

FALL RIVER COUNTY WEED & PEST BOARD MEETING

March 7, 2024 Minutes

The Fall River County Weed and Pest Board meeting was called to order by President John Sides at 1:00 PM March 7, 2024 at the Fall River County South Annex meeting room. Attending members were Wayne Hageman, Jill Oechsle, Bob Novotny, and Nina Steinmetz. All motions unanimous unless otherwise stated. Motion to approve the agenda and minutes of the last meeting were made by Wayne Hageman and seconded by Bob Novotny.

Old Business:

Private Applicators Recertification Class was held January 22nd and February 7, 2024 at the Mueller Center and the Hot Springs South Annex. Both class were well attended.

Soil Health Conference as January 23-24, Rapid City. Nina Steinmetz and Wayne Hageman were in attendance. Excellent speakers and their presentation can be seen on www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org for videos.

State Weed and Pest Commission Meeting and Conference, Feb. 21-23, Spearfish, SD was attended by Nina Steinmetz and Wayne Hageman. Grant results are: "Baby's Breath Control Assistance" – Asked for \$10,000 Received: \$2,500 Grant – "Common Mullein Assistance Project: - Asked for \$20,000 Received: \$10,000 and non-competitive W/P grant – Estimated - \$ 5,600. The County was denied the request for Baby's Breath to be added to locally noxious list. Looking at doing emergency declaration. The 2025 Conference will be In Huron, SD February 18 -21, 2025

Report was given on the BH Botany Ecology Workshop in Rapid City, March 1, 2024 – Theme was on invasive grasses, Ventinota and Yellow Little Blue Stem.

New Business:

Rehiring of Ken O. (mechanic/sprayer) \$12.75 and Abbey Ries ,(\$12.75, Sprayer)

Notice of Responsibility to Control Noxious Weeds and Declared Pests will be post by April 1st.

Bob Novotny made the motion to Approve Spray rates for 2024, seconded by Wayne Hageman. John Sides made the motion to include landowners on the Custer County border to be eligible for Fall River County Prairie Dog grant reimbursements.

2024 Projects: Additional mailings of Newsletter –"The Insider "to new, since Fall,- landowners with over 2 acres. Postcards to be mailed for Hoary cress hot spots – Baby's Breath grant. Pasture Walk – have started the planning –June 22 (tentative)- working with Julie Wheeler (Grasslands) Fall Rivrer Extension , NRCS and Conservation District.

Cooperative Agreements and other grants we have received or will be applying for Black Hills Forest Service - \$1900, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands - \$1500, SD Conservation and Forestry - \$ 5,000, Mosquito Surveillance and Fogging - \$10,000

Board members may be interested in: Defending and Growing the core by Breaking the Cycle of Annual Grass Invasion – Virtual Workshop-April 3, 2024 – See flyer

The next meeting will be April 4, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. at the Fall River County Weed and Pest Office/ South Annex. Meeting adjourned.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Nina Steinmetz, Secretary

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