

NDWCA Area V Minutes

Slope County Courthouse, Amidon, ND

Yet to be approved

October 31st, 2014

Area Director, Joan Lorge called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Billings, Hettinger, Dunn, Golden Valley, Bowman, Slope and Mercer. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: none presented.

2013 area V minutes were read. Randy moved to suspend official reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes as presented. Jamie seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Dr. Rod Lym asked that Merlin take the photos and description of Japanese Knotweed to the remaining areas, and pass them around. Found a plant in Grand Forks of Japanese Fleece Flower, a horticulture variety of Japanese Knotweed. Has been there for years, has not spread, yet, but that is how they all started. Rod will try and have a live plant at the annual meeting in January.

Annual Meeting update:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 6, 7, & 8th, 2015 at the Seven Seas in Mandan. There will be a board meeting Monday evening at 6:00 pm. Tuesday morning and part of the afternoon will be the Ag. Commissioner's forum. Around 3:30, we will have our annual business meeting. Tuesday evening will be the beer and brat social and auction. Please bring an auction item or items to be auctioned off. Net proceeds go to the education committee for their years' activities. Wednesday will be a full day of speakers, a noon luncheon, and of course the banquet in the evening. Greg Hagar, a country western singer, will be the entertainment. We will have the banquet in the large meeting room. Feedback from last year was to have the banquet in the large room every year. More elbow room. Thursday morning, we will again have the exhibitor breakfast, followed by speakers until noon. There will be a board meeting at noon on Thursday to wrap up the activities.

The hotel no longer has a full service restaurant. They serve a free continental breakfast every morning, and you can get burgers etc. through the bar, and also pizza. The meals for the annual meeting has not changed.

Exhibitor breaks have gotten expensive. The board of directors has proposed to have sponsors for the breaks. We want everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. Merlin will get a letter printed and put on our website, to be downloaded, for folks to take to these businesses. Good feedback, with numerous business names mentioned.

There will be a panel discussion on aggregates. Les Simnioniw agreed to sit on the panel.

County reports:

Billings: submitted by Les Simnioniw

On January 23rd, Billings County teamed up with Golden Valley County at the Medora Beef Days. They presented photos from both counties, handed out a guide to ND Noxious Weeds and Troublesome Weeds booklets and spoke with landowners about noxious weeds, management plans, and calibration exercises.

We also attended the NDWCA seminar at the Astoria Hotel in Dickinson. We has a display board of the state noxious weeds and also the noxious weeds in Billings County. We spoke with college students, professors, landowners, chemical distributors, and other agencies about our program and our management techniques. We handed out over 2 hundred guide to troublesome weed booklets.

The BCWCB met with Whiting Oil on April 8th and discussed how to better their current spray program within our county. Whiting's private spray company's also attended the meeting and spoke with us about their chemical mixes, calibration and management plans.

On May 29th, we attended the Medora Grazing Association's annual meeting. We brought live plants displays including Absinth wormwood, Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, Black Henbane and Hoary Cress. We handed out guide to troublesome weeds booklets to each landowner. We also had landowners sign consent forms, giving the BCWB permission to enter onto their land in the 2014 spray season. We spoke with individual landowners on management plans and a couple landowners received chemical. We also talked with landowners about our flea beetle collection days and took a list of names who would like to be notified when we start collecting flea beetles.

The BCWB started out the season spraying Houndstongue and Black Henbane. In the past years, we started out by spraying Leafy spurge with a three way mix of Plateau, Tordon, and Opti-Amine. We have found it to be more beneficial to wait until early to mid-June to begin spraying Leafy spurge, when it is warmer and spurge is more susceptible to chemical.

In late June and early July, Kay Poland started our fleas beetle collection days. The Forest Service along with private landowners attended these field days. People that attended, gathered beetles to put on private and federal land. In total we had seven collection dates and 25 people attended.

Most of June we sprayed Leafy spurge. In late June and early July, we started spraying Canada thistle, Absinth wormwood and Common Burdock, with a mixture of Milestone and Spret. At this time, we also targeted a couple of spots of Spotted and Russian knapweed. For the most part, we have very few locations of Knapweed within our county. In recent years, we have been noticing more of it appearing along I-94. We believe this is due to the DOT's ability to use non-certified materials, such as seed and straw waddles.

In past years we have noticed our control on Canada thistle has been improving. We has multiple landowners call this year and say they did not need sprayers and were able to control the Canada thistle on their own. We believe this is because of our switch to only spraying Canada thistle with Milestone. In areas we have returned to, we have noticed that the Canada thistle populations have decreased substantially.

We recently set up a program with the zoning board to inspect property before allowing the landowners or leasers to build or disturb ground, such as installing pipelines, new roads and new buildings. With these inspections, the weed officer is looking for noxious or invasive weeds, in the area going through zoning. After the inspection is complete, the weed officer speaks with the landowner and discusses a management plan or signs off on statement saying the area is free of noxious weeds. This program was developed to improve our system and to inform new people to our county how important controlling noxious weeds is to Billings County.

Bowman: submitted by Randy Gaebe

In 2014, we controlled Canada thistle, Houndstongue, Leafy spurge, Spotted knapweed, Wormwood, Babysbreath, Black henbane and Musk thistle. We also controlled Poison hemlock, though not a noxious weed.

Activities in 2014:

ROW application; Private land custom application – 65 landowners > 450 acres; Public land custom application > Corps of Eng. > 52 acres; ND Game & Fish > 400 acres; Public land targeted grazing – Corps of Eng. & ND Game & Fish > 400 acres; Noxious weed law enforcement

Cost Share Programs:

1. 50% cost share on custom application
2. 80% cost share on Milestone sales – mid-June and throughout the summer – 31 landowners = 56 quarts milestone
3. 100% reimbursement of herbicide cost with at least 20% in-kind effort
4. 25% reimbursement on noxious weed herbicide application equipment; up to \$500 per operation – 9 landowners = \$3,265

Dunn:

Had a good season. Sat a lot of weeks due to the wet conditions. But overall, not too bad.

Golden Valley:

Houndstongue is getting worse. Found a lot, especially this fall.

Hettinger:

Cost Share - \$40 per container on Curtail, Tordon, Milestone and Plateau. Paul Schwartz, our weed officer has retired. We hired Tim Linnevern, Adams County, to spray for us as well. We have problems with landowners not spraying their Leafy spurge. Bugs are working. A lot of interest in the cost-share program.

Mercer: submitted by Jamie Bradley

Weird year. Started application on May 27, ended on 10/13. Lost a lot of production days to wind/rain & inherent conditions (many ROW ditches filled with water, was biggest challenge)

KSAs (Known Spurge Area) mostly showed that the last 6 years I've been working in Mercer County provide evidence that doing something right....Plant population density in most KSAs showed less

growth/regrowth...a few surprises (spots not needing spraying in the last 3-5 years popped up again, but that's really no big surprise), but mostly a decent year in this category. SOSO on product, 2oz/gallon of Tordon + 1 oz/gallon of 2-4D is our main formulation @ a calibration of 10 gpa @ 6 mph, in our jackrabbit pro sprayers on Honda Rubicon...it does a good-to-excellent job (allowing for various of efficacy due to timing of application, of course), with some areas showing how well it works, by not showing up as needing work for two to four years after application....lucky? Or good? Whatever.

Wormwood is everywhere...spray it where we find it. Some long term problem areas (landowners who have not tried to control, mostly) were readily and easily accessible (when we had time), and large chunks of pastures with BOKU wormwood were attacked....we'll see how good a job we did next year, but Milestone is a nice product for this. Usually @ the 5oz/a rate.

CT (and other thistles, Musk, Bull, Wavy leaf, Scotch, yadda. yadda .yadda...) went totally crazy this year. Even on areas where we spray every year...probably spent as much time on those areas as on any other given segment of the weed spectrum.

Other weed concerns: Noticing a rather significant increase of Dogbane locations...I have serious concerns anent the "toxic to livestock" trait of the plant family, I spray it where /when I see it, even off the ROW limits, adjacent property permitting. Seem to be getting ahead of Wild Four-o'clocks...road graders spread/reseed it, so we'll never win, but former infestations of ¼ to ½ mile on both sides have been controlled/reduced. Other nasties include Black henbane, Curlycup, Babysbreath, milkweed and several others. We spray them when we see them. The toxic/poisonous plants get special treatment.

Cattails: a new job/problem in the last 2-3 years. MCHD & SO want some areas killed off to improve intersection visibility, and to reduce snow catching. The water resource board is trying to clear flow channels for faster run off, and the \$600-\$700 they have paid me to do this is a lot cheaper than a large dragline. Using AquaNeat plus preference, seems to be doing a good job...FYI – spray them when the hot dogs of the plants are nice and brown. Get 2-3 years for regrowth.

Had a helper for a time, also a former weed board member helped out.

Landowner cost-share is a popular program, though there seems to have been a slight drop-off in utilization for some products (curtail & milestone).... Final tab not yet finished. The 4-way mix recipe is popular among those who care enough to control their weeds.(note: My observation of demonstration plot results suggest to me that the extra product cost – mixing time – are not really worth the effort, in our situation are speed of application with as little down time to reload is a significant factor.) Also, some other spray outfits have picked up a bit of work we don't have time to do, so that may have been a contributing factor in a possible decline in distribution of product. MCWB provides cost-share (80/20 on all products) for Tordon, 2-4D, Curtail, Milestone, Plateau, LMBW and MSO. When we need small amounts of AquaNeat, Triplet (generic), foam buster, or other products, we pay retail.

MCWB is getting a new truck next year. The old one will be for sale on bids, probably in January. It is a 1997 Ford 1-ton, dually, with sprayer. Contact me if you are interested.

That's about it. An adequate year, but not really a great one. Attacked a lot of weeds...with luck, many of those will succumb to my efforts.

Slope: submitted by Joan Lorge

We started out the year spraying Leafy spurge, Canada thistle and wormwood along highways 85, 21, 67 and 12.

We are finding that it is about a three year cycle of spraying on Leafy spurge. Canada thistle and wormwood usually only have to be treated once.

Spotted knapweed was again sprayed in Marmarth, in the old house area. We were happy to see our late summer spraying last year killed the rosettes that were present last fall. We found that two years ago with the high fire danger and not spraying gave the knapweed time to get started again in a couple of areas. We have been using Milestone on this and getting good results.

Russian knapweed areas will be monitored again next year, it shows up every 2-4 years in areas that have been sprayed. None was found this year.

We are finding Black henbane in a few areas in the county now, especially since we have no control over where oil companies get their scoria, for the oil roads. In most cases, we can trace the scoria back to one pit. We have been lucky with it being only scattered plants, in most cases.

A producer brought in a plant this summer for identification, they have Diffuse knapweed on former CRP ground. We are working with them to get a survey done and treatment started.

We discovered that we have Yellow toadflax in a road ditch again that we thought we had killed out a couple of years ago. The problem now is that it has been spread along more road ditches because of haying. We will be treating this problem next year.

We have been treating Houndstongue for over 10 years with spraying in the spring and fall and we seem to be losing the battle. We are not seeing a reduction in plants from one year to the next. We have to cover the same areas time and time again. The mature plants have been reduced but the seedlings are present every year.

We hire Mid Dakota out of Miller, SD to spray Houndstongue for us and they do a great job. So we know that the application is not a problem, plus the crews have been in the areas enough that they know where it is.

We are also finding more flea beetles this year than in previous years, the number of blacks to browns is increasing. In fact, on one half section of pasture land, we could find beetles on all patches of spurge.

Gravel pits are becoming a problem in the county. We have two that are commercial pits. One was open before we got zoning and zoning just grandfathered them in. The other was opened with a zoning permit, but without noxious weed inspection.

Our fall herbicide distribution program was about average. We distribute Milestone, Forefront, Curtail, Tordon22k and Plateau in the fall, with all herbicide pre-ordered, so all producers have to do is pick it up and pay. Some producers report that they have gotten good control on Canada thistle the last couple of years, and others are reporting more. We can find Canada thistle galls about everywhere in the county, but they don't seem to be making an impact on the thistle.

Agencies:

Government report: David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ. Dave could not be at the area meetings, so he sent this report with Merlin to read to each area.

Government Report

USDA APHIS PPQ, Bismarck, ND

2014 Field Season activities:

- Spurge Beetle harvest was at least fair at most locations. The cool wet season reduced harvest potential as compared to warmer dry conditions which are more suitable.
- PPQ facilitated or helped at 5 field days and provided presentations at 2 meetings.
- PPQ supplied North Dakota spurge beetles to 2 states. 3 other states had made requests for ND flea beetles but due to the lower numbers harvested they did not receive any.
- I had made a request for additional yellow toadflax bio control agents obtained through PPQ in Montana. Two released were obtained and delivered to the ND Dept. of Ag. The extreme cold last winter in Montana may have reduced bio control insect populations.
- I have established a new bio control agent permit based on ND needs. It contains a long list of agents that ND uses but has many others that ND may want or need in the future. The permit will make the bio control option available for the management of new invasive weeds if weed managers decide bio control should be implemented. Weed managers may obtain bio control agents through this permit by working through APHIS PPQ. This new permit does not supersede any other permits that weed officers or other agencies may have or want to establish on their own.
- Houndstongue agents: Research on the seed weevil is in the final stages and the researchers may be applying for a US release permit this winter.
- APHIS PPQ bio control funding seems to be stable for the 2015 field season so local staff will be available to help with field days and presentations.

Industry:

Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division. Thank you to all of you folks for the business this past season. Hope to continue to work with all of you this coming season as well.

In the last 48 hours, a lot has changed in industry, as far as you folks are concerned. Bayer Crop Sciences has purchased a portion of DuPont. That portion does include the land management division and their products. This sale will take effect January 1st.

Perspective: Pre approval date has been moved from October 10th to February, 2015. So nothing has changed as far as the label. When they hear something, they will let Bill know and he will forward it to Merlin to be put on list serve. DuPont/Bayer thinks that the state of Texas will be applying for a state section 18, for the use of Perspective on Mesquite. If that takes place, North Dakota could do the same. This could help push EPA to lift the label restrictions.

DuPont/Bayer: Increased prices for Streamline and Perspective on October 1 by 5%.

Dow: Not a lot of changes. The aquatic label on Milestone could happen by December 1. In 2015, prices will increase for Milestone by \$2.00/quart. But it will decrease in gallons by \$20/gallon for government agency only. Other Dow products will see a 3 to 5% increase.

Dicamba still in short supply and huge price increases. Glyphosate and 2-4D supplies are stable at this time. Inert may change in insecticide.

Merlin said that Mike Schalla could not be here today, but thanks everyone for their business, and hopes to see all of you in January at the annual meeting.

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist. I am the new noxious weed specialist. I took over for Rachel. Rachel is still with the department. My phone number is still the same as it was with Rachel 701-328-2983. The noxious weed people are Carrie, our program director, Lane, Jim and myself. Jim will be attending the annual meeting, so if you have any computer, data-logger questions, see Jim.

We have various publications available, get ahold of me and I can get them to you.

Weed Seed Free Forage: 2014 - 11,943 acres inspected, 11,176 acres certified, 2 times more than last year. 20,115 tags issued, and 3 producers used the purple and yellow twine.

Biological Control: 1.25 million flea beetles collected and redistributed throughout the state. Helped with field days in Benson, Stark, Grant and Stutsman Counties. Released 725 yellow toadflax weevils in Ward and Bottineau Counties. Spotted Knapweed weevils were monitored for release in Golden Valley County. In 2015, plans are: April/May: Monitor yellow toadflax weevil insectaries for establishment, June: Collect and redistribute knapweed flower or seed head weevils on hard to access stands, June/July: Collect or redistribute leafy spurge flea beetles, help with field days or just with collecting, August: Monitor knapweed root weevil for establishment, collect and redistribute if necessary.

Funding: USFS Grants: Toadflax – closed, Houndstongue – closed, Flood/Land Enhancement 1, land Enhancement 2 & 3 – are open to the public, Early Detection Rapid Response – for county weed boards.

TAG: All weed boards qualify, 44% spent so far, reimbursement vouchers due by July 3rd, 2015.

Can use these funds for nearly anything. Need pre approval from the department.

LAP: Boards that levy 3 mills or budget the equivalent of 3 mills qualify. 67% so far. Vouchers due by January 3rd, 2015.

Each county viewed where they are at on their LAP spending so far. Discussion on reapplying for LAP after January, to be used by the end of June. We don't want to return any funds back to EARP.

New Business:

Awards: Merlin showed everyone that the association now has two awards. We have combined the early career and senior awards into one award, the Weed Warrior Award. We have also created an award called the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to those former members who have now retired, whether they are alive or have passed on, and were part of the association's board at one time. Nomination forms will be on the website, and are available to be picked up today as well.

Elections:

Area Director: Jamie nominated Joan Lorge, Slope County. Randy seconded the nomination. Being no other nominations, Randy moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Joan. Gene seconded the motion. M/C

1st Alternate: Tim nominated Randy Gaebe, Bowman County. Joan seconded the nomination. Being no further nominations, Les moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Randy. Gene seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Alternate: Gene nominated Les Simnioniw, Billings County. Hope seconded the motion. Being no further nominations, Tim moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Les. Randy seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Vice President: Can only be from areas 2, 4 & 5: Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer, has been nominated. He has accepted the nomination. Kevin Schmidt, Morton County board chairman, was nominated. Kevin accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations

Poster Contest: Merlin mentioned that this has been going on for 8 years, and that the board of directors wants it to continue. The question is how we make it better. Merlin said that it is open to 5th and 6th graders. Merlin also mentioned as to what the education committee does with this contest. We only get a couple of the same schools each year. Merlin said that so far, suggestions were to get the weed boards aware as well, to follow up to the schools. Also, get it available to 4th graders. Maybe 6th grades have too much going on already. Also, it has been suggested to possibly open it up to 4-H clubs. One suggestion was to do a lesson plan @ FFA and that they could draw pictures while they are studying.

Changing state law: Merlin mentioned that when the board met with Commissioner Goehring on September 23rd, one issue discussed was that some weed boards seem disengaged. Checking in state law, it was discovered that weed boards only are required to meet once a year. It used to be three times. Merlin said that the commissioner would like us to possibly have state law changed requiring three meetings per year. The board wants it brought to all areas for discussion before moving forward with it or leaving it alone. Joan asked for a show of hands how many counties meet at least three times per year. All counties present raised their hands. A lot of discussion occurred. The area was split on changing it to three meetings, but more against than in favor.

Resolutions: None were brought forward.

Changing the government position on the board: Bill brought forward the idea to change our bylaws to allow the government position on our board of directors be a non-paying member. Government employees usually cannot get their employer to pay dues to an organization such as ours. By changing the bylaws, we could possibly get more people interested in the position. David Hirsch is the only

government full paid member in our organization. This could not be changed until the annual meeting in 2016. This is being brought up now for discussion only.

ATV Training: Bill talked about the importance of having a training program. He asked how many counties do ATV training, other than the sprayer schools. The discussion being heard from county officials, is that certification will be required. This cannot be done at sprayer schools. This training is a hands on approximately 6 hour course. Merlin stated that he took the training a number of years back, and it was excellent. A lot of discussion took place. Eric Dietrich from the ND Parks & Rec. would be willing to put on a number of training sessions. All felt it is needed.

Other Business: none

Being no other business, Joan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Gene moved to adjourn the meeting, Tim seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary