

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Ramada Inn, Bismarck**

**January 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Yet to be Board Approved**

President Leon Pederson called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Members president were , Leon Pederson, Joan Lorge, Brent Nelson, Kevin Schmidt, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Stan Wolf, David Hirsch, Bill Walker, Katie Clyde, Gary Hartman and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present at various times: Derrill Fick, education chairman, Elvin Johnson, Nelson County, Ron Manson, Stutsman County, and Jamen Windish, Barnes County.

Additional agenda items were: Doug Goehring, ND Agriculture Commissioner, will join us later in the meeting.

The September minutes were reviewed. Brent moved to approve the minutes, Katie seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin read the financial report. Kevin moved to accept the financial report. Bill seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin presented the budget. Discussion on the education committee's growing fund. Brent moved that the education committee's expenses cannot exceed 80% of the prior years ending balance. Stan seconded the motion. After some discussion, M/C

Katie moved to send the proposed budget as read, to the annual business meeting on Tuesday. Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Resolutions: Leon read Area I resolution

**Whereas:** Since the beginning of noxious weed control in North Dakota, the chemicals available to use of noxious weeds have been few in number

**Whereas:** Noxious weeds have continued to spread in North Dakota due to the few chemicals used

**Whereas:** Landowners in our state are becoming better stewards in chemical applications, and are constantly searching for safer environmentally friendlier chemicals to use

**Therefore be it resolved:** We the counties of Area I requests that the North Dakota Weed Control Association adopt this resolution and request that the North Dakota Ag. Department, request a Section 18 from EPA for the use of the chemical Method 240SL, on noxious and troublesome weeds in North Dakota, on hayed and grazed land.

Discussion: The Ag Dept. is hesitant on doing a Section 18. If passed by the association, Bill will work with the AG. Dept. to get this applied for. Bill has some from industry that will also help. Brent moved to send this resolution to the annual meeting. Dave seconded the motion. M/C

Leon read the Area III resolution

**Whereas:** In North Dakota, the many Federal, State, County, Township, City and private landowners, have spent many thousands of dollars over the years for the control of noxious weeds that have infested their land.

**Whereas:** Noxious weeds are capable of being rapidly spread by seeds blowing in the wind by human activities, by livestock, by wildlife, and/or by an extensive root system.

**Whereas:** If a noxious weed has been identified and there are very few plants found, it would be easier to control because most noxious weeds are very difficult to control, once the plant has become established and a seed bank has been created.

**Whereas:** In states that have the same type of growing season and produce similar livestock and grain crops, as North Dakota, they have seen the influx of the invasive weed, Palmer Amaranth, which can have an economical and environmental impact to their areas with very limited control options.

**Therefore be it resolved:** That Area III, of the ND Weed Control Association, ask that the North Dakota Weed Control Association the placement of Palmer Amaranth on the state noxious weed list.

**Therefore be it further resolved:** That if passed, the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in pursuing the listing of Palmer Amaranth to the North Dakota State Noxious Weed List.

Discussion: Dave asked if it is a cropland weed or a pasture weed. Bill said it is mainly a cropland weed. When looking for seed in a seed mix, Chelsey said it is extremely difficult to distinguish from other similar seeds. By placing it on the noxious weed list, it could limit the number of ornamental plots that get planted. Bill moved to send this resolution to the annual meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. M/C

Leon read the resolution from Area V

**Whereas:** In North Dakota the many Federal, State County, Township, City and Private landowners have spent many thousands of dollars, annually, and over the years for the control of noxious weeds that have infested their land.

**Whereas:** Noxious weeds are capable of being rapidly spread by seeds blowing in the wind, by human activities, by livestock, by wildlife, and/or by an extensive root system.

**Whereas:** If a noxious weed has been identified and there are very few plants found in a certain area, it would be much easier to control, than a noxious weed that has been established, with an established root system and/or a tremendous seed bed.

**Whereas:** Some weeds contain a toxicity that can be detrimental to not only livestock but also humans.

**Whereas:** Although some counties may already have Houndstongue on their county noxious weed list, others still do not.

**Therefore be it resolved:** That Area V, is in full support, asking that the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the placement of Houndstongue on the State Noxious Weed List.

**Therefore be it further resolved:** That the North Dakota Weed Control Association ask the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to consider Houndstongue as our state's next state listed noxious weed.

Discussion: Dave wondered why this is not a state noxious weed already. Bill said there were not any great products before to control Houndstongue, now there are. Joan moved to send this resolution to the annual meeting. Katie seconded the motion. M/C

**Committee Reports:**

**Education Committee Report:** Derrill Fick, chairman. The Education committee met before the board meeting today. It has been proposed that we get standing banners rather than update the existing booths for each area. Ron and Jamen are planning to get some for their counties. We could run this through Barnes County. We can get a matching grant from the NDDA. Derrill would like to spend \$3,000 to \$3,500 to get around 6 per area. Ron and Jamen would work on getting more prices and designs. Very good discussion took place.

Bill moved to let the education committee proceed with the project. Stan seconded the motion. M/C

Derrill asked about updating pamphlets. The ornamental ones we have left are old and out of date. Chelsey will work on it with Stan.

Set sprayer schools tentatively for May 23-Carrington, May 24- Minot, May 25-Dickinson. Will check on sites, etc., then let Andrew Thostenson know.

Retail items: Stan has cards, cards & cards, pad folios, and some can cozies. Merlin has the new caps and jackets. Will be selling at the convention. Taking orders for jackets. Consensus of the board, sell the cards at discounted prices, and what is left, give out at the trade shows.

Poster Contest: Has one school submit posters, from Carson, and thanks to Merlin for getting them to do it last minute, with a pizza party bribe. Mix-up with e mails, will change it for next year.

At this time, Commissioner Goehring joined the meeting. Introductions were held.

Commissioner Goehring thanked the board for the opportunity to visit with them, before the annual meeting.

Palmer Amaranth: May be 12 locations in the state with it. Most likely came from seed in the plantings. Though to ID the seed. May be able to do so with DNA. Could be a serious problem in CRP plantings in the last 5 years, and of course in the wildlife plantings. Bill said it is easy to control in grassland, not cropland. Doug said if the resolution passes, it will give him another tool in his pocket fighting the weed.

Houndstongue: Joan and Katie spoke on how they have it in their counties, how they have been fighting it, and how they seem to be losing the battle. Stan, Derrill and Gary spoke on how they have it in their counties as well. Dave talked how biocontrol is effective, but not available to us

yet. Chelsey said that when she was at the Western Weed Science meeting in Las Vegas, it was discussed on how to get the biocontrol out to states. Problem is the huge backlog of requests. Doug said that if we pass the resolution, he would definitely consider it. If anything, using the press would raise awareness as well.

Section 18 for Method. Doug is open to applying for a Section 18. Applying for a 24C is also an option. Very good discussion followed.

Legislative issues. Doug made everyone aware of the budget cuts the governor has requested. It makes operating a large department difficult. Will not hire additional employees, hopes to hang on to the ones he has. Discussion on SB 2027, the rewrite of the pesticide law. Leon pointed out errors in the definitions. Doug was not aware of them, but stated that they are looking at the language of the entire bill. Not professionally written. Early in the session, but cuts in our funding from EARP is not likely, but you never know. A different environment this session, for sure.

Elvin Johnson: Township roads. Draining the ditches. Discussion: Suggestion: Elvin to take the issue to his local water board. His DOT district had issues with the cost of spraying the DOT right of ways. He invited Mike Pike, NDDOT, to come to the area meeting. He attended, and was very grateful for the invitation. He also said he learned a lot on what we do. Elvin feels we should invite them to our meetings. Bill thinks that would be a good idea.

**Legislative:** Merlin said that he was at the department budget hearing this morning. Leon was also there. Monitoring SB2027. Merlin will send out bill numbers to the board when he sees a bill that concerns the association. As of right now, there are none on the radar. Merlin will let the board know whenever he finds something. Stan mentioned that he sits in on weekly county meetings dealing with legislative issues. He did so last session, and would let Merlin know if he heard anything, and will do so again.

Convention Update: Merlin said that it's been a difficult planning year. First we lost meeting rooms, so everything was changed to make things fit, then a couple of weeks ago, we find out we get the bigger room for all day Wednesday. Will still have breakout rooms, divide the big room in half. Preregistrations are up from last year, looks like a good turnout again. Karissa Floerchinger, DOW, cannot attend. She has health issues. She has one of the breakout sessions, Bill is the moderator, will make it work. Someone is coming to take her place. Merlin stated that we do not give refunds after December, but Terry could not attend due to a death in the family. Merlin would like the board to make an exception for Terry. Joan moved to give Terry back his convention registration. Katie seconded the motion. M/C

### **Agency Reports:**

**Government:** Dave Hirsch. Working on two older projects: Field bindweed biocontrol. Got some from Colorado, put them in Dickey County, and they looked good early. Hopefully they overwinter, and get established. We would be able to distribute some then. Purple loosestrife biocontrol: Got some from the SD Dept. of Corrections, and put them north of Mandan in Morton County.

Helped with 3 Leafy Spurge field days this summer, and will do so again this coming summer. Would like to see more held in other locations in the state. Will talk more on this subject Thursday morning during my presentation.

**NDDA:** Chelsey stated that they are ready for tomorrow, for the Commissioners forum, hope everyone can attend. Weed Free Forage contracts. It has been decided to extend the current ones we have. Funding: LAP – 12% left to spend, TAG – 45% left to spend. No division director again! A lot of good discussion on LAP and TAG. Discussion on Forest Service grant. Chelsey stated what can or can't be used for these matching grants.

**Industry:** Bill Walker – What he said last fall at the area meetings came true. Bayer went up 5% on Perspective and Method. Dow stayed the same. You can get a Freelexx label off DOW's website, but it is not for sale yet. Glyphosate products will take a slight increase.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Baker Montana Mtg.** – Leon, Joan and Hope Mastel attended. Met a lot of people. Good ideas were exchanged. Jesse Scott, Ekalaka, Montana, attended the Area V meeting in Amidon, to offer ideas and here more ideas. Hopefully, this will continue.

No other old business:

Being no other old business, Leon transitioned the presidency to Kevin.

Katie moved to recess the meeting until around noon on Thursday. Joan seconded the motion.  
M/C

Meeting recessed at 9:28 pm

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Schmidt, the 2017 President, called the meeting back to order at 11:53 am.

Those present were: Kevin, Joan, Gary, Bill, Katie, Brent, David, Jamen Windish, Leon, Chelsey and Merlin

Additional agenda items: Outreach Committee:

NEW BUSINESS:

Joan moved that the outreach committee be a subcommittee of the education committee. Katie seconded the motion. M/C

Resolutions: Merlin will send a cover letter along with a copy of the resolutions to the commissioner. He will state in the letter that Bill will be working with the department on the Section 18. Merlin will have Kevin sign the letter.

Executive Secretary's contract for 2017. As is in the budget, the wages cannot exceed \$7,200/year. Also as stated in the previous meeting minutes, Merlin will be paid \$40/month for use of his cell phone for association business. That needs ~~not~~ to be in actual contract. Merlin left the room for a short time. Discussion was held. Katie moved to hire Merlin for 2017 as stated above, with no changes. Gary seconded the motion. M/C Contracts were signed.

Convention: Auction: grossed \$3,800. Total number of items were down from last several years. There were 127 registered. Bill said to cut the vendor time in half. One hour is too long. Brent said that people were sitting around Tuesday morning wondering when we are getting started. Move the registration start time back from 8:00 to 9:00. Merlin said that 8:00 is from the years when the Ag Department started at 9:00.

Laurie from the Ramada came in to go over with the board rooms for 2018.

January 8, 9, 10, 11

Monday – 4:00 to 9:00pm Room 106

For the entirety of conference – Room 194(Behind registration table)

Judicial – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday till noon - Vendors

Tuesday – Heritage – 8:30 – 5:30, Lunch Assembly

Tuesday – Assembly – Beer and Brat – Texas Holdem

Wednesday – Heritage – All day, Lunch – Assembly

Wednesday – Room 106 - women's

Wednesday Afternoon Breakout – Assembly and Heritage

Wednesday Evening – Banquet – Heritage

Thursday Morning – Breakfast –Judicial, served in hallway

Thursday morning – Heritage till noon

Thursday noon – board meeting –Room 106

Board meetings set for 2017 – the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday again, March 28, June 27, and September 26, at the Ramada Inn, Bismarck. All three meetings will start at 9:00 am.

Area meetings were set: October 23, Area III, Minot, October 24, Area I, Devils Lake, October 25, Area II, Valley City, October 26, Area IV, Mandan, October 27, Area V, Amidon. Meetings start at 9:00 local time. Area directors will check to get meeting places reserved and let Merlin know.

Katie moved to adjourn the meeting. Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 12:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold  
Executive secretary