

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Seven Seas, Mandan

September 23rd, 2014

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jim McAllister called the meeting to order at 9:02 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, Carrie Larson, Lane Kozel and Merlin Leithold.

Additional agenda items were: under new business – Red River Valley Research Center meeting and ATV Safety training issues.

Everyone reviewed the minutes from the June board meeting. One correction. Strike 31st on page one concerning NAISMA conference. Leon moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Bill seconded the motion. M/C

At this time, Commissioner Doug Goehring joined the meeting, to visit with us and to answer our prepared questions for the candidates, in his bid to be reelected as ND Ag. Commissioner.

Doug Goehring farms south of Menoken with his son, the third generation to be on the farm. They plant a variety of crops to be diversified. He has been ND AG Commissioner for the last 5 and one-half years. He has enjoyed working with the NDWCA. There have been challenges, but we have become stronger working together. ND produces a lot of different products that are shipped to different parts of the US and the world. Technology is also a large part in helping what we produce. Research is also a large part of the equation in helping what gets produced, and in the large quantities that we produce. Trade is also a key component to everything, certainly not the least important. With ND being a land locked state, we need to push for trade.

Shipping by rail has been a huge problem this year, since the railroads are shipping a lot of other commodities besides grain. Leon then asked why this continues to be a problem. A lot of good discussion took place. The commissioner understands the problem, and he continues to fight the railroads on these issues. The commissioner has to deal with both the Canada Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. If we would get more pipelines in place, for the oil, that would free up track space for farm commodities.

Jim stated that controlling noxious weeds by pipeline companies and railroads can be a problem. Doug stated that he is aware that these issues could be a problem. Jim wants to be insured that when it comes to reclamation, that the commissioner's office is aware of these issues. Doug stated that they are and they are working with these companies to ensure that this is taking place.

Dan Dew mentioned that there are weed issues on public land. Doug stated that if there is a weed problem on any state owned land, and they are not doing a means of control, let him know, and he will help. Doug wants copies of letters sent to him and to Carrie, letters that counties are sending to state agencies. Doug feels that there are three modes of action to

control, clipping, bio control, and chemical. Each has its place, but each parcel of land may take a different mode, or two or all three.

The commissioner feels that all land in the state should be owned by private individuals, not by the state or federal government.

Jim asked how we can get legislators to understand that noxious weed control are important. Doug stated that the active counties are our success stories. The inactive counties are the problem. Legislators see the inactive counties, making these legislators feel that the EARP money should be spent somewhere else.

Inactive counties are a tough problem for his office. We need to assist them as much as we can. The authority falls back to the local government, other than if there needs to be a quarantine on property, then his office will step in. Keep the line of communication open with his office.

Jim asked about outreach to the counties. Would he be willing to add another person to the noxious weed team for outreach? Right now there is one and a half persons devoted to noxious weeds. Chelsey has attempted to reach some of the counties, about a third of them.

Some counties are only meeting once a year. Jim feels that possibly it should fall back to the county commissions. Doug stated that he has heard, through the Governors' office, that there is a movement that weed board mill levies should be stripped out of the county budgets. After visiting with the Governor, the Governor supports the mill levies for weed boards, as it is now.

As far as legislators are concerned, Doug feels that the legislature will leave the funding from EARP for noxious weed control alone this upcoming session.

Jim stated that he would like the commissioners' office to let the association know if certain legislators are having questions, and we would be more than willing to visit with them.

The commissioner stated that the large box stores are selling noxious weeds, but with other names. This is a growing problem.

Carrie stated that according to state law, weed boards are only required to meet once a year. Doug asked if we would like to change the law. The board seemed in favor of changing it. Maybe we could get a legislator, who has doubts about weed control, to sponsor the change.

Jim asked the commissioner what he feels about research funding. Where could we find funds for research?

The commissioner asked who funds them now. Jim stated that commodity groups are their main funding mechanism. The commissioner stated that have them (NDSU) come to the Ag. Dept. for possible grant funds, possibly through crop harmonization or other ways. He would like to have more information on what they would do with the funds. Possibly more partnerships.

Leon was wondering if we could work with other states on research. The commissioner stated that Minnesota and Montana would be difficult to work with. He would like to, but there a lot of issues to deal with.

Doug thanked everyone for the opportunity to come to the meeting, and Jim thanked him for taking time out of his schedule to come. Break

Financial Report: Merlin passed out a map showing which counties have paid their dues so far this year.

Karen, with the Seven Seas, stopped in. She stated that the room rates this year for the convention are \$74.70 for single rooms, and \$89.00 for double rooms. She said that the restaurant at the Seven Seas, Montana Mikes, has closed. It was a business decision. They do offer free hot breakfasts to the guests, as a lot of hotels do. There is a restaurant for lunch and dinner. They will continue to make changes. They are improving the facility, from landscaping to lighting and a whole lot more. The convention will be run as usual, with no changes from the hotel. She looks forward to us coming in January.

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

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill asked what the feelings of the board are concerning the poster contest. Seems that we only get the same couple of schools each year. Should we continue it? A lot of good discussion was held. Kadie doesn't mind doing it. Stan has done a good job as well. Dan felt that we should do a better job of promoting it. The consensus of the board is to move forward with it.

NAISMA: Derrill stated that they are gearing up for Fargo. Dep. Ag. Commissioner Tom Bodine will give the welcome. Should we help sponsor a meal. South Dakota is giving \$500. Could we give \$1000? Merlin passed around the list of those who have registered for the NAISMA conference. Kevin asked whether the rooms are also provided for us, or just the registration. Just the registration. We will have a booth as well.

Bill moved that we use funds from the education committee to sponsor the meal for \$1,000. Ron seconded the motion. M/C

Agency Reports:

Government: Dave Hirsch mentioned their field activities for this past year.

Spurge beetle harvest was fair to good at most locations. The cool wet season reduced harvest potential as compared to warmer dry conditions which are more suitable. They facilitated or helped at 5 field days. The important field days in Sioux County did not occur this season.

They provided presentations at 2 meetings.

They shipped flea beetles to 2 states. Three other states had made requests for flea beetles, but due to the lower numbers harvested, they did not receive any.

Dave did make request for additional yellow toadflax bio control agents but harvesting at the Montana location was poor so none were provided this season. The extreme cold last winter in Montana may have reduced the population.

Dave established a new bio control permit. It is a laundry list of agents that ND uses and many more that we may need in the future for new and invasive weeds. Bio control can be obtained

working through this permit. It does not supersede any other permits that other weed officers or agencies may have.

Houndstongue agents: The research on weevil is in the final stages and a release permit for it may be applied for this winter. Dave will keep us posted.

APHIS PPQ bio control funding seems to be stable for 2015. Dave thanked everyone for this past year.

Committee Reports Continue:

Convention Planning Committee: Merlin said that the committee met after the last board meeting in June. He stated that the meals will be similar as last year. Have a panel from state and federal agencies. Have possibly Rod Lym, Kevin Sedivic. Possibly have a question and answer session with the ND DOT. Will wait until after the NAISMA conference for more ideas. Breaks are getting expensive. Have various businesses sponsor the breaks. Will ask counties at the area meetings for names of businesses that they associate with, to contact.

For entertainment, we have Greg Hagar, a country western singer. We will use the big meeting room again.

For our theme, we would like the board to decide. We have two different ones submitted from Leon.

Weeds are our business, and business is good.

Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds.

Dan moved to use the first theme, Weeds are our business, and business is good. Derrill seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin has the new menu prices for the convention.

Area V is the sponsoring area this year. The business will again be on Tuesday afternoon.

Dave had to leave at this time for another meeting.

NDDA: Chelsey gave the report for the department. LAP – 37% of the total funds remain; vouchers due 12/31/14, however, please submit after fall cost-sharing TAG – 56% of the total funds remain; vouchers due 6/30/14 Eligibility forms used to accept funds for the 2013-2015 biennium may be used to determine revoking of LAP funds, as not all forms were returned or filled out correctly

NoGAs – Notice of Grant Award

Familiarize yourself with this term, as NDDA will be using this when contracting out proposal funds and we are exploring this option for LAP and TAG next biennium

NDWCA NoGAs with NDDA - Registrations – \$10,500 federal funds from 2 USFS grants

Spoke with Merlin about submitting current registrations so we can work on closing 1 of the grants.
Requesting a copy of each person's registration, as well as the appropriate documentation of payment.

NoGA expires 10/31/14, so if anyone else chooses to attend NAISMA on their own dime, the Board can choose to reimburse up to \$175 of the registration and submit to NDDA after the conference. Will need copy of each person's registration, as well as the appropriate documentation of payment.

Speaker travel expenses – \$1500 state funds

Requesting copies of hotel, meals, conference registration, etc. receipts, as well as the appropriate documentation of payment

Not written for a specific speaker; if Deb McCullough's expenses are less than \$1500, the board can pay for another speaker as well

EDRR grant funds available - First come, first serve and going fast – if you have a proposal, get it to Chelsey. NDDA will be writing a proposal for additional funds; if you have any project ideas or needs, let Chelsey know.

NDDA will be at NAISMA - Carrie, Charles, Lane, Rachel, and Chelsey will all be in attendance at various times and the NDDA will have a vendor booth.

Chelsey is planning on attending all the fall area meetings

NDDA is currently working on getting speakers organized for the Commissioner's Weed Forum

Lane mentioned that with weed free forage, the same producers are using the program each year, but not very many. There is a need for weed free hay. The program does not work with quality or prices, just weeds. Most of the acres are for straw, which is growing. Easier to inspect wheat than a hay field. Discussion was on twine. Lane is always looking into a better way to get the twine. Will be having the forage inspector training next April. No exact date has been set at this time.

Industry: Bill Walker stated that in 2015, Perspective and Streamline going up 5% on October 1st. Also, come this October, DuPont should find out whether Perspective & Streamline will get a full registration for rangeland and pasture. There may be changes from Dow in pricing. Milestone going down on gallon prices through distributors, but not dealers, quarts will remain the same, but other Dow prices may go up slightly. Other chemicals may be stable next year. Dicamba products will still be in short supply next season. Should know more by the area meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

License Plates: Leon did some checking and was told that it would not be cost effective. Not enough plates would sell to be cost effective. Dead issue.

NDDA Grant for area display boards: Derrill said that the department would match us at 50/50. Will wait until after the NAISMA conference to start on this. The education committee will work on this.

There was no other old business.

Break for lunch

NEW BUSINESS:

Biological committee added to By-Laws: Derrill would like to see it back into the by-laws as a standing committee. NAISMA has such a committee, and he would like us to become more active. After much discussion, consensus was that the president can appoint a committee, if so needed.

Budget: Worked on the budget. Did the income side of the budget, and part of the expense side.

Ryan Taylor, former state senator, candidate for ND Ag. Commissioner, joined the meeting at this time. Introductions were held.

Ryan Taylor ranches near Towner with his family, since 1992. They have a cattle and hay ranch in eastern McHenry County, with noxious weeds. Ryan became a Senator in 2002. Served 3 sessions in the Senate AG committee. Was Senate minority leader in 2011, before redistricting ended his term. In 2012, he was appointed to the county commission, but has not elected to run for that position this year, since he is running for ND Ag Commissioner.

Ryan feels that serving on these various positions, he has worked with different levels for funding the three mills for noxious weed control.

Enforcement and control on state owned lands. The authority is there. Nothing makes a landowner more upset than a state entity as a neighbor, and they are not controlling their weeds. First you look why they are not controlling their weeds. Enforcement is an option, but you also must look if they need more funds to control noxious weeds, and advocate for them to receive more funds. Biological control can help, but they do not work on all areas, like in McHenry County. He worked for Cornbelt Chemical Company, so he is well aware of different chemicals, as they use them on their ranch as well.

He will support the NDWCA if he becomes Ag Commissioner. He supported us while he was a state senator as well. He was quick to accept our invitation to the board meeting. He strongly feels a strong commitment to support us, and the work that we do. Both Roger Johnson and Sarah Vogel, both former ND Ag commissioners, told Ryan to always support the NDWCA.

On our mission statement, leadership is first. Ryan feels that is very important as well.

Controlling noxious weeds is very important to him, as he grew up with it.

McHenry County is not only the Cattle Capital of ND, but also the Leafy Spurge Capital of ND as well, due to the sandy soils and high water tables.

There are some counties that probably don't do enough, but most counties do their very best to control the weeds in their counties, with the funds that they do have. We need to help those counties as well. Noxious weed control is very important to the protection of agriculture in ND.

Ryan sees the new generation of farmers seeing a stronger need to control noxious weeds.

As Ag commissioner, to get lesser counties involved, you need more outreach, possibly needing more resources from the department. The NDWCA could also be a help to those counties, such as a mentor.

Ryan sees the role of weed boards and weed officers is that they are the front line in weed control. We have the authority, as in the statute, but sometimes using a big hammer, is not the first option. Using NDSU and other resources to educate the landowner first, to try and get them to control their weeds, using the hammer as a last option.

As AG commissioner, he would consider looking at adding a person to the department for outreach. That essentially ties everything together. That person would have to be qualified to assist those lesser involved counties become more active. There is a lot of good help out there waiting to be hired. Ryan would like to stop the turnover that has taken place in the Ag Department.

Ryan appreciates the invitation to come to the board, not only to meet us, but to speak to us. ND is here because of agriculture. We have an oil boom right now, but agriculture is the main stay.

Jim asked Ryan's stand on research for noxious weed control. Ryan feels that research is very important, whether it is for weed control or crops. Ryan would help, in any way he could to find funding for noxious weed research, whether it be from the federal side or from the state side.

As a member of the industrial commission, he would try and ensure that money from oil would be invested into agriculture.

Kevin asked about corps land being returned to the state, what influence could Ryan have. Ryan feels that the land should be in local hands, for better weed control.

Ryan wants to work with everyone, no matter what party they belong to.

Jim thanked Ryan for coming.

Budget: Continued work on the budget. Ron moved to approve the budget for 2015, Dan seconded the motion. M/C

Area Meeting Dates:

October 27th – Ramsey County Courthouse in Devils Lake

October 28th - Barnes County Highway Building in Valley City

October 29th –North Central Research Center in Minot

October 30th – Morton County Highway Building in Mandan

October 31st – New Courthouse in Amidon

All meetings will start at 9:00 am local time

2nd Vice President eligible Area II, IV, V

Area Director terms: Area I, IV, V. These directors are eligible for reelection.

Agenda at all Area Meetings:

Poster Contest

ATV Training

Business sponsors for coffee breaks

Auction items/ convention planning

Resolutions

Changing state law for number of meetings for county weed boards

Changing the government position

NDDA Reports

Industry Reports

Other New Business:

Safety Issues: Joan – Jared Burian accident was a freak accident, but counties are getting concerned about ATV use by weed boards. There may be more coming down the line. Will discuss at the area meetings. We will look at stronger training next spring.

Red River Valley Research Center: Jim – Do we want to continue to support it? Discussion was that we should attend. Stan Wolf has attended in the past, and he is willing to do so again.

SD Weed Associations: Bill mentioned that there is a serious effort underway to combine the three groups in South Dakota into one organization. They are copying some of the bylaws we use. One change is that they would have the government position, not having to pay a membership. We would have to change the bylaws to do it that way here in ND. Will put it on the agendas at the area meetings to discuss it. Can't change it this year anyway.

Other Business:

Blake Schaan, formerly with the ND Ag Dept., is now the manager of the Lone Tree Refuge at Harvey. Good luck to Blake in his new endeavor.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold
Executive secretary