

NDWCA Area I Minutes

Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND

Yet to be approved

October 24th, 2017

Area Director, Brent Nelson, called the meeting to order at 9:11 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ramsey, Towner, Walsh, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Wells, and Nelson. Others present were Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply, Karissa Floerchinger, Dow AgroSciences, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: none

Everyone read the 2016 area I minutes. Leon Pederson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Elvin Johnson seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 7, 8, 9, & 10th 2018 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 around 12:30 we will go into three breakout sessions. We done this last year, and it worked well. Around 4:00 we will go back into one full session. Wednesday evening, we will have a social at 6:00 sponsored by DOW, followed by our awards banquet and entertainment. This year's entertainment is again Cottonwood, a bluegrass band from Washburn. CPS is a sponsor for the entertainment. 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 15th. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

During the conference we will again have for sale caps, vests and jackets.

County reports:

Ramsey: submitted by Roger Gunderson

Ramsey County had just over 2,000 acres sprayed in the 2017 spray season. Wind and rain were problems throughout the season. Leafy spurge, Canada thistle and Absinth wormwood were the problem weeds. Saltcedar was also discovered along the shore of Devils Lake.

Nelson: submitted by Elvin Johnson

Trouble with the wind this year. We struggled to find enough wind free days. We kept plugging away at it. We got 21 out of 27 townships to turn in their maps for spraying. Had trouble with maintainers spreading spurge. Spurge and thistle are still our main weeds. Hard to make progress on them. Cattails are getting sprayed by intersections and blind spots. Covered about the same acres as last season.

Wells: submitted by Steve Eckart

Wells County again partnered with the USFW Service to spray Houndstongue on their wildlife management areas that had heavy infestations. We also sprayed Houndstongue on the private acres in close proximity to the WMA's for an approximate total of 2,200 acres. This is the 10th year we have been doing this partnership and the results are finally showing great reduction in Houndstongue infestations. We also use grant funds and TAG money from NDDA to help with costs on Houndstongue control measures on private lands.

Houndstongue can be found in all townships in the county and is spreading to new areas every year. We have it listed on our county noxious weeds list for 10 years.

Invasive noxious weeds that were found and sprayed consisted of Yellow toadflax, Dalmation toadflax, Purple loosestrife and Spotted Knapweed.

Our biggest problem this year was finding commercial applicators to spray our state highways and townships. We struggle with this every year, since we don't have any spraying equipment or employees, hired for summer help. About half of our roads were spraying because of this problem.

Towner: submitted by Roger Copeland:

We saw what seemed to be a lot more thistle this year. Spurge is getting under control with our chemical applications.

Cost share on Plateau, Tordon and Curtail went well for us this year. We are maxing out on our LAP/TAG. Had 10 orders for beetles this year.

We will be advertising for 1 – 2 more sprayers.

Grand Forks: submitted by Joel Anderson

Canada thistle is our # 1 weed. Timing is a huge problem with Canada thistle. We see 2 to 3 flushes of thistle every year. Kochia is still a problem weed for us. Absinth wormwood populations soared this year.

Leafy spurge is at a steady pace. Remarkable success on some areas, slower in other areas, with biocontrol being sporadic.

Purple loosestrife – Hard to get sprayed on a timely manner. Trouble to get helicopters to do small jobs.

Palmer amaranth is a concern for us. We are monitoring 12 CRP contracts.

Dicamba drift concerns us since we are using Overdrive.

Cavalier: submitted by Leon Pederson

Walsh: submitted by Brent Nelson

The 2017 spray season for Walsh County was again controlled very much by the weather, which started out in wet areas to drought conditions throughout the county, as the season progressed with lots of windy conditions throughout the season. Weed growth was very sporadic. We continue to spray with Tordon/Overdrive targeting primarily Leafy spurge and Thistle. We also utilized Method on the median on I-29 again and the county gravel pit. We were very happy with the median control on the acres sprayed with Method last year. Continue to work with landowners on cost-sharing program and with biological control. Had a lot of late growth to fall rains.

The following is a summary of the 2017 program:

Chemical Treated Acres: State roads – 1,333 up from 966

County/Township roads: 3,609 up from 2,864

Total: 4,942 acres

Notice to Control: Letters Mailed – 4

Landowners contacted by phone or in person – 5

Landowner Assistance: LAP Processing

Biological 5 producers had 10 releases of Czwalinae/Lacertosa for Leafy Spurge

FSA/CRP Inspections – Lack of field staff

Industry:

Tom Hendrick: Van Diest Supply.

Thanks for your support. Bayer is still working to get a label on Method. Nothing has changed regarding that. We could see Dicamba and 2-4D going up slightly. Glyphosate will have a slight increase in 2018.

Karissa Floerchinger – Dow

I recently moved from Fargo to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The merger of Dow with Dupont will be a merger benefiting everyone. Now, they will be a total agriculture. There will be a shift in personal, but none of these shifts should affect the way they do business with the counties in North Dakota.

Select your herbicide to what suits your program the best.

Dow has Vastlan, Freelexx and Graslan as new formulations. Freelexx is the new Coline based 2-4D. It is higher priced than generic Amine's, but it is odorless and less volatility, and can be easily tank-mixed.

For your Bareground needs, Cleantraxx is a new Bareground chemical. Has no Kochia control, but can be tank mixed with Vista for Kochia control. Cleantraxx can be mixed with Milestone, Opensight and other DAS IVM products.

Opensight, Tordon and Milestone are still excellent chemicals, and we appreciate your business.

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Director & CPS Timberland Division

DOW: Prices should be stable going forward. In August they said that Milestone and Opensight were having a price increase of 3% by October 1. But now, they have not increased, and Dow has not given a reason for the change.

Monsanto: They have already raised prices ever so slightly for Glyphosate. Last year they did the same thing, and then they stabilized by April, and the increases never materialized. 2-4D's are showing light price increases as well.

Bayer: 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.

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.

Dicamba: In 2018, Dicamba will be a restricted use product. This is due to the use of Dicamba drift issues. At this time, not sure how it will affect Overdrive and other chemicals with Dicamba in them. Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas have banned Dicamba use in their states.

As far as CPS Timberland: Thank you for the business this past season. Jesse is leaving, but John will still be at the warehouse and will train in a new person. We want to earn your trust and business. If you have questions, we strive to make sure we get an answer for you. We try to get the product to you quickly as possible, so you can avoid down time.

Government Report: submitted by David Hirsch, NDWCA Government Director, read by Brent Nelson

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.

Break

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist:

Chelsey’s contact number: 701-226-4321 – Noxious weeds, federal & state funding, enforcement issues

Lane’s: 701-328-2250 - Biocontrol, Weed Seed Free Forage

Jim’s: 701-425-8454 – Mapping, dataloggers, NDDA online maps

Increased movement of hay = increased movement of weeds – scouting for new and spreading infestation of noxious and invasive weeds is essential

2018 Agriculture Commissioner’s Noxious Weed Forum – January 9, 2018 at the Ramada in Bismarck

GPS and Mapping – submit GPS data to Jim – Jim will be at the conference – bring your laptops/dataloggers

Outreach materials are available – let Chelsey know

Annual weed board survey is due February 1, 2018 – See Chelsey for your access code

Funding: 3 open federal grants

2015-2017 summary of spending – TAG 9% remaining and LAP 5% remaining

2017-2019 Allocations: TAG - \$5,000/county, and \$2,000/city

LAP – 43 eligible weed boards

LAP Formula Example

Eligibility	USDA-NASS Statistics of acres of Non-Cropland in Farms	Annual Noxious Weed Survey- 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 43 WB eligible, then each would get \$9,302.33	Total acres X \$400,000	Total acres X \$200,000

Return NOGAs ASAP

Ideas for using TAG:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Spray equipment | Outreach and education |
| Biocontrol | Pesticide spill kits |
| Training | Computer hardware or software |
| Scouting, monitoring and control | PPE |
| GPS Equipment | |

New Business:

Website: Brent asked if they were any ideas for creating a new website. He went on to explain the costs and why we are looking for a change.

Gravel Pits: Brent read the following letter submitted by Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer

The question was brought up last January at the conference and at subsequent association board meetings if weed boards had the legal authority to charge fees for inspecting gravel pits and provide a letter of compliance stating that noxious weeds are under control.

A state’s attorney investigation of the noxious weed law showed that prior to 2009 weed boards were able to charge for inspections. The weed law changed in the 2009 legislative session which removed that provision. This was confirmed by an Assistant Attorney General’s research.

The question before the NDWCA members is do we want the ability to charge for inspecting gravel pits and providing a letter of noxious weed control compliance to the gravel pit operation.

Background: Many federal, state and county highway departments are requiring mined gravel and other aggregate products to be sourced from pit operations that were inspected and documented to have noxious and troublesome weeds controlled, i.e. no live plants on the land surrounding and within the mining operation. The pit operator must provide the compliance letter as a requirement in their bid submission. The pit operations voluntary calls the local weed officer to have the mining operation inspected. If weeds are found, control measures are undertaken before the compliance letter is issued.

The Weed Seed Free Forage program is managed by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and provides hay producers a certificate stating that the hay is free of noxious weed seed. The hay is a value added product and is sold at a premium price. Various state and federal parks require certified hay when feeding trail animals within the parks. The NDDA is able to charge for time, mileage and acres inspected for the service.

I feel that inspecting gravel pits and providing the compliance letter is asking for a service above and beyond the normal duties done by a weed officer. This work is similar to inspecting hay lands for WSFF. Though the inspection cannot certify that the gravel is weed seed free, the mining area has been deemed to be free of live noxious weeds. I feel that weed officers/weed boards should be able to charge for their time for the inspection service. In order to accomplish that a bill will need to be presented to the legislature.

Discussion: Leon feels it is the NDDA's job to get it done. Steve feels that sending a compliance letter increases the liability.

Charging a fee: Isn't it already the weed officers job. How can a fee be collected on top of the salary? Brent stated that it will be on the agenda at the annual meeting.

LAP Funding: Merlin raised the issue that he has heard for some time. LAP funding. Merlin, on behalf of the board is planning to put together figures to see if we as an association should pursue raising the funding for LAP. We get our funds out of the EARP fund. Looking at those figures, the projected funds remaining in EARP after the biennium would not be enough for us to get LAP funding raised. We would possibly need to increase EARP. We need from the counties, how much more, if any, dollars could they use in their LAP allocations. Get them to Merlin as soon as possible.

Brent asked for a show of hands which counties could use more LAP funding. Most of the counties raised their hands. This will be discussed at the board meeting in January and most likely at the annual meeting.

Houndstongue: Questions asked: Do we want it on the state noxious weed list? Consensus was yes.

Comments: We need to convince Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU, to give the green light for it. How many acres do we need in the state before it gets listed?

Elections:

Nominations for 2nd Vice President: Only from areas I, III, or IV. No nominations at this time.

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: Brent read Derrill Fick, Education Chairman's report

Derrill sent a notice to all elementary principals in the state about the poster contest. 5th and 6th grade students are eligible. We are hoping that we have a large number of posters to judge at the convention in January.

Legislative Issues:

Elvin asked the issue concerning township roads, what defines a township road. He feels the meaning should be changed. After some discussion, the consensus is that Elvin should talk to the state township association, as this is not a weed issue.

Resolutions: None

Other business:

Brent mentioned the banners that were set up in the room. He explained how the association purchased them and that they are to be used by the counties in the area, whether it be for a booth, or just to set one up at a bank or business for a while. Just contact Brent, and he will arrange to get them to you.

Steve brought up the issue of alfalfa in ROW's. Some landowners are concerned that by spraying the ditches they are losing the alfalfa. Should seeding ditches have more grass and less alfalfa in the mixes? Need to ask NDDOT on this.

Merlin mentioned that he will try and get someone from NDDOT on the state panel during the conference.

Being no other business was discussed, Leon moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd, meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary