a good job but others aren't. Also, some counties think they can pass the weed responsibility off to the farmer but it doesn't work that way.

SD Department of Transportation – Jason Humphrey

Jason stated that they have had a few complaints about noxious weeds, but they have addressed them. Budgets have been staying consistent. The pheasant nesting habitat report is coming out and there may be some things in there that could affect noxious weed control, such as haying and spraying. These things may need to be addressed in the future. They will try to get contracts out to the counties earlier.

SD School & Public Lands – Ryan Brunner

School and Public Lands currently oversees around 760,000 acres across South Dakota. They currently will purchase herbicides for lessees to control noxious weeds for these acres. They are also in charge of the meandering lakes in the state.

SD Game Fish & Parks – Paul Coughlin

Paul talked about noxious weed complaints and infestations were up this year because of the wet conditions. The grass was tall in many areas and the weeds weren't seen until later.

Survey Updates –Mike Stenson

Mike updated the Commission on work being conducted such as Bio-Control with leafy spurge, alfalfa weevil parasitoid survey, and the purple loosestrife survey in the Northeastern part of the state.

SDSU – Darrell Deneke

Darrell talked about new pocket guides that are available. They are planning a revision this fall for the 525N - Noxious Weed Herbicide Recommendations. Darrell will continue to work with the Noxious Weed program in Range and Pasture, and Paul Johnson will be working in the agronomic crops area. Darrell mentioned a new weed in the pigweed family that may be coming in called palmer amaranth.

SDSU – Paul Johnson

Paul gave an overview of his new duties with as the SDSU Weed Project Coordinator.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Update – Dale Anderson

Dale reported on surveys that are still in progress. Karnal bunt sampling was later due to a late wheat harvest but all samples are negative so far. We are still working on the sorghum and sunflower field surveys and work is continuing with Japanese beetle and gypsy moth. One new survey this year is Barberry.

APHIS – Greg Buntrock

Greg gave an update on grasshoppers. Overall the grasshoppers are down this year. Greg also discussed Emerald Ash Borer and the quarantine process.

SD Department of Agriculture – Brandon Beshears

Brandon Beshears, the new Division Director for Agricultural Services, was introduced to the Commission. Brandon gave some background information and is looking forward to working with the Weed & Pest Control Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Dakotafest Update

Ron Moehring talked about the questions received on various weeds. Darrell mentioned that the Weed Booth was in the same tent as the Association's booth. He thought there was good traffic through the tent.

Brown County Fair Update

Mike Stenson reported that more people attended the Fair than he had seen in the past. Yellow Toadflax was the most asked about weed.

State Fair Update

Darrell Deneke reported that it was one of the best State Fair's that he has seen. There was a lot a good questions this year and there were several people that brought in samples to the Fair to have identified, including annual marshelder.

NEW BUSINESS

CAPS 2015 Project Proposals

Dale reported that proposals have been submitted for 2015 pest detection surveys. He is planning for a retail nursery bundle survey, gypsy moth and karnal bunt. Farm Bill proposals he is planning would include khapra beetle and also a virus survey on grass.

2014 Weed & Pest District Meetings & 2015 Weed & Pest Conference

Gary Pribyl shared the dates and locations of the 2014 District Meetings.

District 1 - Nov. 3 – Stratford

District 4 - Nov. 5 – Rapid City

District 3 - Nov. 6 – Pierre

District 2 - Nov. 7 – Mitchell

The Weed & Pest Conference will be held in Rapid City on February 18, 19 & 20, 2015. Gary also talked about the possible merging of SISMA, Weed & Pest Supervisor's Association and the Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards.

Weed & Pest Grant Criteria / Proposals

Brenda Sievers gave an overview of prior grant criteria and that the Commission has spending authority of \$650,000 for this year.

Ron Thyen made a motion, seconded by Dale Patterson, to have Competitive grants at \$320,000 and to have contractual grants available at \$5000 per county x 66 counties = \$330,000. This includes keeping the requirements as is, including the full contractual grant amount being awarded to counties that meet all attendance requirements with 2 attendees at the Conference; and one half of the full amount of the contractual grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements but only has 1 attendee at the Conference. In addition to the Weed & Pest Conference attendance, two people are required to attend a district meeting and one person is required to attend a training session. In the event that a certain county or counties doesn't receive/qualify for funding, the remaining funds from the Contractual and Competitive grants will be divided amongst the remaining counties that have met the requirements and to divide that funding equally to the nearest \$100, without exceeding spending authority. Motion carried.

The Chairman will appoint a committee to review the grants and present a recommendation to the Commission in February. Grant deadline will be November 21, 2014.

Scott Guffey brought up the idea of adding a rate chart to the competitive grants so if a county decides to do control work themselves, instead of contractual, that they could get reimbursed for using their own equipment. Jason Humphrey, Paul Coughlin and Brenda Sievers will work to get a schedule together to add to the grant criteria.

Discussion was held on indirect costs being allowed on grants. A motion was made by Dale Patterson, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, that the South Dakota Weed and Pest Control Commission will not allow indirect costs on grants.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Paul Coughlin, seconded by Dale Patterson, to pay for the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Paul Coughlin, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)