

NDWCA Area I Minutes

Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND

Yet to be approved

October 25th, 2016

Area Director, Brent Nelson, called the meeting to order at 9:052 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ramsey, Towner, Walsh, Cavalier, Pembina, Grand Forks, Wells, Eddy, and Nelson. Others present were Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply, Karissa Floerchinger, Dow AgroSciences, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Pike, NDDOT Devils Lake, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: none

Everyone read the 2015 area I minutes. Elvin mentioned that he liked the tour of the Heritage Center in Bismarck last year. Elvin Johnson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Andrew Kirking seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 9, 10 11, & 12th 2017 at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. There will be a board meeting Monday evening at 6:00 pm. Tuesday morning and part of the afternoon will be the Ag. Commissioner's forum. Around 3:30, we will have our annual business meeting. Tuesday evening will be the beer and brat social and auction. Please bring an auction item or items to be auctioned off. Net proceeds go to the education committee for their years' activities. Wednesday will begin at 8:00 with a welcome from the Mayor of Bismarck followed by speakers. The women's luncheon and program will begin at 10:30. The noon luncheon will begin at 11:00. At 12:30 we will go into three breakout sessions. A different change to our normal schedule. Around 4:00 we will go back into one session. Wednesday evening, we will have a social at 6:00 followed by our awards banquet and entertainment. This year's entertainment is Cottonwood, a bluegrass band from Washburn. Thursday morning, we will again have the exhibitor breakfast, starting at 6:30, followed by speakers at 8:00 until noon. There will be a board meeting at noon on Thursday to wrap up the activities.

Exhibitor Breaks: We would like everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. There is a letter printed that you can take to them. Also, there is one on our website, to be downloaded.

Awards: Once again the association will be offering two awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Weed Warrior Award. Fill out the form and mail or e mail to Merlin by December 1st.

Your association is also selling vests and jackets. Try one on, and order to be picked up at the convention. We will also be selling new caps at the convention.

County reports:

Nelson: submitted by Tim Lee

Spent 2 months spraying for spurge, thistle and knapweed. The spurge bloomed about 5 times and is still there. According to a ***** resident, the only way spurge is spread is by the motor grader, blading the roads. So we quit blading the roads, going by his land. He had his attorney write us a letter. He also files 8 complaints of everyone else, spreading spurge, except him. We got many residents to get started with biocontrol. This process takes several years, but works better than anything else. With all the rain this summer, no progress was made in any noxious weed control. All spurge spraying needs to be done within 1 week of first bloom, which is impossible.

LAP: 110 participants – 87 2x21/2 jugs Curtail, 33 gals Plateau, & 566 2x21/2 jugs Tordon.

Bio Control: 12 residents received bugs, 57,600 beetles

1323 miles ROW spraying, 2,942.125 acres were surveyed, 30,027 gal chemical/water mixture used. 10.2 aces/gallon, 2.22 acres/mile

Ramsey: submitted by Roger Gunderson

This spray season (2016) Ramsey County treated 2,350 acres of ROW. We had 26 landowners participate in our chemical cost share program with landowners. Main weeds controlled are Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, and Absinth wormwood. We still see small areas of Yellow toadflax along highways. Also had Purple loosestrife reported this year. We did not have any biological this year.

Grand Forks: submitted by Joel Anderson

5,000 acres chemically treated for cost share, \$10,000 cost share, 50 landowners. A wet and windy season. Started on June 10th and finished October 20th. Problem weeds are Leafy spurge – have a bio control program, Canada thistle, Canada thistle, Canada thistle, Bull thistle – issues in pasture land, and Purple loosestrife in Grand Forks. Issues we have - CRP is becoming a runaway thistle problem area. Vacant land ownership, and Mother Nature with her wet cycles.

Cavalier: submitted by Leon Pederson

What can I say about the 2016 season? Well.... It was a perfect growing season for all noxious weeds, that's for sure! But with all that went on this year, we were able to chemically treat 4,599 acres (1,533 miles) of State and County owns highways and roads that include 16 townships. The chemical we used in the 2016 season was Method, Escort, Escalade 2, 2-4D Amine and Plateau. In addition to chemical control, we were able to release 42,500 Leafy spurge beetles and 840 Canada thistle stem and crown mining weevils. We were also able to allocate our TAG monies towards safety equipment such as first aid kits, eye wash kits and chemical spill kits. Our LAP participation was one of our best with 18 people participating. Within that the landowners share was \$10,321.02 and our weed boards was \$16,865. So all in all, it was a great year.... Even though we only were able to spray 3 days in July.

Pembina: submitted by Andrew Kirking

It was a learning curve this year. We have a lot of interest in bugs. Using TAG funds for some biocontrol. Had 20 new releases. Spraying went good, had it hired out. Has a good thistle crop, but made good progress. LAP should be strong for 2017.

Wells: submitted by Steve Eckart

Wells County hired a commercial applicator to spray all state highways, paved county roads and also about ½ of the townships in the county.

Our weed board covers all chemical costs for spraying the townships and county roads, and also gives each township, that has a commercial applicator spray their roads, a check for \$500.00 to help cover labor costs.

We also cost share chemical to any landowner who sprays noxious weeds on their property. For the past four years we were able to pay 100% back to the landowner. This year we will be paying back almost \$50,000.00 for chemical. Offering a cost share program makes my job as weed officer easier when it comes to sending out control letters to landowners, they are usually more receptive to doing the work if they can get money back for the chemical they applied.

We have been offering a Houndstongue spraying program for the past 7 years for landowners who have an infestation problem with this weed. We have Houndstongue on our county noxious weed list and spray approximately 2,200 acres of mostly pasture land to keep it from spreading to adjacent property. Controlling Houndstongue is very labor intensive and we have spent well over a \$100,000.00 in the past 7 years doing spring and fall spraying of the plants.

We always apply for any grant money from the State Ag. Dept. to help us in this effort, and we use all of both our TAG and LAP allocations.

In addition to the regular noxious weeds of Canada thistle, Wormwood and Leafy spurge, we have seen an increase in Yellow toadflax, Purple loosestrife and Spotted knapweed which we spray at each location we can find with money set aside for new and invasive weeds in the county. This year our cost went up to \$2,500.00 to control invasive weeds.

One of the biggest challenges our weed board has is finding commercial applicators, to hire to do the spraying we need done. As a weed board, we do not have any spraying equipment or employees to do the actual work. We rely solely on hiring outside help.

Towner: submitted by Lindy Berg:

We saw what seemed to be a lot more spurge, wormwood and Canada thistle this year. May have been due to the early start of the season.

Cost share on Plateau, Tordon and Curtail went well for us this year. We are looking for another sprayer. Question: What do you do if someone brings in past invoices for reimbursement? How far back do you reimburse? What chemicals do you reimburse?

Walsh: submitted by Brent Nelson:

The 2016 spray season for Walsh County started on the slow side with near drought conditions in late May and early June. Weed growth was very sporadic. By mid-June, the rain began to fall and it never let

up, leading to lots of crop and road ditch flooding throughout the rest of the growing season. Even with the high winds and extreme rain events a large portion of the county was sprayed. However, I feel that overall control was maybe down this year with weed growth starting and all sorts of times, water standing in ditches, late haying and a variety of weather conditions limited spraying opportunities. We continue to spray with Tordon/Overdrive targeting primarily Leafy spurge and Thistle. We also utilized Method this spring on the median on I29 to see if it provides an additional control. Continue to work with landowners on cost-sharing program and with biological control. Following is a summary of the program: Chemical treated acres: State roads: 966 acres, County roads: 1,462 acres, Township roads: 1,402 acres, for a total of 3,830 acres. Landowner assistance: LAP – 15 producers reimbursed \$8,699.16 on 10-24-16, Biological: 6 producers had 11 releases of *Czwalinae/Lacertosa* (Leafy spurge control)

Eddy: submitted by Bryant Huso

We have a new applicator. Used Plateau @ 4oz. + 2-4D. We tried Opensight. Fall applied Plateau @ 9 oz. + 1 quart MSO/acre, to the eastern part of the county. Have good control on fall spraying, will continue to do more in the fall. Had no bio control this year.

Government Report: submitted by David Hirsch, government director, read by Brent Nelson

2016 Field Season Highlights:

Budget:

- APHIS Biocontrol funding for APHIS is stable for the 2017 fiscal year.
- PPQ will be able to participate in field day activities again in 2017.

Hound's tongue biocontrol:

- Still waiting for news on when the permit for this biocontrol agent will be issued and materials 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.

Field Bindweed Biocontrol:

- ***PPQ Partners With Organic Producers on Field Bindweed Biocontrol***
On June 13 in Dickey County, North Dakota, PPQ began the process of establishment of 11 bindweed insectary sites using the bindweed mite *Aceria malherbae*. As organic agriculture continues to expand in North Dakota, field bindweed has become a serious management problem for organic producers, and there are few control alternatives available. PPQ North Dakota was able to obtain a large quantity of the bindweed mites from the Colorado Department of Agriculture for the purpose of establishing insectaries in ND. The goal is to provide a local supply of bindweed biocontrol agents and begin redistribution to producers. PPQ is hopeful that significant control of the weed will occur so this can become a viable management tool.
- **Subsequent monitoring report from the landowner:** Judging by pictures, the material we received from Colorado, descriptions, and damage to bindweed we had not observed before, it seems all the release sites show damage to varying degrees. At some sites the damage was quite extensive, most notably on the east side of a shelterbelt where we had previously released the bindweed moth (*Tyta luctuosa*). Needless to say, I am pleased with results so far, especially since we have had a lot of rain this year and the mite is supposed to be most adapted to dryer sites. Now the next hurdle will be overwintering and adapting to our environment and growing season.

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol:

- PPQ released the foliage feeding weevil *Galerucella pucilla* for the control of purple loosestrife at a large infestation in Morton County. Materials were obtained from the South Dakota Dept. of Corrections. Loosestrife plants grown in pots at a rearing site in Yankton, SD. The plants are infested with the biocontrol agents and grown with netting so the insects can be harvested. The harvested insects were containerized and transported to the Morton Co. site by canoe. Follow-up monitoring of foliage showed signs of feeding damage and possible establishment. Monitoring will occur again in the spring and more insects will be obtained for release at this site.

Leafy Spurge Biocontrol:

PPQ participated in 3 flea beetle field days. In general, the flea beetle population was good this season. I am concerned about the low number of field day events and opportunities average landowners have in the state. There is still large landowner demand for beetles especially in the western half of ND. I hope that more counties will set up and will host field days this

Industry:

Karissa Floerchinger – Dow AgroSciences.

Karissa is the new DOW rep., taking over for Mike Schalla, who is on the Ag. Side, and covers an area around Wisconsin. Karissa is originally from central Montana. She lives in Fargo, and covers both North and South Dakota.

Listening to the county reports gives folks an idea of how counties function. Bill Walker and Tom Hendrick have provided a lot of help, in getting started in a new, unfamiliar area.

Dow has a new 2-4D Coline. Graslan L, which is a pint of Tordon and a quart of Coline, is already on the market, and some of you have used it this past season. This new Coline will be a stand-alone product called Freelexx. It should be labeled after January 1. We will have a pricing structure in place at that time. No prices have been set at this time. Forms are due in for the noxious weed stewardship program. Get them to Karissa as soon as possible.

Opensight is a good chemical for Common Mullin. Keep using Milestone.

Tom Hendrick: Van Diest Supply.

Thanks for all of your support. I am here to help you and to work with you. Milestone and Opensight will be stable in 2017. Bayer products will increase 4 to 5% in 2017. We service the area from our warehouse out of Pierre. Can have product to you within 72 hours. Feel free to get ahold of me if you have any questions or concerns.

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & CPS Timberland Division

Some Bayer products, like Perspective, Method and others will have a price increase in 2017, approximately 5%. Some Bayer products like Escort, Telar, Oust and others will not.

Perspective and Method: Still not labeled for haying and grazing. EPA is now worried about tree kills in pastures and hay lands. EPA has also told Bayer that the label is not needed, as there are products on the market to do what Perspective and Method would do. A possibility of getting the NDDA to ask for a Section 18 label on this, might be the route to take. Reminder, Perspective and Method are currently labeled, they just have a 1 year haying and grazing restriction.

DOW: Prices for Milestone, Tordon, Graslan L, and Opensight will have no price increases for 2017.

The new product from DOW: Vastlan, is moving forward. This is the new 4lb/gallon Tricolpyr made with Choline acid, has a “warning” label as compared to the older comparison chemical Garlon 3A, with had a “Danger” label.

Also new for 2017, Freelexx. This is DOW’s new 2-4D. Claims to have reduced volatility then regular Amine. Claims to have better cold handling characteristics, lower freezing point. No pricing structure at this time, BUT, it most likely will be a premium priced product.

BASF: One salesperson in the entire US. He is an office person. Prices for Plateau and Overdrive should remain stable in 2017, but they have not released any information at this time. Will know more by the convention.

Monsanto will have no price increases on most on their glyphosate products. Some of their dry products like Roundup Pro Concentrate will have a 3 to 5% increase.

Other chemicals used by weed boards should remain fairly stable.

E-2 Herbicide by NuFarm – approx. \$40/gallon, mixture of Dicamba, 2-4D, and Fluroxypyr. Controls Leafy spurge in sensitive areas, tree belts, cities, etc. 4 to 5 pints per acre.

CPS: Thank you to all of you folks for the business this past season. Hope to continue to work with all of you this coming season as well. Our warehouse in Spearfish is run by two of the best, Jesse and John. We can extend bid prices from 2016 to 2017. Feel free to contact me or the warehouse anytime. We try to meet your schedule with deliveries the best we can and as quick as we can.

Break

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist:

Chelsey’s contact number: 701-226-4321

Lane’s: 701-328-2250

Jim’s: 701-425-8454

The Department has several brochures, publications, and posters available. Contact Chelsey to get some. If anyone has ideas for outreach materials, or would like to share what your county is doing, bring at least 10 copies to the weed forum.

TAG Funds: \$279,000 total for the biennium.

\$138,033 spent or 49%

\$260,510 available or 51%

LAP Funds: \$1,000,000 for the biennium.

\$739,490 spent or 74%

\$260,510 available or 26%

Ideas for TAG: GPS Equipment, data loggers, etc., Spray equipment(new or repairs), PPE, Weed scouting, monitoring, or mapping, Re-vegetation, Safety or calibration training, Computer hardware or software, Educational items or newsletters.

TAG Deadline: June 30th – Forms submitted by July 7th to NDDA, July 14th, NDDA to Reimburse.

LAP Formula:

Eligibility	USDA-NASS Statistics of acres of	Annual Noxious Weed Survey-
.	Non-Cropland in Farms	Total Infested Acres
\$400,000	\$400,000	\$200,000
Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
if 40 WB eligible, then each		
would get \$10,000	<u>WB acres</u>	<u>WB acres</u>
If 45 WB eligible, then each	Total acres X \$400,000	Total acres X \$200,000
would get \$8,888.88		

LAP Funding: Deadline December 31st, use funds, January 6th, submit forms to NDDA, January 13th, NDDA to reimburse.

LAP Reallocation:

1. Confirm spring needs for counties that have funds available
2. Identify counties that have spent all or have <25% of funds remaining and confirm additional funds would be utilized.
- 3 Use formula to reallocate.
4. New NOGAs will need to be signed.

LAP Reallocation Funding 2nd deadline: Deadline June 30th to use funds, July 7th to submit forms to NDDA, July 14, NDDA to reimburse.

USFS Grants:

2012 – Land Enhancement: Closed

2013 – Land Enhancement: All funds obligated

2014 – EDRR: Open, accepting proposals from weed boards

2015 – Continuing EDRR: Open, accepting proposals from weed boards.

2016 – Noxious Weed Programs: Open, accepting proposals from weed boards.

2017 – Ideas?

January 10, 2017 – Ag Commissioners Weed Forum, Bismarck, Ramada Inn 10 – 3 pm.

2016 Annual Weed Board Surveys are due Feb. 1st. Very important that you fill them out. Determines eligibility for LAP, determines portions for LAP, creates a weed board directory, and conceptualizes increases/decreases of local and total acres of noxious weed infestations.

GPS & Data loggers: Contact Jim. He will be at a booth at the NDWCA Convention.

Palmer Amaranth: Identified in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. Please keep an eye out for it. Work with landowners and NDSU extension.

New Business:

Elections:

Area Director: 2 year term: Elvin nominated Brent Nelson, and moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Brent. Joel seconded the motion. M/C

1st Alternate: 2 year term: Leon nominated Bryant Huso, and moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Bryant. Andrew seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Alternate: 2 year term: Leon nominated Lindy Berg, and moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Lindy. Andrew seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Vice President: Only from areas I, II, or III.

Leon nominated Jamen Windish, Barnes County weed officer.

Merlin reminded the group that they can be nominated from the floor at the annual business meeting or by contacting Merlin before then.

Poster Contest: Merlin mentioned that Derrill Fick, education chairman, said that the information should be out to the schools in November. He is requesting that the posters be returned to him in December. Any questions can be also directed to Derrill.

Legislative Issues:

Merlin asked that the association is looking at funding for LAP. Do we need to increase it? The board is looking for input from counties. Also, if you have something in the law, and would like to see a change, let Merlin or the board know, and we will look at it.

Resolutions:

Leon proposed a resolution for a section 18 use permit for Method.

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.

Bryant moved that Area I adopt this resolution, and sent it to the board of directors for consideration at the annual meeting of the NDWCA. Elvin seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin read the resolution from Area III concerning adding Palmer Amaranth to the state noxious weed list. Leon spoke about Palmer and the problems that can arise from the weed. Good discussion.

No other resolutions were presented.

Other business:

Lake Region Roundup is January 3rd and 4th. Brent asked if the area wants to have a booth. It may be filled up already. Roger will check on the availability of booth space. Leon feels that if there is a space available, we should do it. Brent mentioned that there is a display board that can be used.

Steve Eckart brought up the absentee landowner issue. Land being sold with noxious weeds, and the new buyer unaware of the problem. Can something be done? Could land be inspected prior to the sale, for noxious weeds, and then put the findings on an inspection form? Very good discussion. Bankers Association, Realtor's Association, and the weed association would have to be united to have it brought to the legislature, in a bill.

Being no other business was discussed, Leon moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd, meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary