

## **NDWCA Area II Minutes**

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

**Yet to be approved**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Area Director, Stan Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:18 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Richland, Barnes, Cass, Dickey and Stutsman. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

**Additional agenda items:** none

### **Minutes:**

The 2016 area II minutes were reviewed. Ron Manson 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 7, 8, 9, & 10<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

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

Ron asked if we consider adding someone to talk about weed control in organic farming. Merlin will find someone.

## **County reports:**

### **Richland: submitted by Steve Ginsbach**

We started our season with a LAP cost share day with 20 growers participating.

The north half of the county was sprayed with a contractor, while the south half of the county was sprayed by the county. The contractor sprayed all state roads.

We did a biological cost share with spurge and Canada Thistle bugs. Fifteen growers participated.

We sprayed the ROW around our Forest Service areas. Our gravel pits were sprayed with a helicopter. We also found several new sites of Yellow toadflax and treated them immediately.

### **Stutsman: submitted by Ron Manson**

We had 4-part time employees. Had 1 major field day, and 4 other field days. Harvested 1.2 million beetles. Some agencies came in by themselves. We went to Grant County's field day. Did tree spraying again. Sprayed cattails. Organic farming is becoming a huge issue for us. We went from 3 organic farmers to 27 in just a couple of years. Their ways are a lot different than ours for weed control.

We sprayed roads twice again. Sprayed for Yellow toadflax. Had a lot of wind issues.

### **Dickey: submitted by Terry Weiss**

This year started out with much less water in the ROW. However, the Leafy spurge seemed to be everywhere. This year there seemed to be Leafy spurge in areas that I had not seen before.

We lost our part time employee, so the pressure was on to get as much ground covered as possible each day by putting in long hours. But the wind became a factor for me. It seemed that the wind never quit day after day.

As the summer wore on the complaints piles up. It seems when there is no one else to blame for their beans cupping on the leaves, it must be the weed control officer that sprayed their beans. However, no sample contained Tordon.

The Bull thistle is getting more prevalent every year. Just because it stands out so well, it probably looks worse than it is.

The County commissioners took about \$30,000 out of our budget this year, and took that amount out of next year's budget also. The tight legislative budget gets passed down to the county budgets, and we need to tighten our belt and get through these lean years.

This year we had no complaints files against our organic farmers to deal with. Because of haying CRP this year, there were no complaints with weedy CRP.

I had a heart to heart talk with the Garrison Diversion people about the Leafy spurge in the canals. They brought in beetles many years ago, but there does not seem to be any there any longer. To their credit, they brought in Dakota Helicopter to spray all the canals, and that was successful.

Our farmers have utilized our cost share program more this year than in past years. We had 38 land owners purchase chemical this year that broke down as follows. We used most of our LAP funding last year, so most of the funding for the cost share came out of our budget.

Tordon22K - 346.5 gal - \$6,184.00  
2-4D - 902. gal - \$4,126.25  
Milestone - 67 gal - \$5,628.00  
Opensight - 130 gal - \$1,500.00

### **Barnes: submitted by Jamen Windish**

2017 started off slow for us with the weather. We started off spraying all the state and county roads for leafy spurge. We have noticed a reduction in the number of highly infested areas along these roads. During the windy days we spent most of our time searching for Houndstongue in the Sheyenne river valley. We had found a large number of plants in various areas along the river valley. It was a mix in-between pasture land and trees. The density of plants also varied from a couple here and there and then heavy numbers. We also found a small pasture up by Leal that was heavily infested with it. So, in 2018 we will be doing more scouting and pulling of plants along with spraying. We were using Opensight for chemical.

Last year Lane and I had put yellow toadflax beetles out on a WPA land. We went back and scouted the area this year for signs. We did not find any beetles when we went out. We may have been late to the searching. I noticed this fall the land got hayed because of the drought. I contacted the US Fish and wildlife dept. about it. They were very sorry about the haying they forgot we had placed bugs out there. I will go out next spring and see if any survived, but the chances are slim.

We scouted for spotted knapweed in the same spots as last year. We found about double the plants as we did the year prior. We hand pulled and sprayed the area. We will continue to monitor the area and keep it under control the best we can.

A new finding this year was musk thistle. I got a call from a landowner who said he had a couple dozen plants in his pasture. I went out there and inspected it for him. It was indeed musk thistle. This is my first sighting of it in Barnes County. It looked to have come in from his hay. It was mainly in one area where it looked like he had placed bales there in years past. We found both first and second year plants. We will continue to monitor these areas.

Purple loosestrife numbers were up from last year. Along the parks in town we found a considerable amount more plants than the previous year. We sprayed the plants that we could. A couple NDSU grad students had contacted me about doing some drone work on these plants. They came out and took pictures of the plants. They plan on coming back next year to do the same.

Leafy spurge beetles in our area were down. We did not find many beetles as we did last year. I have been placing some beetles out in a few areas in hopes to start a few different sights in Barnes County. We scouted a few pollinators plots this early spring for palmar amaranth. We did not find any plants so that is a good thing.

We really went after cattails and trees in the ditch in late July and early August. We sprayed all the county roads for these and we really did a good job on them. If we keep up this same type of program for them in a few years we will really start to see a big difference.

Toadflax is still an ongoing issue. We keep finding new spots popping up in places. The density is not big but if we do not keep it under control it will spread. We will continue to keep monitoring these areas and scout in others.

Fall spraying has proved to be a challenge this year. We had windy days for over half of the days. We also got over seven inches of rain in a 10-day span that shut us down for a while till the ditches dried up. But we really went after the thistle with a Milestone 2-4D mixture that proves to be very effective. Some administrative things we switched our data logging system this spring to Agterra this year. We had a few road bumps right away, but we got them figured out. They were very good to work with and were helpful when we had problems or questions. I am really glad we switched over to this system. It is very user friendly once it is set up and it keeps your files organized for you, so you do not have a giant mess of paperwork.

**Cass: submitted by Stan Wolf:**

We hit the ground running starting our roadside spray program on June 20. This is the latest we started our roadside spray program. We have sprayed 8800 acres on federal, state, county, and township roads. Tordon/Overdrive was applied on all road rights-of-way.

We did receive several inquiries from soybean growers if we sprayed alongside their fields, they were concerned about dicamba drift. One grower filed an official complaint, no word as to what the outcome is. This was a soybean seed production field. The grower was concerned about seed germination next spring. As I drove around the county one could see many soybean fields showing various signs of possible dicamba damage.

Canada thistle seemed to be the weed of the year. I primarily sprayed Milestone in my UTV sprayers on the county flood buyout lots and water drains and some township road ditches.

Flea beetles – collections were fairly good this year. We collected at a couple of sties in the county and went to Stutsman County flea beetle day for additional collections. We are working to develop new sites to be used as insectaries.

Purple loosestrife – have a couple of sties that we are scouting for and spraying.

Red River Diversion– We are working with the Red River Diversion Authority to develop procedures and protocols addressing weed control on construction sites. Concern is keeping all weeds under control including possible herbicide resistant cropland weeds.

I was asked by the county highway department to inspect two borrow pit areas that were to be used for road construction projects.

We received a signed noxious weed complaint in a residential area outside a small town. The landowner was cooperative in spraying the weeds but did not mow the area, much to the disgust of the neighbors. About 30 notices of noxious weed infestation were sent out to landowners.

**Agencies:**

**Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU:** Interesting year with Palmer amaranth and Dicamba issues. The Pulse sprayer seems to be working. Tried different speeds, up to 15 mph, and the rate is exactly where it is supposed to be. They are pricey. Spraying in June had 20 to 30% less control due to the climate. Perspective is going away, like it never came. They will just have Method, without the proper label, like Perspective had, 1-year haying and grazing restrictions, may never get labeled.

Biocontrol on Yellow toadflax also works on Dalmation toadflax.

I am now ½ time, since July, due to budget cuts, etc. I do have a grad student working with UAV's.

Palmer Amaranth, as far as I can determine, we don't have it yet.

**Industry:****Karissa Floerchinger– Dow AgroSciences.**

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 Rep & 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. NuFarm, one of the largest manufacturers of 2-4D, which makes Platoon, has not raised their prices as of now.

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.

**Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply:**

Appreciate your business. Can be a useful resource for you. Our warehouse is in Pierre. Product can be delivered within 48 hours. A lot was covered previously. Will know more in the coming months. Customers like Freelexx and Graslan.

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

Biocontrol

Training

Scouting, monitoring and control

GPS Equipment

Outreach and education

Pesticide spill kits

Computer hardware or software

PPE

## **New Business:**

**Website:** Jamen spoke on the fact that the board is looking at designing a new website, and why they are. He would like ideas or input on what everyone would like to see on the site. A map for contacts, contract sprayers in the state. Jamen also mentioned the banners, and how they can be used.

**Gravel Pit Inspections:** Stan discussed his letter to the areas and why we are looking at this at this time.

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 can 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.

Ron: NAISMA is working on this for a nation-wide program. Jim Anderson asked why do gravel pits need to be exempt from controlling weeds? Jamen asked if we are required to certify the pits? Stan replied, that not at this time.

Jamen moved to present a resolution to the annual business meeting. Steve seconded the motion. M/C

Stan read the following resolution to the area.

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 pit operators.

**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.

**Houndstongue:** Should Houndstongue be on the state noxious weed list. Last year we passed a resolution, sent it to the NDDA, and it stalled. Rod Lym did not receive it from the NDDA. Merlin states that Area V, presented the resolution last year, and sounds like they plan on doing it again this year. Consensus of the group is to act on it again at the annual meeting.

**Elections:** Area Director – 2- year term. Stan Wolf is currently the director, and is eligible for another term. Steve nominated Stan. Jamen nominated Ron. Results of the vote was a tie. Merlin flipped a coin to determine the winner, as both agreed to do so. Ron won the coin flip, and thus was elected area director. 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate – Terry nominated Stan. Jim nominated Steve. Stan elected 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate. 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate – Terry nominated Steve. Ron moved that nominations cease, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Steve. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C Steve elects 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President nominations - from Areas 1, III or IV. None from other areas. Ron nominated Cody Schnabel, from Morton County, Area IV

**Poster Contest:** Stan read Derrill's report.

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

**Legislative Issues:** no additional items at this time

**Resolutions:**

No additional ones were brought forward from this Area.

**Winter Show:**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. Do we want to have a booth again at the winter show? Steve moved to have it again. And to give out weeds of the west book. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

The booth will be run through an area county.

Stan will bring his vase of plastic weeds, since there are no live ones this 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:** None

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

Meeting adjourned at 12.28pm

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary