

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck

January 8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Yet to be Board Approved

President Kevin Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Members present were Kevin Schmidt, Joan Lorge, Brent Nelson, Gary Hartman, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Stan Wolf, David Hirsch, Bill Walker, Katie Clyde, Jamen Windish, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present: Derrill Fick, education chairman, Elvin Johnson, Nelson County, Scott Hochhalter, NDDA, and Charles Elhard, NDDA.

Additional agenda items were: None

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

Merlin read the financial report. Katie moved to accept the financial report. Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin presented the budget for 2018. Discussion. Should put expenses for a booth, if needed to the education line item. Jamen moved to approve the proposed budget, as read, and send to the annual business meeting on Tuesday. Bill seconded the motion. M/C

Break for pizza.

Resolutions: Merlin presented the resolution from Area II.

**Whereas:** Federal, State, and County highway departments are requiring gravel and aggregate products for certain projects to be sourced from locations that were inspected and documented to be in compliance with the North Dakota Noxious Weed Law, and

**Whereas:** the county weed officer is asked to conduct the inspection and provide the documentation of compliance with the North Dakota Noxious Weed Law, and

**Whereas:** the inspection and documenting the compliance is above the normal duties of the weed officer as defined in the Noxious Weed Law, and

**Whereas:** the current Noxious Weed Law does not allow for the recuperation of expenses for the inspection,

**Therefore, be it resolved:** that Area II does hereby ask the North Dakota Weed Control Association to work for a legislative bill that will allow the weed boards to charge for the inspection and documentation of gravel pits when requested upon by gravel pits when requested upon by gravel pit operators.

Discussion: Merlin visited with Mark Dougherty, from the Contractors Association, on this issue. Mark would not commit to it either way. He will be visiting with his people and get back to Merlin. Merlin explained to him that we just want to reinstate the wording in the law from before 2009. A lot of good discussion on this resolution. We could find a legislator if we get to that point. Who would be the authority to inspect the pits? What would be the guidance for this program? Would it be consistent statewide? Would there be an official form? What is the federal standard? How about crossing state lines? NAISMA is looking at a set of standards. How far do we want to

go with this? Set it towards a national standard? What forms are needed? Approved by a show of hands to take it to the annual business meeting.

Merlin 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 and North Dakota State University to consider Houndstongue as our state's next state listed noxious weed.

Discussion: Merlin stated that all five areas supported adding this to the noxious weed list. Joan mentioned that some animals may have already died due to eating Houndstongue. Past concerns from NDSU were that there wasn't a chemical to control it. That is not an issue anymore, plus biocontrol is being worked on as well. NDSU used to refer to it as a nuisance weed, not a noxious weed. After further discussion, Bill moved to pass this to the annual meeting. Dave seconded the motion. M/C

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education Committee Report:** Derrill Fick, chairman. Poster Contest. One school turned in 7 posters. Will put all up to be voted on.

Retail items: Stan has pad folios, and some can cozies, caps. Merlin has the new caps and jackets and vests. Will sell these at the convention.

**Convention Report:** Merlin went over the convention booklet, time and schedules. We are short on vendor breaks this year. No one from the city of Bismarck for a welcome this year. Kevin will kick off Wednesday morning with a welcome. Moderators will move in breakout sessions. Social is at 6:30, banquet at 7:00. Cottonwood will be here. Merlin has bios for the speakers. The Thursday breakfast will be in the Heritage room instead of the Judicial. Jamen will kick it off on Thursday morning. There will be index cards for the panel's questions. There will be a board meeting on Thursday after we end. We will also have a survey for the convention this year. We have one weed warrior award, and two lifetime achievement awards this year. As far as the annual meeting, we have one nominee for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, Cody Schnabel, from Morton County. Also, the government and industry directors are up this year. Merlin forgot to put them on the agenda at the area meetings, so they will have to be nominated and voted on at the

meeting. 126 registered for the banquet. Around 96 main registrations, and then spouses. We have about the same number of exhibitors this year. Ag department printed posters for the vendor listings and breaks. We thank them for those. We will get new one's next year.

### **Agency Reports:**

**Government:** David Hirsch

### **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.

#### **Canada Thistle Biocontrol Agent Release Approved:**

- A leaf rust disease (*Puccinia punctiformis*) has been approved for general redistribution in the US. Establishment and redistribution techniques have been worked out for the disease. Good success has been achieved in many locations in Colorado. The PPQ Permit to receive biocontrol agents has been updated and we are ready for next summer.

Dave is hopeful to get some for every area in the state. The bigger the site the better. River bottom areas with dew at night, possibly even wooded areas. Houndstongue: this summer they may be able to make an application for a permit to release biocontrol. Closer, but no promises.

**NDDA:** Chelsey – Lane Kozel has left the department. He is now with the Iowa Department of Agriculture in Plant Industries. The department is trying to fill his position. Chelsey is filling in for now, so if anyone needs to know something with weed free forage or biocontrol, she will try to help. She will let everyone know on list serve. The big yellow weed books and the pocket guides are getting low in supply. The NDDA is looking at possibly redoing them. Will visit with Rod before he retires and move forward from there. The ag commissioner's forum is tomorrow, Tuesday. Should have a good turnout. Chelsey will attempt, if time allows, to show a YouTube and a PowerPoint tomorrow on how to inoculate a Canada Thistle plant with rust.

**Industry:** Bill Walker – Thanks for the nice get-well card. Appreciate it. Dow did not raise Milestone but raised Freelexx by 15%. Some of the other products will go up slightly.

Bayer: Bayer has been working on a label for Method. There is a supplemental label now for Method. There are more areas where it can be sprayed, but still not a FULL label. Read the supplemental label before deciding where to use it. It is looking better towards getting that full label. Perspective and Streamline prices could increase by 4% come January 1. Mute point. They are not being manufactured anymore. Just warehouse inventories are left to be sold. Method however should have stable prices. Monsanto is now Seamless, due to the Bayer merger. Glyphosate will be seeing higher price increases because of the lack of imports. 2-4D is the same way. Tordon and other chemicals will remain flat.

California sued because of Glyphosate causing cancer. It has been proved that it does not. So that lawsuit may be mute. This all comes from foreign countries wanting to shut down the use of Glyphosate. The European nations have registered it for another 5 years.

Dicamba issues: It will be an intense storm. Last year 5 percent of the soybean acres were planted to dicamba resistant beans. This year they expect 50% of the acres to be planted to resistant beans. Overdrive is a dicamba product. Weed folks need to be very careful. Overdrive volatility issues will be very high. Use it only before they are planted (at least two weeks before) or after the crops are harvested. There are three new products that are restricted use products strictly for beans. We really need to watch what we are doing with Dicamba products for the next several years.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**By-Laws** – Merlin had a phone conversation with Jerome Behm, wondering if he is eligible to run for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, even though Derrill is the incoming Area Director. In the bylaws, it states that no 2 people may serve on the board from the same jurisdiction. He wonders what jurisdiction means. Merlin found that jurisdiction is a type of geographical area. A county is a geographical area in a state. A city is a geographical area in a county. Merlin feels that the bylaws are written correctly. Derrill also would like to see what the board's position is on this, to give a direction to Jerome. The consensus of the board is that the bylaws are written correctly.

**Red River Valley Ag. Research Center Partners Mtg. Report:** Stan attended the meeting, as he has done for a few years, on behalf of the board. It is a USDA facility in Fargo. Mike Foley was a part of that. Because of that we have been invited. The commodities are invited, except the corn and soybean groups. The issue to bring forward, the facilities across the nation are short staffed. Many positions are open. Those attending, agreed to send a letter to US AG Secretary, Sonny Perdue, to end the hiring freeze, and begin hiring to fill these positions. Do we want to sign on to this letter in support? Will have to wait for the letter. Bill moved to support it depending on the wording of the letter. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

Break

**Commodity Council Meeting:** Katie and Derrill attended. They were running behind schedule, so groups such as ours, that are not considered commodities, didn't have a chance to speak. Interesting meeting anyway.

**Monarch Butterfly Mtg.:** Merlin attended the meeting at the Game & Fish Dept. in Bismarck on Nov. 2nd. Very interesting meeting. One of the topics was increasing the stem count on Milkweed, to support the Monarch Butterfly. North Dakota is mainly affected in the valley counties. Some counties still have milkweed listed on the county noxious weed list. That was stated at the meeting. Their goal is to keep the Monarch off the endangered list. Because of that meeting, Merlin asked Greg Link & Sandy Johnson, from the Game & Fish Dept. to speak at the convention, to the entire group on this issue. This will give everyone a greater knowledge of the problem. Good discussion followed.

**NDPDES Permit – ND Health Dept.:** Stan stated that the National pollution discharge permit, which is a five-year permit, will be up for renewal. The citation in the permit has changed, but the rest will remain the same.

**Website:** Merlin received a fellow's name from Cody Schnabel, Ryan Holte, who would possibly build a website for us. Katie had asked Merlin to get a quote from him. \$1,500 for the site set up and initial support. Then \$7.99/month thereafter from GoDaddy. He would get it set up, then two people could put items on or take them off. He would be able to help us, if needed. Have Ryan send us some websites that would be similar, then come to the March meeting, and visit with the board. Should have Terry update the current website.

Stan mentioned that he has been working with the college that they may have a student that would help and maintain a website. Discussion: First we need to have a website, then we could possibly have a student to work on it. Also, we would have to be assured that a student would be available each year to continue to work on it.

Consensus would be to have someone like Ryan set up the site, then have the student maintain it.

**NDDA Funding:** Merlin has been working on the LAP funding. Merlin received some information from counties but decided to use the information Chelsey was kind enough to send to Merlin. Merlin went through the figures he compiled. After looking at all the different scenarios, LAP

could realistically be raised by \$730,000, or totaling \$1,730,000. But, the funds are not there in EARP. Also, the formula would have to be changed somehow, because not all counties need more. Reallocation would have to be in the formula. Joan mentioned that county budgets are getting tighter. Some counties are fearing that they will lose some of the funds they receive in a county now. Merlin fears that the dedicated mill levy will go by the wayside, leaving weed boards fighting for funds from the county general funds.

Merlin mentioned that we haven't seen an increase in LAP for a number of years. \$250,000 would even help. Weeds are increasing, but the money to cost share these weeds is not. Scott wonders how we would fund it, without receiving a backlash from others. Merlin explained the history of the EARP fund.

One scenario would be to increase the EARP registration fees. Currently it is at \$350/fee. A lot of discussion took place. We need to fix the LAP before we go to ask for more, such as reallocation. We need to have the commissioner on board with this as well. Merlin will ask Commissioner Goehring to come to the March board meeting. Let's have a plan in place by then. Katie will get committee to work on it, to have something by March.

**Pamphlet & Facebook posts:** Stan handed out new pamphlets that were worked on by the students, that worked on it as a class project. He has them on word and pdf. He will have Terry put the pamphlet on the website as well. Stan checked with a printer, and they would cost around 50 cents each. **Facebook posts:** Stan handed out what the students did with Facebook. The association would get an account. And then have postings throughout the year. Very well done by the students. The cost would be buying the ads to push it out to Facebook accounts. Getting the word out is the key. Putting fun stuff on it would help. Stan recommends that we go ahead and get it started. Jamen said that for \$50 to \$100, you could target a lot of people. Very reasonable, especially compared to newspapers. It can become self-generating as well. The education committee could work on it. They can work on it and put something together, and report back in March.

**Area Meeting Attendance:** Postcards, ideas? Attendance is down. It should fall to the area director, to contact each county. Most of the area directors did do that. Change the dates of the meetings? People are still spraying some years.

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

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

Meeting recessed at 9:42 pm

**Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Katie Clyde, the 2018 President, called the meeting back to order at 11:41 am.

Those present were: Kevin, Joan, Bill, Katie, Brent, David, Jamen, Cody Schnabel, Derrill, Ron Manson, Chelsey and Merlin. Guest was Chris Henze, Iowa Weed Commissioners Association.

Additional agenda items: None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Executive Secretary's contract for 2018.** Merlin left the room for a brief time. Discussion was held. Bill moved to hire Merlin for 2018 with no changes from 2017, \$7,200/year. Ron seconded the motion. M/C Contracts were signed.

**By Law Changes:** Merlin mentioned that now is the time to start thinking if changes are needed to the bylaws. A committee would need to be put in place at the March meeting, with proposed changes to be approved at the September board meeting, to be taken to the area meetings. Bylaws are in the web site. Katie will need a list of committees. Derrill will check and get the list to Katie.

**NAISMA:** Ron was on the national board of directors. He withdrew his name from that board. He has concerns of the direction NAISMA is going, their goals, etc. He feels there are other groups where our association dues could be better used. Derrill is not completely happy either, but 70% of their programs are still weeds, and they are still doing some good projects. Weed Free Forage is based off their guidelines, it is not necessary that we would be members to have weed free forage. Question on industry support at the last conference.

**Laurie from the Ramada at this time:** Laurie felt everything went well last night. We are a good bunch to work with. The bar at the banquet fell a little behind early, but nothing major. The way the rooms were set up for the meetings went well. Better than last year. The sound system was good. Speakers like the way the volumes can be controlled. The beer and brat social, ran out of cheese, and crackers early. Laurie wondered if the count was accurate. Merlin stated that we had a few more than originally thought. Bill said the crackers and cheese were out before the first kettle of brats were even gone. It was asked to have possibly a veggie tray next year as well. Breaks: the timing was slow. Overall everything was good. The meals were good. Service was good. Suggested that Ramada needs someone around to be contacted during the conference, if we need something. We seem to be running around looking for someone, taking valuable time. Laurie agreed to work on it. The board thanked Laurie for coming in.

**Back to NAISMA:** Industry, Alligare was one that we work with as well, that was there. Industry is starting to come back. The new director is active in promoting NAISMA. Chris Henze said that they are planning on doing the Iowa Conference every other year, because of the conference in Rochester. The membership fee for us has been at the bronze level for \$100/year. Chelsey said that the state has not paid their membership yet for this year. What do we get for the \$100? A discount for a registration at the annual conference. They are not a national lobby group. They are diversified. Bill moved to keep our membership at \$100. Derrill seconded the motion. M/C

**Convention:** Banquet: served 106 people. Luncheon: served 86 people, Breakfast: served 42 people, Women's: 11 women. Cost was around \$26. They made fairy gardens. Breakout sessions: We may not due them next year, unless we have extra speakers, to run them differently. If we have panels, we need to get them to go their full-time slot. Should we continue to get door prizes/speaker gifts from Pride of Dakota/ made in North Dakota items? The board was in

agreement. The plaques we give out should not have dandelions on them. Get something different, or a different weed.

**Board meetings set for 2018** – the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday again, March 27, June 26, and September 25, at the Ramada Inn, Bismarck. All three meetings will start at 10:00 am., central time. Then on Monday, January 7 at 5:00 pm. Order off the menu.

**Sprayer schools:** Have them in May. 3 schools. May 29, 30 & 31. Carrington, the 29<sup>th</sup>, Minot the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Dickinson on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Derrill will confirm all three places again.

**Area meetings were set:** October 22, Area II, Valley City, October 23, Area I, Devils Lake, October 24, Area III, Minot, October 25, Area IV, Mandan, October 26, Area V, Amidon. Meetings start at 9:00 local time. Area directors will check to get meeting places reserved and let Merlin know.

**ND AG Study:** Merlin received information about an AG study that will be happening in the state. Not sure if the association will be asked to participate in the study, but Merlin wanted the board to be aware of this.

**Other Business:** Jamen has a note from Stan. Stan feels that the association should send a letter to NDSU to support filling the positions of Rich Zollinger and Rod Lym. Discussion: We need to do what we can to push to fill that position. Stan would comprise a letter. Jamen will check with Stan next week.

Dave: The state panel discussion was pretty good. Impressed with the Game & Fish, and their efforts on Salt Cedar. We should recognize them somehow. Bill: Could do a plaque for Federal Agency and one for a State Agency, as a partner of the year award. Areas that are working with them, should bring forth their efforts. Jamen moved to do this, Dave seconded the motion. M/C

Brent: Merlin should send a thank you to the panel members for their efforts for coming and participating in our conference. Their supervisor should also be given a thank you for allowing them to participate.

Being no further business,

Derrill moved to adjourn the meeting, Brent seconded the motion. M/C

Katie adjourned the meeting at 12:44 pm

Lunch off the menu for those who could stay.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold  
Executive secretary