

NDWCA Area III Minutes

North Central Research Extension Center, Minot, ND

Yet to be approved

October 24th, 2016

Area Director, Terry Volk called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ward, Bottineau, McHenry, and Williams. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Karissa Floerchinger, Dow AgroSciences, Leon Pederson, 2016 NDWCA President, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: none presented.

2015 area III minutes were reviewed by attendees. Jerome Peerboom moved to approve the minutes as presented, Chuck Weiser 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, & 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:

McHenry: submitted by Jerome Peerboom

All five members attended the state convention held in Mandan in January.

Members of the weed board assisted at a booth at the Ag. Expo in Minot. The annual report was completed and sent to the NDDA office. Annual dues were paid to the NDWCA.

A spring newsletter highlighting the year's program was published in mid-April and is distributed to all operating producers in the county. Spring chemical sales are held on four half days. Chemicals offered this year included Milestone, Tordon22k, Escort, Telar, Overdrive, Plateau and Curtail. A fall letter was sent to producers offering chemicals for sale by order only with one scheduled pickup date.

Approximately 132 producers took advantage of the discounted prices this year. Producers spent approximately \$98,993 with the weed control board spending \$80,575.15 in the LAP program.

The board completed and approved the 2017 budget. All monies received and disbursed by the county weed board continue to be filtered through the county auditor's office.

TAG monies are used to assist with ROW spraying. One additional individual was hired for ROW spraying for 2016, bringing total sprayer numbers to four. County roads are the primary concern with additional township roads as time and weather permitted. Graslan L was used by right of way sprayers.

Three board meetings, one sprayer meeting and one special meeting were held throughout the year with an additional meeting planned for mid-November.

Bottineau: submitted by Terry Volk

2016 was a good year for weed control. There was some wet weather and windy days, but that's normal. Leafy Spurge is continuing to decrease on the ROW. The Overdrive/Tordon mix works very well for us. Canada thistle is our biggest issue now. Effective herbicides are available; but, it's necessary to spray nearly every road. The best spraying time for spurge and thistle is two-three weeks apart. A second or third pass is required to spray both weeds effectively.

It's not likely to get it done in one year: it will take several persistent years to get thistle under control. This year, three crews put in 216 3hours and applied just under 45,111 gals of mix. Spraying began the first week of June and operations ended the last week of September.

The Plateau demonstration we are conducting has been worthwhile. The landowner is pleased with the result and has taken on another 220 acres on his own. The location is on Hwy 60. The Plateau demonstration sign put up alongside the pasture has been noticed. People can easily see how much the heavy spurge infestation has been reduced. There is grass for grazing that wasn't there before. Plateau sales have gone from 20 gals to 90 gals.

The first demo. Is complete this fall. The weed board has decided to start a second demo. In the Westhope area on County road 6NW. Its 45 acres of neglected farmstead pasture. Hopefully the same kind of increased weed control effort we saw around Willow City will repeat itself at Westhope.

We tries 50 gallons of Graslan L this fall on the highway. In late August, weeds are almost dormant from hot, dry conditions, and difficult to control. The new mix of Tordon and 2-4D choline proved itself

effective. Leafy spurge and other weeds were burned down within a few days. How long the control will last is better answered next year.

We were fortunate to have a full crew this year; six plus a sub. Next year we will need three additional people due to retirements or leaving for full time work.

LAP participation continues at a low participation level, which is disappointing; however, the average dollars per participant has increased. The benefits of using more effective herbicides instead on minimal treatments seems to be getting through to more people.

Ward: submitted by Derrill Fick

In January we had a booth at the Ag. Show along with the McHenry County weed board.

The season started with us doing some spraying within the city of Minot.

We hired two contractors to help cover the ROW and hired one other employees.

Started with spraying thistle and spurge in the ROW. Had to go back and do some ROW again because of the thistles.

Hired a contractor to survey and spray the Purple Loosestrife in the Souris River. The plants did not seem to go as far down the river as in previous years but some places were a little denser after the flood but plants are still there.

We sprayed properties acquired by Ward County through buyouts because of the flood.

We were able to find a small amount of beetles, which seemed more than in past years. These were just put out by us on other locations.

We again found Houndstongue growing in different locations. We pulled some adult plants and sprayed the first year rosettes.

Wormwood seems to be taking over more areas also. With all of the construction and developing going on with the disturbed soil this plant seems to multiply very fast along with Canada thistle.

Spotted knapweed is still being found in areas where out of state contractors were digging and also in some drainage areas. Put out more knapweed beetles acquired from the NDDA.

Yellow toadflax was still being found in ROW and on private lands. Toadflax beetles were found in certain plots, so hopefully in a few years, we can begin distributing these across the state.

We hired a helicopter to spray 200 acres of gravel pits with Perspective and we did about 1,300 acres of pastures for Leafy spurge, thistles and wormwood, with Tordon/Overdrive mix. We did a cost share program with the landowner so it costs the landowner only \$13/acre.

We had our Tordon and Plateau cost share programs with over 200 landowners participating, with the landowner paying 25% of the cost.

We will have a booth at the Heartland Ag. Show coming up in the middle of November.

