

## **NDWCA Area III Minutes**

### **North Central Research Extension Center, Minot, ND**

**Yet to be approved**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Area Director, Dan Dew called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ward, Bottineau, McHenry, and Renville. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Dan Dew thanked Merlin for taking the extra effort to come to all the area meetings.

Additional agenda items: none presented.

2014 area III minutes were read. Dan asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. None were presented. Dan declared the minutes approved as read.

**Old Business:**

**Annual Meeting update:**

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 5, 6, 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Baymont Inn (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 begin at 8:00 with a welcome from the Mayor of Mandan followed by speakers. At noon we will have a luncheon. Right after lunch we will have our booth people give their presentations. At 2:00 we will load buses and head to Bismarck for a tour of the new Heritage Center. We should be back by around 5:00. There will be a place to check on the registration form whether you want to go. No extra charge for this. In the evening starting around 5:30 we will have a social sponsored by DOW, followed with our evening banquet and awards and entertainment. 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.

**Exhibitor Breaks:** We would like everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. There is a letter printed that you can take to them. Also, there is one on our website, to be downloaded.

**Awards:** Once again the association will be offering two awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Weed Warrior Award. Fill out the form and mail or e mail to Merlin by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**County reports:**

McHenry: submitted by Jerome Peerboom

2015 brought a new board member, Scott Smith to the weed control board. Three members attended the state convention held in Mandan in January.

Members of the weed board assisted at a booth at the Ag. Expo in Minot. The annual report was completed and sent to the NDDA office. Annual dues were paid to the NDWCA.

A spring newsletter highlighting the year's program was published in mid-April and is distributed to all operating producers in the county. Spring chemical sales are held on four half days and one full day. Chemicals offered this year included Milestone, Tordon22k, Escort, Overdrive, Plateau and Curtail. A fall letter was sent to these producers offering chemicals for sale by order only with one scheduled pickup date. Approximately 128 producers took advantage of the discounted prices this year. Producers spent approximately \$97,532 with the weed control board spending \$80,173.85 in the LAP program.

The board completed and approved the 2016 budget. All monies received and disbursed by the county weed board continue to be filtered through the county auditor's office.

TAG monies are used to assist with ROW spraying. One additional individual was hired for ROW spraying for 2015, bringing total sprayer numbers to five. County roads are the primary concern with additional township roads as time and weather permits.

Three board meetings, one sprayer meeting and one special meeting were held throughout the year with an additional meeting planned for mid-November.

Bottineau: submitted by Terry Volk

2015 was a fairly good year for weed control. As always, periods of bad weather and equipment breakdowns added complications; even so, we still covered a lot of miles. The majority of ROW east of the Souris River and a portion of the western ROW were covered two or more times to catch late Canada thistle and milkweed.

Leafy Spurge is much thinner on the ROW than it used to be. It is taking second place to Canada thistle with milkweed a close third. I credit the Overdrive/Tordon mix with the continued improvement. Three crews put in 530 hours and applied just under 25,000 gallons of mix. Spraying began the first week of June and operations ended the last week of September.

A plateau demonstration we started last fall is working out well. A number of pastures south of Willow City have been overrun with Leafy Spurge for many years. In fact, it's said the first major infestations in Bottineau County started here. The soil is sandy and sits above a shallow water table. Fear of Tordon contamination in the groundwater prevented use of what was, for many years, the most effective herbicide tool available. 2-4D became the herbicide of choice and for all the labor and expense necessary to apply it; the long term results were not satisfactory.

Hwy 60 runs right through 640 acres of heavily infested pasture. We asked the owner if he would permit us to setup a three year spurge control project using Plateau on 120 acres, adjacent to the highway. The results, good or bad, could be easily viewed by the public. 8oz Plateau+1qt MSO was applied by air in the fall of 2014. In the spring of 2015, the pasture stood out like a sore thumb. When the surrounding area was greening up in late May-early June, that pasture looked as dead as an old stump. Neighbors called the owner and told him he killed his pasture! The owner was concerned, of course, but after inspecting closely, he discovered the spurge was 99% dead, but the grass looked to be emerging nicely, if a bit slow. He cell grazes his cows and turned them out in late summer. The grass was thick by that time and the rancher was very pleased. In fact, he signed up for more Plateau to spray another 120 acres this fall.

The neighbors were also impressed. We sold more Plateau this year than ever before and others have indicated they want to use it next year as well. It proved to be a break-through project.

Cost-share participation in 2015 has increased 30% over 2014. We hope the participation will continue to improve as landowners gain confidence that effective spurge control is both possible and profitable.

Ward: submitted by Derrill Fick

In January we had a booth at the Ag. Show along with the McHenry County weed board.

The season started with us doing some spraying within the city of Minot.

We hired a contractor to help cover the ROW and hired two other employees.

Started with spraying thistle and spurge in the ROW. Had to go back and do some ROW again because of the thistles.

Chuck Weiser and another person surveyed and sprayed the Purple Loosestrife in the Souris River. The plants did not seem to go as far down the river as in previous years but some places were a little denser after the flood but plants are still there.

We did not hire any people to collect leafy spurge beetles for us this year because we were only able to find a small amount of beetles. These were just put out by us on other locations.

We again found Houndstongue growing in different locations. We pulled some adult plants and sprayed the first year rosettes.

Wormwood seems to be taking over more areas also. With all of the construction and developing going on with the disturbed soil this plant seems to multiply very fast along with Canada thistle.

Spotted knapweed is still being found in areas where out of state contractors were digging and also in some drainage areas.

Yellow toadflax was still being found in ROW and on private lands. Toadflax beetles were found in certain plots, so hopefully in a few years, we can begin distributing these across the state.

We hired a helicopter to spray 200 acres of gravel pits and he will be doing about 1,000 acres leafy spurge with plateau, starting tomorrow, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

We had our Tordon and Plateau cost share programs with over 200 landowners participating.

We will have a booth at the new Heartland Ag. Show coming up in the middle of November.

Renville: submitted by Dan Dew

We added 1 new member to our spray crew. The new person was Caitlyn Abernathy. The rest of the crew consisted of Tonya Naumman, Cody Beck, and Katie Johnson. We have purchased a second side by side ATV using TAG money. With the two side by sides, four-wheeler and two spray trucks, we were able to cover more ground in many different conditions.

We dealt mainly with Leafy spurge and milkweed this year. We did spray for Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle, as well. We covered more of the county this year than we did last year.

We did have a few more landowners participate in the LAP program this year, but still short of what we hoped for.

We do have a list of contact people for each township and these people have let us know where the noxious weeds are. This helped a lot.

I inspected two gravel pits and one had to be sprayed before gravel could be hauled from it.

I dealt with three complaints and have had a little trouble getting the problems resolved, as I have had trouble finding sprayers to spray the land. We are still working on lots at the Mouse River Park to get them cleaned up.

The spray crew ran a safety class this spring and Caitlyn attended the sprayer school with me this spring as well.

I am working with a commercial spray company to work with the county to do any work we need done for next year. This will allow us to have them right away.

Agencies: None

Government Report: None

Industry:

Mike Schalla – Dow AgroSciences.

First of all, thank you for all the business this past season, and for your continued business in the future.

Dow is launching 2 new products for the upcoming year. The first is already for purchase, and it is called Graslan L. It is a premix of Tordon plus 2-4D Choline. The 2-4D Choline is a new type of 2-4D that is not an Amine or Ester. This is a brand new 2-4D that Dow has come out with that has some great benefits. First, it has a low odor which is great for applying around cities or towns. Secondly, it has near zero volatility, which means, that on hot summer days, it won't move off site. Finally, the formulation results in less drift, under normal application conditions. Graslan L will have a caution signal word, which is safer than the danger signal word that most 2-4D's currently have. Graslan L will be for sale in 2x2.5 gal, 30 gal drums, 250's or bulk. The recommended rate is 2-5 pts/acre which will contain 1 pt. Tordon and 2 pts 2-4D Choline. You can add milestone or other Dow products for different weed issues. You may also add Tordon to it to create your own 2-4D – Tordon ratio. Graslan L does not have extra haying or grazing restrictions.

The second new product is Vastlan. It is not currently available to purchase. It contains tricolpyr with a Choline salt. Vastlan has excellent activity on trees and brush, like salt cedar. It will have a caution signal word and have low volatility attributes as well as an aquatic label. Vastlan will be for sale in 4x1, 2x2.5, and 30 gal drums.

Pricing for 2016 will have a flat Tordon and Milestone pricing. Milestone for agencies will be \$277/gal for 2x2.5's and \$70.75/quarts.

Dow has a new Prairie and Grassland Management Guides that contain information that producers have found very beneficial. If you would like any literature for winter trade shows, please let me know. I'll make sure to get you some.

Dow has a new equipment support program that will offer credits at dealers. Please contact me for more details about that great opportunity.

One last reminder for Bareground or gravel pit treatment acres, Dow's herbicide, Opensight, is labeled for 6.6oz/acre. That provides excellent control and residual. Opensight allows for those acres to be hayed or grazed as well. Opensight is also on the equipment program. For more questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & CPS Timberland Division

Perspective: Still not labeled for haying and grazing. EPA is now asking federal agencies if they need the product, and what quantities they would use. Reminder, Perspective is currently labeled, it just has a 1 year haying and grazing restriction.

Bayer does have a product called Method 240SL. It is liquid Perspective, without escort and telar mixed with it. Does an excellent job on Leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Bayer will probably package it in 2x2.5. Rate: 12oz/acre, approximately \$325/gallon. Expect a slight increase in 2016 on this product. But remember again, 1 year haying and grazing restriction as well.

Graslan L from Dow is an excellent chemical. The 2-4D in it is a little more active than regular 2-4D. This premix may be the future.

Milestone still has a government agency attachment. Prices will remain stable, but retail prices will increase by 1% or \$3/gallon.

BASF: One salesperson in the entire US. He is an office person. Prices for Plateau and Overdrive should remain stable in 2016.

Other chemicals used by weed boards should remain fairly stable.

Butterflies and Bees: Be very careful out there next season. Milkweed and pollinator plants. Hot topics. Watch what and how you spray.

CPS: 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. Our warehouse in Spearfish is run by two of the best, Jesse and John. We can extend bid prices from 2015 to 2016. Feel free to contact me or the warehouse anytime.

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist.

Biocontrol:

Leafy spurge collections 8 field days: McKenzie, Billings (3), Stutsman, Grant, Stark and Benson 900,000 total beetles collected.

Yellow toadflax: 6 biocontrol sites – established in 2 sites near Minot, continue to monitor

Spotted knapweed: 1 site in Golden Valley County, continue to monitor

Weed Seed Free Forage: 2015 – 14 inspectors, 46 inspections, 7519.9 acres inspected, 28,887 tags issued, and 1311 bales used the purple and yellow approved twine.

At the NAISMA conference, some changes to the weed list was made. Also, they are looking for a new twine vendor. The department may seek one themselves.

Commissioner Weed Forum: Jan 5, 2016 - Free to the public – free noon meal –WEED OFFICER IS REQUIRED, UNDER STATE LAW, TO ATTEND –the board may send a board member, if the weed officer cannot attend. SOMEONE MUST ATTEND!!

Annual Weed Survey: Due Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do not copy and paste from last year's report. Double check names and addresses on report, to make sure they are correct, as this is the directory, not only for the department, but for the association as well.

Funding: NOGA'S (Notice of Grant Awards) have been sent out. Several counties in this area have not signed and returned the forms. These are the new forms that have to be signed for you to receive state funding, whether it be LAP or TAG.

TAG: All weed boards qualify, \$5,000/counties, \$2,000/cities No longer need prior approval, unless questionable. Grant periods: July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017.

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. Landowners must contribute 20% total cost of chemical and or in-kind. Grant period July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, July 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016.

NASIMA Report: Derrill Fick

Many biological agents were discussed. Over the years there have been many weeds that have had bio agents used for their control. There is still continued research from overseas companies that are looking for new bio agents so we have more options for weed control.

A program called Play, Clean, Go was discussed which is a program designed to help prevent the spread of Invasive species. No matter what you are doing: working, hunting, or recreational activities they idea is to be aware of any weeds that might be stuck to you, your animals or to your vehicles so you do not spread them to other areas.

While listening to some NAISMA members from Canada at this meeting in Vancouver it became very apparent that us as chemical applicators have to be very diligent in the way we apply our chemicals. The Canadian government has restricted or taken away the use of many chemicals that are used by weed control people. We must be thankful for what we can do and what we use as long as we follow the label and do exactly as prescribed or we will be down to injecting chemicals into plants with a syringe as they do in Vancouver!!

There will be more detailed updates at the annual meeting on these and other topics that were discussed at this meeting. I just wanted to make everyone aware that the worst case scenario, short of not doing anything in weed control, is already happening in some areas.

As President of the Association I just wanted to thank everyone attending these area meetings for their continued support of the association and to continue the great job of weed control despite the challenges of the weather and other day to day activities in weed control.

New Business:

Elections: Area Director - 2 year term maximum 3 terms

Dan Dew is ineligible due to term limits

Derrill nominated Terry Volk. No other nominations. Derrick moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Terry, Jerome seconded it, M/C

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate – 2 year term

Derrill nominated Jo Ashley. No other nominations. George Lemar moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Jo, Derrill seconded it, M/C

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate -2 year term

Derrill nominated Dan Folske. George moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Dan, Jerome seconded it, M/C

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – From areas II, III V - No nominations

Nominations can be given to Merlin at any time, or nominated from the floor at the annual business meeting.

Government: 2 year term no term limits – Derrill nominated David Hirsch

Industry: 2 year term no term limits – Jerome nominated William Walker

Poster Contest: Dan Dew, education committee chairman

The information should be out to the schools by the end of October. I am requesting that the posters be returned to Dan by Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. All questions can be directed to Dan.

By Laws: Merlin read the change to the bylaws. This will be voted on at the annual business meeting. There will be a definition added to the definitions defining calendar year.

Resolutions: None presented

Dan Dew adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary

