

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

September 26th, 2017

Yet to be Board Approved

Vise - President Katie Clyde called the meeting to order at 9:59 am. Members present were Katie Clyde, Joan Lorge, Terry Volk, Brent Nelson, Jamen Windish, Stan Wolf, Derrill Fick, Chelsey Penuel and Scott Hochhalter, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Katie asked for introductions from everyone. Katie welcomed Scott Hochhalter to the meeting. Scott looks forward to working with us. He comes to the Ag. Dept. with 25 plus years with Soil Conservation, working diligently on conservation.

Additional agenda items were: none

Minutes were reviewed. Jamen moved to approve the minutes as presented, Brent seconded the motion. M/C

Financial Report: Merlin started to give the financial report, including the check register, and the budget update.

Bill Walker, industry representative, phoned in his report at this time. Apologized for not being at the meeting. Has some heart surgery planned for Thursday, so he has to stay home for a few tests.

Industry Report: Dow: 3% increase on Milestone, Opensight on October 1. Tordon, not sure at this time, should know by the area meetings. Bayer: 2% price increase on Espionage, a Bareground product. They have not said anything on their other products. Method update: EPA is talking to Bayer. Possibly individual plant treatment with Method. Modified spot spraying, instead of field spraying. At least they are talking now. Monsanto: Glyphosate pricing, could be going slightly higher, but it may not. 2-4D is the same way. Possibly higher, possibly not. Dicamba Issues: Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri have banned the use of Dicamba this year, due to drift complaints. Because of the Dicamba resistance beans. Weed Boards need to be careful, farmers are looking for anything and everything due to commodity prices and weather-related issues. Be careful when spraying right of ways. Sonic issues have not helped. Remember, Overdrive has Dicamba in it, and it can drift.

Plans to make all the area meetings in October.

Merlin finished the financial report.

Terry moved to approve the financial report, Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. Getting to work on the poster contest. Will be getting a new – updated list from the department of education for 5th and 6th grade instructors. Should be going out to them soon. Should they be e mailed or by regular mail? Consensus is by e mail. Will include pictures from past winners for teachers' reference. Will send an e mail to

area directors as well. Now is the time to start thinking about sprayer schools for next spring. Have them at the same locations? Need to let Andrew Thostenson, so he can get his advertising going.

Still have caps, t shirts, a few jackets available for sale. No more playing cards. Merlin will take caps to the area meetings to sell.

Outreach: Leon not in attendance.

Annual Meeting: The suggested theme by the committee is Neighbors helping Neighbors. The board needs to decide whether they want this theme or not. Brent moved to use this theme, Jamen seconded the meeting. M/C

Merlin went through his proposed agenda, times, speakers that are lined up so far. We will have breakout sessions again this year. Wednesday at noon luncheon, Roger Hille, humorist, Wednesday evening banquet entertainment, Cottonwood. The committee will meet following the board meeting to decide meals, more speakers, and more. Jamen was wondering about laminating the poster boards for vendor advertising. They would cost \$40 each to have them made. Jim, from the NDDA could make them for us for free. Discussion on recruiting more vendors for the conference. Jamen will check with Newman Signs, Katie will check with Pump Systems. Merlin will talk to Game & Fish. Have more sponsorships as well.

Break:

Agency Reports:

Government: David Hirsch could not be here today. Katie read his report to the board.

2017 Field Season Highlights:

Budget: APHIS Biocontrol funding for APHIS was stable for the 2017 fiscal year. The 2018 Federal Budget has not been finalized. It's hoped PPQ will be able to participate in field day activities again in 2018.

Hound's tongue biocontrol: No further news on when the permit for this biocontrol agent will be issued and materials become available for ND. Biocontrol scientists are using extra care to make sure the application is complete and host specificity studies are well documented. This will help the chances of the agent application being approved.

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol: One year ago, PPQ released a foliage feeding beetle for the control of purple loosestrife at a large infestation along the Missouri river in Morton County. Insects were obtained from the South Dakota Dept. of Corrections from insect rearing ponds at Yankton, SD. The harvested insects were containerized and transported to the Morton Co. site by canoe. Plans were to augment the sites with additional insects in 2017 but production at the SD insectary was low and they were not able to supply ND. The loosestrife infestation at the site remains high and future releases will be needed. An order of insects for next season has already been made.

Leafy Spurge Biocontrol: PPQ participated in 4 flea beetle field days. In general, the average flea beetle population across ND would be considered "good" this season. The number of Field day events and opportunities remain relatively low across the state with notable exception in a few counties. Demand for beetles remains high. An informal survey of random spurge site I conducted show spurge beetles occur in nearly all sites checked however many sites had low numbers and would benefit by additional releases. Several sites I monitored show good spurge control from beetles.

Yellow Toadflax Biocontrol: Insect populations at several toadflax sites near Minot were evaluated. A growing population of toadflax stem weevils was noted at several sites. Insects appear to be well established. Further releases are planned to help the sites continue to develop into harvestable populations over the next few years. A major milestone could be achieved if agents could be harvested locally. Locally grown insects would be better adapted to the ND climate, their lifecycle would be in sync with local weed development, and establish better following redistribution. Derrill led discussion on redistributing toadflax beetles, how and when.

NDDA: Chelsey Penuel gave the NDDA report. Funding and LAP. 9% TAG and 5% LAP not used returned to the EARP fund from the last biennium. For 2017-19, no funding cuts. Everyone should have received their NOGA's in the mail. They are coming back rather nicely. Would like to have nearly all back by area meetings. The city of Williston now has a weed board, and are moving forward. Possibly working with Williams County Weed Board.

Annual reports: saw an increase in noxious weed acres. Wants acres to be reported as accurately as possible. Will talk more at the area meetings on this.

Went on the Palmer Amaranth trip this late summer. It was eye opening. Need to be vigilant. Zero tolerance is the best policy. One producer in Nebraska spent \$120/ac, and had zero control. With all the hay being moved, coming into the state, we will likely see new weed infestations, some that may not have been found in our state or areas in our state or new infestations in previously uninfested areas in our state. Need to stay on top of it. Scout for new weeds if possible.

Scott Hochhalter: We are very fortunate to have single funding. Grow funding can be done, especially through a grass roots effort. Due diligence on hay movement is very important. Local weed folks need to stay on top of this, even down the road when it comes to manure movement.

OLD BUSINESS:

2019 Convention: Merlin met with Laurie at the Ramada and booked the 2019 Conference at the hotel. The dates are January 7 – 10, 2019. Merlin also booked the same meeting rooms as we have for 2018.

Website: Jamen asked if everyone looked at the up and running website, what they have created. Not many have looked. Jamen asked where do we go from here. Terry stated that he can keep the current website going for a time, giving us more time to decide. Katie said that the up and running folks are willing to train up to three people to run the site, such as Katie, Jamen and Merlin, for instance, or anyone else. Brent said that you need someone to keep the web page going, keep it up to date. Terry says it would be easier to keep it simple, easier to keep it up to date. Very good discussion. Chelsey said that up and running have done some nice sites. Brent asked what is our goal. Who are we going to target. Our original site was targeting weed people in the state. Brent suggests that we discuss it at the area meetings. Maybe someone else from other counties would have good input. Who will maintain it, what information will be on it, and who we will target. Question on costs with up and running. Could cost \$5,000 or more. Merlin will put it on the area meetings agendas. Website tabled until the January meeting.

NDDA funding: Merlin distributed copies given to him from the Ag. Dept. Merlin met with Ken Eras and Tom Bodine at the Ag. Dept. on behalf of the board to get a list of who receives funding from EARP and what they receive. Figures show that funds remaining in EARP at the end of the biennium would not support an increase in LAP for counties. We would most likely have to increase the funding in EARP. Tom and Ken were not 100% behind the idea of raising the fees. Could there be reallocation with leftover funds? The way the NOGA's are printed, no. Two biennium's ago, we reallocated. Last biennium, we did not. It's hard to reallocate leftover funds fairly. Good discussion. Should we revisit the formula for LAP? We need to show a need on what counties can utilize. Merlin will bring this up at the area meetings to get figures from them. Will also put it in the newsletter. Merlin will bring results to the January meeting.

Gravel Pits: Stan – Stan brought this up during last year's convention to the group. He feels that this is a value-added product, and therefore we should charge fees. He asked the question to his state's attorney, "Do weed boards have the authority to charge fees for inspecting gravel pits for noxious weeds?" The answer Stan received is that the authority to charge fees was removed from state law in 2009, and never re-added. Merlin stated that was the time when weed free forage was added, and we were adding weed free gravel, so wording in existing law had to be removed so that new wording could be added. But, when we lost the gravel portion of the bill, we lost everything. We will probably need an attorney general's opinion on this matter. If we do not have authority, we may have to work on adding it to state law next session. We will bring this up at the area meetings, and in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 Budget: The board set the budget for 2018. Jamen moved to temporarily accept the budget and present it for approval at the January meeting. Stan seconded the motion. M/C

Pamphlet: Stan has been working on this. He has been working with an instructor at NDSU, advertising class that could do this as a class project. Needs to know what we want on it. Need to update the existing pamphlet. Change pictures? Would like to have it finalized for board approval in a few weeks, and have it printed in time for the conference. Jamen will send the high-resolution logo to Stan. Stan also sent them the ornamental flier as a secondary topic.

Area meeting agendas: Merlin went over the agenda for the areas. Website, LAP Funding, Website, Gravel Pits, Houndstongue, poster contest, legislative issues. 2nd vice president nominations from Area's I, III, and IV. Area director's terms up are Area's II and III. Both are eligible for reelection.

Next meeting: January 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Being no further business, Terry moved to adjourn the meeting, Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary

2018 Convention Planning Meeting
September 26th, 2017
Following board of directors meeting

Jamen Windish, 2nd Vice President, chairman on 2018 convention, presiding.

Panel members: State Agency: State Trust Lands – Jerry Saude

Game & Fish – Kent Luttschwager

ND Parks and Rec – Kathy Duttenhefner

National Guard - ?

ND Forest Service - ?

NDDOT - ?

Opening statements should include – what they do as far as weed control, budgets for this, and whether they work with local weed boards.

Federal Agencies: NRCS

FSA

Corps

US Fish & Wildlife

US Forest Service – Chad Prosser

BLM

National Parks

Merlin will get ahold of someone to represent the above groups. We will have index cards at the registration table for questions to be written on. The moderator from each panel will ask the questions. This may avoid arguing questions to the panelists, such as was the case several years back.

Committee decided on meals for the convention. Merlin will do the breaks, and figure out prices for costs for vendors to sponsor.

Meeting adjourned!