

## **NDWCA Area II Minutes**

**Barnes County Highway Dept., Valley City, ND**

**Yet to be approved**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Area Director, Stan Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:12 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Richland, Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Steele, LaMoure, and Stutsman. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Leon Pederson, 2016 NDWCA President and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

**Additional agenda items:** none

### **Minutes:**

The 2015 area II minutes were reviewed. Jerry Rekow moved to accept the minutes as presented, Steve Ginsbach seconded the motion. M/C

### **Old Business:**

### **Annual Meeting update:**

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 9, 10 11, & 12<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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:**

### **Cass: submitted by Stan Wolf:**

Wind was a problem this summer, seemed to blow more than not. Weed issues were primarily Leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and Absinth wormwood. Scouted for purple loosestrife, Common tansy, and Yellow toadflax. Noticed that the area where I had Yellow toadflax in a diversion channel last year and this spring, I did not see it this fall. Will need to check again next spring. I also sprayed an area that had Common tansy last year that had a couple of plants coming up.

Sprayed 8,600+ acres with two contractors, covering the I94 and I29, state, county and township roads. This worked well as they decided when and where they could spray depending on wind and adjoining crops. County staff sprayed numerous small parcels throughout the county, primarily public owned lands. Coordinated a spray project with the Water resource District on the Maple River Dam again this year, expanding the area covered last year. Costs were covered by a matching Forest Service Grant through the NDDA.

Purchased a Honda Pioneer 500 side by side and fitted it with a 40 gallon spray tank with boom less nozzles and 100 foot hand hose. Summer help preferred this machine over the Honda ATV. Easier to drive and keep a constant speed. Roll cage was a reassuring factor.

Inspected two gravel pits again in Clay County, MN, as products were to be delivered to Cass County Highway Dept.

Flea beetle collection had better numbers this summer than in the past. We collected in a couple of areas to mix up the genetics. Distributed about 30,000 beetles.

Scouted for Houndstongue in one location in Cass and one location in Ransom County, adjacent to Enderlin. The land is operated by the same rancher.

We have a lot of new construction going on in the county, especially around Fargo and West Fargo. The developers have been negligent in their weed control efforts letting noxious and invasive weed flourish. With the rise of herbicide resistant weeds such as water hemp, Kochia and others, I felt that we needed a means to educate the developers and builders that they needed to control weeds. A Weed Management Plan was presented to the county commission whereby the developer needs to fill out a form stating that they have a weed management plan and present the plan to the permitting office and the weed officer. This form lets me know where a development is being undertaken and contact information in case I need to discuss their weed management plan. Contact Stan for a copy of their plan. The cities of Fargo and West Fargo also tightened up their property codes on new development, in an effort to control weed growth.

I received a signed weed complaint that required a Notice Weed Control for a number of undeveloped residential lots. After a lot of discussion, the owner did control the weeds prior to my ordering a contractor to mow the lots. Issue resolved.

**Barnes: submitted by Jamen Windish**

2016 was the start to my first season as Barnes County Weed Officer. We had three employees returning, so that was a huge advantage for my first year as weed officer. Weather was not our friend this season, as many would agree.

We started the year by spraying county and state roads for Leafy spurge. We got through all the roads one time and some a second. We scouted for spotted knapweed up by Sibley and we found and hand pulled about 70 plants. We then went back and sprayed that area with Milestone. We also scouted and pulled Houndstongue. We are trying to keep it at a manageable level.

Lane Kozel, NDDA, had contacted me early in the year about placing biocontrol for Yellow toadflax. We had found a spot with decent number of plants that would be undisturbed for several years. We had mapped and released them and will follow up this following year on how they are doing.

In August, we scouted and sprayed for Purple loosestrife on the river. We had found plants on the banks in the city. Don said that a number of plants is down from previous years. We will continue to actively scout and spray these areas we find.

Fall spraying was just about as pleasant as the summer, with the weather. In between the rain and wind, Don and I sprayed all the county and state roads again, mainly focusing on Canada thistle. I have seen some heavily infested areas of thistle that I wanted to get a good hold on.

2017 we will be continuing our scouting for Knapweed, Houndstongue, and Purple loosestrife. We will also be hosting two half day events in the beginning of the year for people to bring in their sprayers and we will show them how to properly calibrate their equipment. I find this very beneficial for people to know how to do so they can effectively spray. We had a few people bring in four wheeler sprayers this summer and I helped them understand how to calibrate them.

**Stutsman: submitted by Ron Manson**

**Richland: submitted by Steve Ginsbach**

Our season started with a LAP cost share program, the first week of May. We had 30 participants and 3,773 acres, covered in pastures in this year's program. The county covered 80% and the growers 20%. The county spray season began in late May with a contractor spraying the north ½ of the county and all state roads, and interstate ROW, 2,447 acres were sprayed. Gravel pits were sprayed by a helicopter. The weed officer sprayed the south ½ of the county, spraying 650 acres, also Forest service ROW with 132 acres sprayed.

Leafy spurge acreage is down in the county and Canada thistle slightly increased.

We also had a Canada thistle and Leafy spurge biological cost share program. There were 12 growers participating and 26 releases. We found 2 infestations of Yellow toadflax and they were treated immediately.

Now we are winding down, after a very successful season, considering the wind and rain days.

**Dickey: submitted by Terry Weiss, read by Jerry Rekow**

The year started out early and dry. As the year went on the wind and rain were burdensome for spraying.

Dickey County Weed Board purchased new equipment for the 2016 season. First they purchased a 1 ton Ram with a 350 gallon tank, and then a 1 ½ ton Ram with a 1,600 gallon tank.

With two rigs, they hires a college girl to run one of the trucks, which turned out to be most helpful in completing the spraying. With the new equipment, we had no breakdowns and completed all the township roads as well as sprayed the county roads for cattails.

We has several complaints this year. One signed complaint from a neighboring farmer about Canada thistle in an oats field. We sent the organic farmer a letter and the issue was resolved, without any further action by the weed board.

The Leafy spurge this year seemed to be in places where I have not seen it in past years. The most infestation remains south of Oakes, in Riverdale Township, because of the use of 2-4D only, where the water table is high.

I September, I put down Milestone on all the county roads to have carryover for weed control in the spring. I talked to Ron Manson, and he said that it worked very well for them this year.

I could not be happier than to be the weed officer for Dickey County. The board is very forward thinking and supportive.

**LaMoure: submitted by Al Ulmer**

Spring and fall were challenging due to wind and rain. Started spraying early most days. Toadflax was everywhere this year. Farmers spray roundup in ditches one year, the next year they are full of Canada thistle. Counties pull of the shoulders of the roads, leaving noxious weeds to grow. Leafy spurge beetles were down this year, due to weather. We use a Polaris ranger, which works great. We run a 2 year rotation with them, less maintenance, better trade in value as well. Been spraying trees in the ditches as well.

**Steele: submitted by Angie Johnson**

Stutsman: Ron Manson: Fairly productive year. Sprayed everything early, except Township roads. We hit them hard this fall, with Tordon and Milestone. Between haying and sensitive crops, I felt that by waiting until fall, we could get more sprayed, and it worked.

Concerns: Yellow toadflax found by the Pipestone Dam and watershed. Spotted knapweed found blocks from the weed shop, by the railroad tracks, and not just a few plants either. I see having trouble finding help in the future.

Spent \$60,000 in cost share to landowners. A lot more Milestone cost shared. Collected 2,000,000 beetles this summer. We sprayed cattails as well.

## **Agencies:**

**Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU:** Very little changes to the 2017 weed control guide. A couple of name changes on chemicals, and a couple of additional ones. Pulse sprayer. New technology. Controls droplet size by the pulse, not pressure. Droplet size remains the same, goes by the speed of the sprayer. Will show video at annual conference. Palmer Amaranth. It is a crop weed. Spreading north. Resistance to most herbicides. Has taken over most counties in Iowa, found in Minnesota, as of yet not in North Dakota. It is a giant pigweed, very small seeds, approximately 1,000,000/plant. There is talk about putting it on the state noxious weed list. If it is on the state noxious weed list, you are required to control it. With what? Herbicide resistant. Mowing, hand pulling?

There were concerns earlier on farming ROW's. Yet it is the duty of the weed board to spray ROW's. Do you spray ROW's with crop in them? Good questions, and really not many answers.

## **Industry:**

**Karissa Floerchinger– Dow AgroSciences.** She could not be here today, as she became ill. Bill Walker gave her report.

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.

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. She looks forward to meeting all of you in January in Bismarck.

## **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 of 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.

Rod said that he has not worked with Freelexx, but his counterparts in Canada have. Has a little more activity, definitely less odor. Could be pricey, but you definitely should try a jug or two to see for yourself.

#### **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. Bayer may put Perspective to a bare ground product. 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.

#### **Break**

#### **Government: David Hirsch, Government director, read by Stan Wolf**

#### **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

#### **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 30<sup>th</sup> – Forms submitted by July 7<sup>th</sup> to NDDA, July 14<sup>th</sup>, NDDA to Reimburse.

LAP Formula:

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	$\frac{\text{WB acres}}{\text{Total acres}} \times \$400,000$	$\frac{\text{WB acres}}{\text{Total acres}} \times \$200,000$
if 45 WB eligible, then each would get \$8,888.88		

LAP Funding: Deadline December 31<sup>st</sup>, use funds, January 6<sup>th</sup>, submit forms to NDDA, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline: Deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> to use funds, July 7<sup>th</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup>. 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president: nominations from Area's I, II & III

Jerome Behm from Ward County, and Jamen Windish have been nominated so far. Merlin reminded the group that a person can still be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.

**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:**

None were brought forward from this Area. Merlin read the two resolutions already going to the board and the annual meeting. Leon discussed them.

**Winter Show:**

March 4<sup>th</sup> thru the 11<sup>th</sup>. Do we want to have a booth again at the winter show? Steve moved to have it again. Ron seconded the motion. M/C

Stan mentioned that three counties have not paid from last year.

Divide by all the counties except Griggs. Jim moved to have Weeds of the west books for prizes at the booth. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

Rod stated that Weeds of the west books are not being reprinted. When they're gone, they're gone.

**Other Business:**

Ron Manson would like to see the Association President's term be changed to a two year term. Merlin said, as a by- law change, it would need to be worked on a committee starting in March, to be ready in time for area meetings and the annual meeting.

Being no other business, Jerry moved to adjourn the meeting, Steve seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary