

Commissioners discuss noxious weed department

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

The plans for the noxious weed department were discussed with the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met on Friday.

Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, talked about the future of the department which also includes the eradication of prairie dogs. He said that when he submits a plan to the commissioners, he wants feedback on their part.

The discussion turned to planned aerial spraying to be done by Grace Flying Service. He is working on an area along the Little Beaver and possibly the Big Timber. Dale Patton, commissioner, said he had heard positive comments on the Cherry Creek spraying last fall. Andy Beikman, commissioner, also commented on the spraying done in the cemeteries.

They talked about taking a mile or more of a well-traveled county road and spraying the sides of the roads and ditches. It would kill the weeds but wouldn't kill the grass — less weeds would mean better grass, Mr. Beikman said.

Mr. Lohr will bring back prices for spraying certain distances.

Mr. Lohr said he would like to order a mapping system that could measure acres covered. The commissioners were puzzled as they thought the maps could be obtained through the appraiser's mapping program.

He stated that he thought training was important. The commissioners said that when the county is broke, the taxpayers wonder why they send Mr. Lohr to all of the training workshops. We are held accountable, Mr. Patton said. On some of the training that the commissioners did not approve but he thought he should attend, Mr. Lohr wondered if the county would share some of the costs. No decision was made.

He felt like there should be some distinction between his department and the road and bridge department. The commissioners pointed out that in the past, the noxious weed supervisor had filled in for road and bridge to supplement their hours. He indicated that he would rather be with the landfill department as that is where he works when he has free hours.

He had complaints about the raises for employees, sick leave and vacation pay. He also wanted to know, why, when the supervisor saves money in his/her department, why didn't that money stay in the department's budget.

Mr. Patton said it is statutory that whatever is saved is transferred over. Mr. Lohr had done some investigating and found that former commissioner, Tim Raile, had established the rule that even though the employee works 9 hours a day, they are paid only 8 hours vacation. Mr. Patton said that this practice is common as he had also worked where that pay plan was used.

Road and bridge department

Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, gave the department's report of work done on roads.

John Lampe, south of St. Francis, is building bins and there is an REA line near them. The electric company is wanting permission to bury a line in the right-of-way. Ron Krien, who is putting the bins up, wanted permission to trench across

the road to hook up electricity. Permission was given for both.

Mr. Beikman said Don Krien had asked him about a water problem near his home north of St. Francis. Mr. Flemming said he would look into it.

Mr. Flemming said Mike Antholz had checked with Brett Poling concerning his pond and what he wanted done.

Mr. Flemming had prices of road graders. He said the grader he would trade in has 17,000 hours on it.

He pointed out that if the county buys an older machine it comes with lots of miles already on it. If they buy a new grader, the county gets a government discount and a warranty — no miles.

Mr. Flemming was asked to nail down the figures and report them at a future meeting.

Attorney's report

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, had two items concerning unelected personnel and needed 5 minutes of executive session. Dave Flemming, road and bridge department superintendent, also attended. After 5 minutes, an additional 5 minutes was called. When they came out of the session, acting president, Dale Patton, said no decision would be made.

Mrs. Gilliland said there were two new attorneys coming into Milliken Law Office and she would like to appoint one as a assistant county attorney, noting that there would be no extra cost to the county.

Emergency manager receives award

Ryan Murray, emergency manager for Cheyenne, Rawlins and Sherman counties, was presented the Outstanding New Emergency Management Professional award by Teri Smith, emergency association president as well as Douglas County emergency manager. She said she was very proud of Ryan, noting that he had an interesting year including a fire at the nursing home, bomb scare at Walmart, a blizzard, just to name a few.

Other emergency managers supporting Ryan at the meeting were: Lon Buller, Keith Haberer, Butch Post, Toby Prine, Cathy Hernandez and Kathleen Fabrizious. Also present were Gary Rogers, past emergency manager, and Jannelle Bowers.

In other business

• Clerk Terry Miller reported that Dona McGilvray and Joy Fisher had been hired as part-time help in the appraiser's office.

• The commissioners went over the audit letter from Jack Eldridge. There were two matters he felt needed correcting including the way airport accounts and grants were being handled and Mr. Miller said this matter was being corrected. Mr. Eldridge also wrote that the road and bridge department bills needed to be kept in the clerk's office. The road and bridge supervisor felt like, since he is responsible for making his budget, he needed to keep the bills in his department. The commissioners agreed that he could purchase a printer/copier so he can keep copies of all vouchers.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners is set for 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 17, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Police chief warns citizens to beware of rising phone scams

By Nathan Fiala

nfiala@nwkansan.com

At the city council meeting on Sept. 26, police chief, Shane Guggenmos, reported an "overwhelming" occurrence of attempted phone scams.

Three local potential victims have reported receiving phone calls from a group purporting to be Publisher's Clearing House. They tell their would-be victim that they've won a prize, but they have to send a \$500 check overseas to claim it. Once they've gotten this check, they claim to need another for even more money.

Once you've sent them the check, it's gone, Mr. Guggenmos said.

The United States has specific laws protecting entrants that other countries do not. For a sweepstakes to be legal, the rules must comply to the laws of all countries and territories included. Therefore, if a sweep-

stakes originates overseas, you are not protected by American laws if you enter and should do so only at your own risk.

Another scam to watch out for is on the popular internet auction site, e-bay. A local person sold an item on e-bay, using paypal to transfer the funds from buyer to seller. However, once the auc-



BONNY DAM is now being drained, so take advantage of the wildlife area and fish while you still can. Opened in 1951, the reservoir has been a great place for boating, camping and other outdoor activities. The lake is expected to be empty by the end of the year.

Photo courtesy of Johny Van Nostraud, Burlington Record

Fish salvage begins at Bonny lake

Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists have begun salvaging sport fish from Bonny Reservoir in Yuma County in preparation for the draining of the lake over the next two months.

The state engineer began releasing water from the reservoir on Sept. 21 to satisfy a legal obligation to release all the water to Kansas and Nebraska. The result will most likely be the loss of the entire fishery.

As long as conditions allow, biologists will trap as many fish as possible and relocate sport fish to other public fishing waters. Anglers can continue to remove fish provided the shoreline remains stable and access is safe.

"Right now it looks like it might take as little as 90 days to drain the lake," said Cory Chick, Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife manager. "We encourage anglers to harvest as many fish as possible before the

water is gone."

Under the salvage order signed by Dan Prenzlou, Southeast Regional manager, all legal methods of fishing will be allowed including the use of trotlines, jugs and seines. Commercial angling is prohibited. There are no limits on the number or species of fish anglers can keep, but everyone must have a valid Colorado fishing license to be in possession of fish and must complete an angler survey card available at the reservoir.

Access may be closed to boats and/or anglers if the receding lake creates unstable banks or other hazards.

"I grew up hunting and fishing at Bonny Lake State Park," Mr. Prenzlou said. "This is difficult to watch."

Bonny Reservoir was created in 1951 when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation built a flood control

dam on the South Fork of the Republican River. Shortly after the completion of the project in 1951, the former Colorado Division of Game, Fish and Parks negotiated an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to manage fish, wildlife and recreational assets of the reservoir and the federal land around the lake.

As a result of draining Bonny, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will transition Bonny from a state park into a state wildlife area beginning Oct. 1, while simultaneously exploring other potential options with a variety of partners. Public hunting access areas will remain open to the public.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is working with Yuma County Commissioners, Three Rivers Alliance, and Yuma County Economic Development Council to determine whether management of 56 acres, including the visitor center and

Wagon Wheel Campground along with other facilities in Bonny Lake State Park, can be transitioned to Yuma County.

Pending completion of discussions with these local groups, the North Cove and East Beach Campgrounds will remain open in October, although without potable water sources. The Foster Grove campground facilities, however, will be shut down and winterized until a final resolution is reached with Yuma County and local groups.

Tables and grills will be removed from isolated picnic sites on the north and south side to be distributed to other Parks and Wildlife areas in critical need of such items.

For more information on the South Republican State Wildlife Area, please see: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateWildlifeAreas/>.

Student is finalist for royalty

Chance Hobrock, St. Francis, is among the senior finalists for Fort Hays State University's homecoming royalty. He was nominated by the Panhellenic.

Each Fort Hays State University student organization was encouraged to nominate a candidate for homecoming king or queen. Candidates must be full-time students and have a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

The list of candidates was announced by the university's Center for Student Involvement.

Final elections will be Wednesday and Thursday. Winners will be crowned during half-time of the Saturday football game against Pittsburg State University.

900 ~~800~~ The **900-pound Gorilla**

GETS THINGS MOVED... FAST!!

The Country Advocate

CALL TIM AT:

The Saint Francis Herald

Bird City Times

310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756 785-332-3162