

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Seven Seas, Mandan

June 24th, 2014

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jim McAllister called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Members present were Joan Lorge, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, David Hirsch, Bill Walker, Gary Hartman, Leon Pederson, Kadie Benson, Dan Dew, Kevin Schmidt, Chelsey Penuel, and Merlin Leithold.

Also present was Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer.

Additional agenda items were: under new business – questions for Ag commissioner candidates and proposed EPA rules.

Everyone reviewed the minutes from the March board meeting. Kevin moved to accept the minutes as presented, Leon seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin gave the financial report. Dan moved to accept the financial report, Joan seconded the motion. M/C.

Merlin passed out a map indicating which counties, cities and agencies have already paid their dues for 2014.

Newsletter: Merlin indicated that the newsletter came out on time. Merlin had a computer problem, and he had to rebuild a database for the newsletter via email. All email addresses had been lost. Some received the e-letter several times. He hopes the bugs are out of the new system.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill stated that the spring Sprayer Schools went well. Very good participation at each location. It helped to have more locations, allowing more in each part of the state to attend. Very good comments were given. Thanks to Andrew Thostenson and his staff for the work they did again this year. Thanks to all the host counties for allowing us to have the schools at their locations. Thanks to Bill Walker, CPS, for his extra help, and to everyone who helped in any way. Also a big thank you to Mike Schalla, DOW AgroSciences, for sponsoring the noon meals at each location.

Dan Schumacher from Linton was this year's poster contest winner. He received a plaque with the winning poster engraved on it, and t-shirts for his entire class with the poster printed on them.

NAISMA: Derrill stated that they are gearing up for Fargo. The dates for the conference in Fargo are September 29, 30, 31, and Oct 1. The registration forms are on the NAISMA website. Among those speaking are Dr. Rod Lym, Mike Foley, and Celestine Duncan.

Legislative: Merlin reported that he attended a meeting in Bismarck put on by EideBailey concerning Corps land along lakes Oahe and Sakakawea. He proposed at the meeting that the local counties take over control of the land, and that they use money from the rent received on that land for noxious weed control. This concept was well received. EideBailey will comply a list

of recommendations, and give to ND Trust Lands Dept. later this fall, ultimately going to the legislature this winter.

Merlin also mentioned that one tax concept with some momentum is doing away with mills and going with percent. A lot of laws would have to be rewritten.

Agency Reports:

Government: Dave Hirsch stated that flea beetles are starting to show up, in some areas. With the cool spring, he warns that we may not have large numbers this year. We will have to wait and see. They are willing to help with local field days. Just let them know when, where, etc., and hopefully they have no conflicts on that particular day. He is building a bio control permit for the state. He has over 70 different bio species in it so far. This will allow us access to bio control species for different weeds as they become available. This permit does not replace anything currently in existence.

NDDA: Chelsey Penuel mentioned that they distributed toadflax weevils near Minot. The NDDA Will be available to assist counties with flea beetle field days. Just let them know. The NDDA has new weed seed free forage pamphlets available for distribution. Chelsey reminds everyone that the fiscal year ends June 30th for LAP, TAG, and Forest Service Grants. Work needs to get done, paperwork filed, or you will miss the deadline. Let her know if you need help.

Chelsey stated that by the fall area meetings, the NDDA should have a plan in place how to redistribute the remaining funds in the department, to the counties. Quite a lot of funds still need to be accessed by counties. Discussion took place on how to get these counties to access their available funds.

Chelsey also mentioned that over the next couple of years, she plans on visiting each county/city to see what their needs are, and for her to get a better understanding of each county/city.

Chelsey mentioned that the NDDA has a new US Forest Service grant for early detection and rapid response of noxious and invasive weeds. Proposals to utilize fund can be sent to her.

Jim mentioned that everyone should utilize the early detection response funding from the department. It is essential that new invasive weeds are controlled or eradicated before they become a serious problem

Industry: Bill Walker stated that manufactures are running out of product. It started with Dicamba products, which everyone in the industry knew it was coming for some time. Then, BASF ran out of Plateau for a short time. That is back to normal. Then DOW ran out of Tordon. Currently, that is slowly coming back to normal, but it is not quite there yet. Noxious weeds infestations have increased this year, and a lot more producers are using these products this year as well. Not just in North Dakota, but in the entire region.

Perspective is still not labeled without the one year restrictions. May be fully labeled in October, but no guarantees. Please, if you are using it, WATCH where you apply it. DO NOT get in trouble. FOLLOW the label.

OLD BUSINESS:

NDSU Research Fund: Stan Wolf, Cass county weed officer, spoke on the status of the research proposal. As of today, the proposal is on hold. He had planned on possible SBAR, but they don't have the funds for a project of this magnitude. A lot of discussion was held. The feeling was that NDSU could put it in their budget, and take it to the legislature. We would support them at the legislature. Stan will explore other options as they become available.

Empower the taxpayer lawsuit: Merlin received an e mail from the Association of counties attorney, Aaron Birst. Merlin read the email to the board. The judge reversed his decision requiring the empower group to pay legal fees and offer an apology. So by doing that, the case has been closed. It is finally done.

By Laws: Merlin mentioned that if any by law changes are needed, now would be the time to begin the process. Everyone felt that since we don't need to change them, since the research fund is on hold. No other changes are needed at this time.

License Plates: Leon would like to see us have our stamp on license plates. This has the potential to bring in much needed funds. He stated that they already have them in Wyoming and Montana. Merlin stated that it would have to go to the legislature. Discussion was favorable. Leon will pursue it further.

Ag Coalition: Kevin stated that according to the bylaws he could find, we would be associate members, no voting privileges, and annual dues of \$400. Consensus was to not pursue it at this time. Kevin will let us know if he hears differently on dues and voting privileges.

Materials for area display boards: Derrill is still looking for funds. Chelsey mentioned that we can apply for a NDDA grant. Derrill and Joan will pursue this.

Awards: Merlin said that we can put an application on our website, but Terry did not know if we could link it to the association email. Either way will work. Bill moved that we give out 2 awards each year: 1. Lifetime Achievement Award, 2. Weed Warrior Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award would be for retired members of our Association, and the Weed Warrior Award would be for current active members, regardless of position they hold in their respective county/city/agency. Leon seconded the motion. M/C.

NEW BUSINESS:

Aggregate Mining: Dianne Allmendinger, Stark/Dunn County Weed Officer could not make it today. Derrill talked to Dianne, and there should be more standardized regulations throughout the state on aggregate mining. Ron felt that we should meet with other entities that are

involved in this like the county highway road supervisors. Merlin felt that maybe we should get together with the contractors association again. He does not want to go to the legislature if we need to, without them on board. Bill said that we should do a draft, and then take it the contractors association.

Jim said that we should do a list of what is needed among ourselves to develop a plan. Jim will talk to Dianne.

NAISMA-NDDA Grant: NDDA has a grant to send 60 weed people to the NAISMA conference in Fargo in September. The grant will be run through the association. Derrill stated that it could go on list serve. Chelsey will let Derrill know who gets list serve. We need to make sure all county/city weed boards get notified. The registration fees are \$175 by August 18th, and \$225 after. The grant would only cover the registration fees. Derrill said that he has a conference call meeting with NAISMA. After that call, he and Merlin will get together to finalize the plan, and send out a mailing. Deadline would be July 18th.

Other New Business:

Questions for Ag Commissioner Candidates: Merlin stated that traditionally, we invite Ag commissioner candidates to our September board meeting. We ask them the same group of questions. Those questions and responses will then be published in our September newsletter for members to see. The candidates this election are the incumbent Republican Doug Goehring, and his challenger, Democrat Ryan Taylor. A short bio from each candidate will also be published.

Questions:

1. Accountability of noxious weed control of ND Game & Fish, State Trust Lands, ND Parks and Rec, and others.
2. Supporting the ND Weed Control Association.
3. How can we (the NDWCA and the Ag commissioner) get lesser involved counties more active in weed control efforts?
4. How important is noxious weed control to you.
5. What do you feel the role of the local weed control board and a weed control officer should be?
6. What are your thoughts on adding 1 full FTE, to the noxious weed division, as an outreach person to local county/city weed boards/officers?

Merlin mentioned that these questions will be available to each candidate before the meeting, if they request them.

Break for Lunch

Jim mentioned that a spraying contractor list should be put on the website.

Jim mentioned with the EPA changes, it is important that we all take time and read them. The June Pesticide Quarterly has a lot of valuable information in it concerning EPA rules and regulations.

Jim mentioned the accidental death of Jared Burian, Golden Valley Weed Officer. Jim shared that flowers were sent. Joan attended the services. No one could recall a weed officer being killed while on the job. Jim stated that we all need to be aware of our surroundings while working. The board expressed their condolences to the family.

Merlin mentioned that the convention planning committee will meet immediately after the board meeting for a short time. All board members are welcome to stick around.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold
Executive secretary