Williams: submitted by Jerry Summerville

Williams County utilized 10 field applicators, operating 10 side by side John Deere gators, in the control of noxious and troublesome weeds. The gators were equipped with a data logging and mapping system, which will help in future control efforts.

For the 2016 spraying season, a total of \$151,023.50 in chemicals were purchased at a wholesale pricing.

Williams County partakes in the ND cost share program to aid and encourage private landowners to control troublesome weeds. This year, we gave the full cost share amount on chemicals. The county covers 80%, while landowners only need to cover 20%, of the chemical cost. \$11,633.00 was sold to landowners, who sprayed their own fields.

The City of Williston was sprayed twice over, which the county covered the cost of \$21,237.02, for labor and chemical.

Williams County also covers the cost of labor and chemical to be sprayed on the ROW. This year we covered 2,513 miles of ROW, which costed \$88,652.41

Over the summer, Williams County sprayed for 52 private landowners, with a total of 28,000 acres. The chemical is still on 80/20 cost share, which we generated \$5,936.56. Our mobilization fees generated \$12,454.44, and our labor costs generated \$62,394.80. The overall amount totaled \$80,785.80.

This year we made attempts to restart biocontrol. We traveled to Billings County for set up sweep dates, and collected a total of 72,000 beetles. There were 32 sites set up on mostly private land, with the idea in mind to set up our own sweep sites. All drop points were marked with GPS and photos were taken with GPS points.

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| Chemical Purchased | \$151,023.50 |
| Cost shared chemical sold | \$ 11,633.00 |
| Total county cost | \$139,390.50 |

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| County Paid Spraying | |
| City of Williston | \$ 21,237.02 |
| ROW | \$ 88,652.41 |
| Total county cost | \$109,889.43 |

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| Private Landowner Spraying | |
| Total mobilization fee | \$ 12,454.44 |
| Total labor fee | \$ 62,394.80 |
| Total chemical fee | \$ 5,936.56 |
| Total income generated | \$80,785.80 |

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|---|--------------|
| Total Area Scouted and Sprayed by Gator | |
| ROW | 25,130 miles |
| Private landowner | 28,000 miles |

Bio Control
+72,000 Leafy spurge beetles
32 new drop point

Presidents Message: By Leon Pederson, 2016 NDWCA President

Leon attended a meeting in Baker, Montana. It was set up for area states to hear what everyone does, to learn from others, to better their own states, for better weed control. Montana has a huge trust fund, which provides funds for counties. Wyoming gives funds to CABBY. South Dakota has a Palmer Amaranth problem in their CRP. Surrounding states do not have the control we have on weeds. Leon went to 12 counties this past year, to help them with outreach. Leon has started an outreach committee within the association, to work with counties that need assistance.

Government Report: Submitted by David Hirsch, Government Director, read by Terry Volk

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 has 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.

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 | <u>WB acres</u> | <u>WB acres</u> |
| would get \$10,000 | | |

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.

Brian Jenks: NDSU Research Center – Minot

Palmer Amaranth: Very aggressive plant. Rapid growth -1-3 inches a day. Develops herbicide resistance. In Georgia, 88% of the cotton is hand weeded due to Palmer Amaranth. It is a pigweed. To ID it, you can go to the NDSU website. Seeds from one plant of Palmer Amaranth, will infest 50 acres in 3 years. Weed people need to take a very aggressive approach to this plant. Water hemp is in the eastern part of North Dakota. Let's keep it that way.

New Business:

Elections: Nominations for 2nd Vice President. Can only be from Areas I, II or III

Derrill nominated Jerome Behm. Jerome is a board member on the Ward County Weed Board.

There were no other nominations. Merlin explained that you can also nominate someone from the floor during the annual meeting.

Poster Contest:

Derrill Fick, 2016 Education Chairman, said that the poster contest will be run again this year, and will go to schools in November, for 5th and 6th graders.

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:

Derrill read a resolution from Ward County to ask to be adopted by the Area and passed to the board of directors for consideration at the annual meeting.

Whereas: In North Dakota, the many Federal, State, County, Township, City and private landowners, have spent many thousands of dollars over the years for the control of noxious weeds that have infested their land.

Whereas: Noxious weeds are capable of being rapidly spread by seeds blowing in the wind by human activities, by livestock, by wildlife, and/or by an extensive root system.

Whereas: If a noxious weed has been identified and there are very few plants found, it would be easier to control because most noxious weeds are very difficult to control, once the plant has become established and a seed bank has been created.

Whereas: In states that have the same type of growing season and produce similar livestock and grain crops, as North Dakota, they have seen the influx of the invasive weed, Palmer Amaranth, which can have an economical and environmental impact to their areas with very limited control options.

Therefore be it resolved: That Area III, of the ND Weed Control Association, ask that the North Dakota Weed Control Association the placement of Palmer Amaranth on the state noxious weed list..

Therefore be it further resolved: That if passed, the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in pursuing the listing of Palmer Amaranth to the North Dakota State Noxious Weed List.

Chuck Weiser moved to accept the resolution and forward it to the NDWCA board of directors. Jerry Summerville seconded the motion. M/C

Being no other business was brought forward, Terry adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary