

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

March 20th, 2017

Yet to be Board Approved

President Kevin Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Members present were Kevin Schmidt, Leon Pederson, Joan Lorge, Bill Walker, Gary Hartman, Brent Nelson, Jamen Windish, David Hirsch, Katie Clyde, Derrill Fick, Lane Kozel, NDDA, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Stan Wolf by phone, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Additional agenda items were: none

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

Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, memberships paid so far, which are ahead of last year, and the budget update. Bill moved to approve the financial report, Katie seconded the motion. M/C

Discussion on convention and summary: We had a net income on the beer and brat social of \$2,682.59, and \$8,454.38 on the annual meeting. We had 86 full registrations, and numerous spouse or extra registrations.

Convention went well. Excellent turnout. We had 11 booths. Jim Basaraba received the lifetime achievement award. Topics for the speakers were good. Breakout sessions were well attended. Good feedback on them. Overall, the meals were good. Area III is the host area for 2018. The convention planning committee will meet in June, after the board meeting, to get next year's, 2018 convention, rolling. Discussion on high prices for beer. Merlin will visit with the Ramada folks later in the year, to see what can be done to get the prices lower.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. Earth Day is April 20th at BSC in Bismarck. We have had a booth at the event for several years. Question on whether we want to do so again this year. Cost is \$100.00. After discussion, Katie moved to have a booth again this year. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

Still working on pamphlets. Stan is spearheading this. Stan mentioned that he is working with NDSU, and could possibly be done in the fall.

Poster contest winner is Anna Hauge, a sixth grader from Carson, in Grant County. T – shirts are here for it. Stan and Merlin are working on the program presentation, which will be April 5th, in Carson.

Sprayer schools are set, May 23rd in Carrington, at the research center, May 24th in Minot, at the research center, and May 25th, at the Stark County Weed building. Looking for pictures of county equipment to show at the schools, something to fill in between speakers, etc.

Banners are being worked on, Jamen is spearheading this. Jamen stated that they are still being designed. Should have something to send to the board in the next several days for review. They will cost \$150/banner. This price includes the design setup. Counties can also tie into this later for \$150/banner. They must mention Jamen or the NDWCA, to receive the special price.

Legislative: Merlin gave a summary on what is going on in the legislature. The hearing was held on SB 2027, the pesticide rewrite bill. Very short hearing. Should pass, since no language has been changed from the existing law. HB 1009, the department budget, hearing was held in Senate approps. Not like in the House, there was room in the time allotment, to hear other testimony. Merlin testified on the budget, stating that we could use twice the funding, but not asking for more, just want to maintain what we have, for now.

Discussion took place on whether Merlin is wasting association funds by making weekly trips to legislature, when no hearings are taking place. Merlin mentioned that this session, he has received less than half from last sessions per diem, and doesn't expect to see any increase in the second half of the session, over the 50% of budget. Discussion also took place that Merlin needs to tell the board, who he talks to, and what about, when he is at the legislature.

Outreach: Leon is working on it. Leon wants either to add rules and regulations to the bylaws or a stand-alone document, for the group to follow, concerning by law changes, resolutions, etc. Leon feels that the current by laws do not define steps to take to do these things.

Kevin called for a short 10-minute break.

Agency Reports:

Government: David Hirsch gave the government report. Houndstongue biocontrol is working in Canada and in Montana. It is illegal to bring it into North Dakota. It is not illegal to have it here, if it migrates on its own. Dave would like to put together a book on biocontrol of Houndstongue, for counties to have, so that they can see what to look for, out in the field. Possibly we have it in North Dakota, just not knowing what to look for. Then, we could possibly study it, and possibly move it around the state.

The protest camp south of Mandan this winter, used wood from all over the country, for heating, etc. This raises a huge concern, as some of that wood was brought into the state from quarantined areas in the country, where diseases such as emerald ash borer and others, not in our state, thrive. Dave went down to the camp site, and has been working with the tribe and the corps. The wood that was burned has no issues, but the remaining wood, that was clean enough, was hauled to the Bismarck landfill, where it was ground up, and is being buried. USDA/APHIS/PPQ, is working with the Standing Rock Reservation, and Sitting Bull College, to hire a college student for the summer, to set up insect traps, for the various species, monitor them, and find out what has come into our state. Dave will keep us informed on this issue.

NDDA: Chelsey Penuel gave the NDDA report. 88% LAP has been spent. 60% TAG has been spent. Chelsey feels that TAG will be spent, as a lot of counties have indicated that they will be spending the money later in the spring. The 17-19 budget, expecting no reductions, but as of now, no guarantees. The directory has been updated on line. 7 weed boards have yet filed their annual report.

Lane Kozel asked the state association to work with counties to encourage them to do a joint powers agreement with the NDDA for weed free forage. Several counties already have one in place. The department cannot add new weed free forage inspectors, unless they start over the process, with state procurement, like last year. Under a joint powers agreement, a weed officer cannot leave the county line to inspect. Weed boards would have to have an agreement with neighboring counties for that weed officer to go into that county.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report. Quiet for now. Glyphosate prices are creeping higher, everything else is stable. As for the Section 18 request, Bill has been in conversation with Jerry Sauter, with the NDDA. As for right now, everyone is waiting on Bayer. Something may be in the works, as far as a label. If this would happen, no need for a section 18 request. If nothing happens on the industry front, then the department will work with us on pursuing a section 18.

OLD BUSINESS:

Iowa Conference: Next week. Leon and Katie, from the board have expressed interest to go. CPS received complimentary registrations, so their registrations would be covered. Transportation will mainly be provided by Bill. Mileage would only be needed for Katie and Leon to meet Bill. There would be a few meals not provided by the conference or hotel. Rooms would be \$110/night. Discussion held on how to pay the rooms. Bill stated that since he has them already on his card, that it would be easiest to leave them that way, and he will send the association the bill for the rooms. Leon and Katie will take reimbursement sheets along, for the rest. Joan moved to send Leon and Katie to the Iowa conference, and reimburse them per state rates for mileage and meals, and cover the full room rates, which will be paid to Bill. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

Letter from NDDA: Kevin passed around the letter he received from Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring, concerning the letter we sent him on the Section 18 and placing Houndstongue on the state noxious weed list. There is a lot of leg work to be done, before another weed is added to the state list. Chelsey stated that she contacted Rod Lym, and she has a list of questions she is working on, some of which she will take possibly to the sprayer schools and the area meetings. We'll have to wait and see.

Newsletter: Merlin just wanted to let the board know that we have reached a sort of milestone with the newsletter. Paper mailings versus e-letter, virtually 50/50.

Jackets/Vests: Consensus of the board is to keep taking orders for them. Not a huge fund raiser, but more as a advertising item.

NEW BUSINESS:

NAISMA DUES: Merlin has not received a notice for dues, but since we are not meeting until June, the bill will be here before then. Last year they were \$100, for the bronze level. Brent moved that we pay the NAISMA dues at the same membership level as last year. Gary seconded the motion. M/C

Web site: We usually pay Terry Volk \$100.00 website maintenance fee each March. Terry also indicated that he may retire in the next couple of years, and that we should look somewhere else for a web page. Brent moved to pay Terry the \$100.00 for this year. Joan seconded the motion. M/C

After some discussion, a part of the education committee, Jamen, Katie and Leon will come back to the June meeting with prices, etc., on a new site.

Reimbursements for gravel pit inspections: Stan provided the board with an e mail conversations with his states attorney's department, in Cass County, concerning weed officers/weed boards, getting reimbursed for inspecting gravel pits. Per an assistant attorney in the office, after reviewing the existing law, former law, and legislative actions, the law does not allow for inspection fees by a weed officer/board. Only an outside firm can charge fees. A weed officer also does not have the legal authority to go into another county to inspect a pit. Discussion followed. Possibly a joint powers agreement between county weed boards would have to take place in that circumstance.

Other New Business:

Board Meetings: Jamen was wondering if it would be easier and cheaper to have the board meetings as conference calls instead of everyone coming to Bismarck for a meeting. Katie would like for us to either move the June meeting, or not have a June meeting. A busy time of the year, with spray crews out in the field. It was agreed that it can be a difficult time of the year, but as a board member, it becomes your obligation to attend. Area directors have alternates that they need to utilize if they cannot make a meeting. That is why they are in place. As far as the executive board, it can be hard. As far as conference calls, the consensus is to leave as it is. You lose a lot of discussion on conference calls. Katie moved to have the June board meeting start at 10:00 cdt, instead of 9:00. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

NAISMA Conference:

Derrill mentioned that the NAISMA conference this year is being held in Reno, Nevada, the same week as our area meetings. Wondering if that may be a problem. Derrill plans to attend the conference. Ron Manson, the NAISMA director for our area, will be attending. Consensus was that we have held the area meetings this week in October for many years, not changing them now. Its unfortunate for those who have to attend the conference.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary