

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

March 27th, 2018

Yet to be Board Approved

President Katie Clyde called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Members present were Katie Clyde, Joan Lorge, Bill Walker, Gary Hartman, Brent Nelson, Jamen Windish, David Hirsch, Cody Schnabel, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary. Later, Scott Hochhalter, Plant Industries Director, NDDA and Tom Bodine, Deputy ND Agriculture Commissioner joined the meeting.

Additional agenda items were: none

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

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

It was suggested to move the \$165 from misc. a refund, to expense for the Annual meeting expense. No motion needed, Merlin will do so.

Discussion on convention and summary: We had a net income on the beer and brat social of \$3,362.16, and \$9,627.36 on the annual meeting. We had 86 full registrations, and numerous spouse or extra registrations.

Convention went well. Excellent turnout. We had 11 booths. Topics for the speakers were good. As suggested, we will quit the breakout sessions. Overall, the meals were good. Area IV is the host area for 2019. The convention planning committee will meet in June, after the board meeting, to get next year's, 2019 convention, rolling. The meeting rooms are booked for 2019. Merlin went over the results of the Conference survey. The clear majority like the Ramada as the conference center. The beer and brat is very well liked. A few suggestions on the auction. The majority liked the state agency panel. The breakout sessions were a 50/50 on liking them. The federal panel on Thursday was too short some felt. It didn't help because the weather kept some from coming to be on the panel. Majority liked Cottonwood as banquet entertainment. Most liked the selection of meals, especially the steak/shrimp banquet meal. Overall the survey was very positive. A lot of good discussion took place.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. Getting everything ready for Sprayer Schools, which will be May 29 in Carrington, May 30 in Minot, and May 31 in Dickinson. Derrill will be getting the word out. Working on sponsors. Trying to fill in more time, besides on what we normally have, plan on having some training on First Aid as well. Poster Contest winner for this year is Anna Mata. She is a 5th grader from South Prairie School, Minot. Plan on doing the

presentation April 2nd. 45 students in the 5th grade class. Stan will come up for this. Earth Day is April 19th at BSC in Bismarck. We have had a booth at this event for several years. Jamen found some activities in the closet for coloring. Jamen ordered crayons for these. Ron moved to pay for the crayons out of the education fund. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C** There are two wearing the costumes as well.

Ron was wondering if the banners are being kept track of, or if they are being used. They are being used at various functions.

LAP Committee: Committee members will be Katie, Jamen, Ron and Derrill.

No other Committee reports.

Agency Reports:

Government: David Hirsch gave the government report. Last Friday the Federal budget was passed for the next fiscal year. It does appear that they will have 2 seasonal employees plus regular staff, to be able to help with county field days. Working with Chelsey on Canada Thistle rust. Dave mentioned that there should be more bio control for Purple loosestrife available this summer.

NDDA: Chelsey Penuel gave the NDDA report. There have been some staff changes. Chelsey is now the new plant protection specialist, Lane's old position. Chelsey introduced Richard Weisz. He will be taking over Chelsey's old position, as noxious weed specialist. Chelsey will remain in Fargo, and Richard will be in Bismarck. The department will be working on Canada thistle rust work and spotted knapweed bio control. The weed free forage program will remain with the same inspectors as last year. Outreach material: Working with NDSU to do more booklets, adding Palmer amaranth and Narrowleaf hawksbeard to the booklets. They will be handouts for the old copies to update them. They will be using Forest service grants for this. Hopefully there will be new grants coming soon. LAP is 30% spent, but early in the biennium. A small amount of TAG has been used, but again early in the biennium. Gary asked if there are areas in the state that are short of inspectors, and Chelsey said there are. Chelsey handed out forms for sites for Canada Thistle rust. She wants the area directors to find good sites in their areas, for a possible site. She gave the best criteria for a site, like a damp area, whether it can be mowed, which helps movement, etc.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report. Dicamba issue is still front and center in many states. Be careful when doing your ROW spraying. You will get blamed first, whether you are at fault or not. Three new Dicambas are restricted use products. Several states are now looking at extending the restricted use to all the Dicambas. When you look at Dicamba, there is virtually no difference between the new products and the existing ones. There is special training for the new ones. Not sure on the existing ones. Overdrive is a Dicamba product. Be very careful. Best to spray after harvest if using Overdrive. Glyphosate prices are creeping higher and the 2-4d's. Everything else is stable. DOW will be changing their name due to the merger with Dupont. Stay tuned. CPS will also be changing their name. Stay tuned for that as well. Bayer is possibly buying out Monsanto as well. Bayer is still working to expand the Method label.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Cody mentioned that his friend that was planning to work on this, has decided to not do it. Derrill mentioned that we could keep the old site. Terry would be willing to keep doing it. All we need to do is to redo the site. Bill said that we should form an active committee to work on a new website. After discussion, both for and con. What is the objective for the website, for association members or for the public? Website versus social media. Which is used more? They work hand in hand, links to each other. Katie feels it should be eye catching to the public, but simple to use for our members. Bill moved to form a committee to have a website developed. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C** Katie, Jamen, Ron and Cody are on the committee. Budget for said committee. Joan moved for \$3,000 for initial set up for a website. Cody seconded the motion. Discussion. They can get additional funds from advertising to raise funds for more. **M/C**

Facebook: Jamen has not started one yet. The website committee will work on it after the website is developed.

Red River Valley Research Center: Support letter for hiring was sent. Merlin will update the board as he hears more from Stan.

Houndstongue letter to Doug and Rod: Katie sent letters to each. Rod responded that he will be working with the Department of Ag. Katie had not heard from the NDDA, but Chelsey mentioned that we will be receiving one from Doug.

Support letter for Rod Lym's position: Merlin passed around a letter that Stan drew up to be sent to Dr. Horsely, to be critiqued by the board. There should be a paragraph added concerning how we already lost a position years ago with biocontrol. Merlin will have Stan change it and then get it to Katie for her signature.

Gravel Pit Resolution: Where do we go from here? Merlin read the resolution. After much discussion. Chelsey mentioned that the NDDA would not oppose changing the law. Merlin will draw up a proposed legislative bill, contact a legislator to sponsor the bill, and then report back to the board at the June meeting with the language, and the legislator's name.

Other Old Business: Dave talked about the Game & Fish's presentation at the convention. Dave stressed how impressed he is with what they are doing in weed control, especially with Saltcedar. Also, what Kathy talked about with the ND Parks and Rec are doing as well.

NDDA Report II: Tom Bodine, Deputy Ag. Commissioner and Scott Hochhalter joined the board meeting. Scott mentioned that they are in the process of hiring Richard Weisz as noxious weed coordinator. His office will be in Bismarck. He has background in agronomy. He has been with the department for a couple years. Tom mentioned that the department is moving forward and growing where we can be. Richard will be available to do outreach as well. Whether it be on the phone or face to face. They want to assist the local weed boards the best way that the department can. Tom mentioned that the commissioner wanted to come today, but scheduling conflicts prevented it. The department is cautious when it comes to adding a weed to the state noxious weed list. Careful consideration needs to take place, from the state seed department, to the ag community as well. The entire state noxious weed list is reviewed every 5 years. A weed listed on the county noxious weed list has some impact. The more counties that list a certain weed on their lists, the better the chance that it could be added to the state list. There are federal funds available for invasive weeds to a state list are not on a state list. The department is working on a survey on pollinators, to try and get true data. Budget work has begun for the next biennium. At the end of July, they need theirs turned in. The budget will either be flat or some cuts. They are prioritizing areas. They will keep us in the loop. The EARP fund is ok for now. As we loose general fund money, we need to then look at EARP to make up the differences if needed. Katie thanked both for coming today.

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible by law change: The question was asked to Merlin, about voting on a resolution. The question was whether a resolution should be passed by two thirds vote? The by laws do not mention anything to this matter. After some discussion, Gary moved to leave it as it is. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Lobbyist Position: Merlin has been the main lobbyist for the association since the 1997 session. He was in training with Myron Dieterle, during the 1995 session and testified a couple of times during the 1993 session. Merlin would like the board to consider getting someone to either take it over or to get trained as the lobbyist, as he is not getting any younger. Ron mentioned that Leon Pederson would be interested in possibly doing it. Cody stated that he would be willing to train in for a session. Discussion: it would be nice to find someone close by, due to expenses with mileage, etc. Can we pay a lobbyist, since our dues are paid with tax payer dollars? Merlin stated that in a way, he is too far away, when it comes to mileage. Merlin will put it out to the membership. He will put it in the newsletter in June, and he will also put it on list serve. Merlin will put together a small job description as well. It will be on the agenda for the June meeting.

Weed Officer Salary Survey: A county asked Merlin to bring this up. Is there a survey out there? Merlin drew up a sample copy. Brent stated that the Association of Counties has something on their site. Derrill mentioned that Leon did that the year he was President. Katie does have that from Leon. She will e mail it to Merlin and he can send it to that county.

2020 Convention site and Dates: The dates would be January 6, 7, 8 & 9, 2020. Merlin did put a soft hold on those dates here at the Ramada. Merlin did not look at other hotels but would if the board so desires. Discussion: We used to move to other cities on non-legislative years. After further discussion, Ron moved that we continue to have it hear at the Ramada for 2020. Jamen seconded the motion. **M/C** Merlin will finalize the dates with Laurie at the Ramada.

Other New Business: Merlin briefly mentioned about Narrowleaf Hawksbeard. It is a serious weed coming in to the northwestern counties, out of Montana and Canada.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary