

## **NDWCA Area IV Minutes**

**Morton County Hwy. Department, Mandan, ND**

**Yet to be approved**

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Area Director, Gary Hartman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Morton, Emmons, Sheridan, Burleigh, Grant, Logan, Oliver and city of Mandan Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Lane Kozel, NDDA, Jim Hanson, NDDA, Gary Pastushok, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Leon Pederson, 2016 NDWCA President, David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

**Additional agenda items:** None

### **Minutes:**

2015 area IV minutes were reviewed. Kevin Schmidt moved to approve the minutes. Joe Camisa 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:**

### **Burleigh: Submitted by Gary Hartman**

Our spray season started mid-May and continued thru October 17<sup>th</sup>. State and Federal Hwy's I-94, US-83, Hwy 14, Hwy 41, Hwy 36 and State 10 were sprayed spring and fall, along with county roads. We served 197 private customers for 1,600 acres, and wrote 203 spray tickets for ROW work, for 1,105 acres.

Milestone sales were steady at 114 customers (650 quarts). Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle are still most prevalent in the county, with new spots of Leafy spurge showing up along our roads.

Spotted knapweed has spread to 2 new customers, in our county. Purple loosestrife spraying on the Missouri River has stayed unchanged from recent years, costing Burleigh County \$5,000.00+ every year. No salt cedar found, no Yellow toadflax found. Musk thistle acres are decreasing.

Flea beetle sweeping was good, at both Jamestown and Lake Tschida. Thanks to Merlin Leithold and Ron Manson, for great field days.

This year, Burleigh County has been distributing education brochures about noxious weeds and cost share opportunities for Burleigh County residents.

We have also been certifying gravel pits and aggregate stocks within the county.

### **Oliver: submitted by Rick Schmidt**

The Oliver County Weed Board hired S & M Lawn Service to spray the 4 state highways in Oliver County. Chemical is provided by the county. The State of North Dakota Highway Department reimburses the Oliver County Weed Board for labor and chemical.

The chemical sales for the year of 2016 include: Curtail – 75 gallons, Milestone – 315 quarts, Plateau – 104 gallons, Tordon – 240 gallons, Opensight – 443 (1.25) pound containers, 2-4D – 15 gallons, Liberate – 50 gallons, MSO – 290 gallons, and Perspective – 97 small containers.

124 applicators used the LAP program in Oliver County.

The Oliver County Weed Control Officer received 36 complaints of Noxious Weed violations. Notices were sent and most landowners came into compliance before the board voted to fine. The fines are \$500 for each offence. Some of the potential violations were CRP lands that complaints were turned in to FSA.

### **Grant: submitted by Merlin Leithold**

We had a good start on the summer spraying program. We hired Mid Dakota out of South Dakota again this season, to spray for landowners. I spray all the roads in the county, approximately 1600 miles of county roads, and 100 miles of NDDOT roads. We sprayed for 37 landowners this summer and fall. Up slightly from last year. We had 88 additional landowners spray their own, and take part in our cost share program.

In Grant County, our cost share program consists of the following chemicals: Tordon, Plateau, Curtail, and Milestone. We cost share at 80% up front if they purchase from us. We require them to fill out a request form to receive cost share. They may also purchase from a dealer, but we base our prices on our cost, so purchasing from us enables them. To get the full 80%. If they purchase from a dealer, they are required to send in their paid receipt, along with a spray log, showing where they sprayed, date, etc.

We also sell Amine, Surfactant (Liberate), MSO, blue dye and defoamer, at cost for noxious weed control only.

We had our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Leafy Spurge Bug Day this summer on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 450,000 bugs were collected and handed out. We had 77 in attendance, mostly from out of the county. Thank you to David Hirsch, and his crew from USDA APHIS for the help, Lane Kozel, from NDDA, and also to Cody Schnabel, and his crew from Morton County, for helping. I believe that if we had waited a week, the numbers would have been greater.

We did get all roads sprayed and all landowners sprayed who requested. We plan on putting a spray tower on our truck next season, enabling us to spray 38 feet into the ditch. With the adverse weather conditions this summer, I need to cover more miles in a day, to get done on a more - timely manner. Pulling the hose every few miles, just does not work, if you are in a hurry. I like to cover a ditch from edge of road to the fence, wherever possible, in one pass. That way I can go back, later in the fall and catch regrowth or new growth, on the shoulders. Overall a good year, despite the weather.

**Sheridan: submitted by James Haux**

Crew sprayed roadsides, township and state ROW's. 35 landowners signed up for Leafy spurge. No enforcement letters were sent out. Had 2 personal contacts. We did not have a board tour this year. Pretty good year though. Landowners took part in the LAP program. We had none since July 1.

**Morton: submitted by Cody Schnabel**

Throughout this summer we sprayed all of Morton County roadways at least once through. These roadways include all state highways, county highways, county roads, and housing developments. We also sprayed all active gravel pits for noxious weeds. We have resprayed all state highways and county highways and also many of the main gravel right of ways.

We invited many Morton County landowners to the annual Grant County leafy spurge beetle sweep. The sweep ended up being a great success, despite the weather. Most of the landowners I called showed up and took home a couple bags of 3000 beetles. I also planted some myself and will be monitoring their progress in those spots. I will strive to keep landowners informed on how beneficial these bugs can be in keeping our spurge problem under control. We are very thankful to Grant County for doing the bug day and inviting us.

Morton County offered a Landowner Assistance Program this year. We offered 700 gallons of Tordon 22K for \$10 per gallon, of which all sold out. We sold 361 gallons of Tordon at full price of \$50 per gallon. We offered 40 gallons of Plateau for \$26 per gallon, of which all sold out. We sold 6 gallons of Plateau at the full price of \$130. We offered 750 quarts of Milestone for \$16 per quart, of which all sold out. We sold 57 quarts of Milestone at the full price of \$75. We offered 180 gallons of Curtail for \$10 per gallon, of which all sold out. We did not sell any Curtail at full price.

We received several landowner complaints about neighbors with infestations. Through many phone calls and some letters, I think I got most of these folks steered into a management program. I did not see in any of these cases, an absolute disregard to my requests to control the problem, so I did not issue any fines.

This has been the season of protests in Morton County; against a pipeline for transporting crude oil. The protests have hindered us from getting any of our late season work done down in that area. In order to not stir up more tension and anger against Morton County, we have kept our equipment out of the immediate area of those camps.

**Emmons County: submitted by Jess Craig**

Started spraying in May, and finished 2 weeks ago. Spurge, Canada thistle, Bull thistle, Wormwood. Spray highways twice a year, and spot spraying most of the county roads for noxious weeds. Farm to Market roads are sprayed twice a year. Corps land and private land are also sprayed. We used 790 gallons of Graslan. No enforcement letters were sent out, just calling them usually works. We use 1 truck and 1 side by side.

**City of Mandan: submitted by Joe Camisa**

The city of Mandan operates its grass and noxious weed control programs from May until October. During this time, the city received numerous calls from residents concerning various types of weeds. Ultimately, a total of 30 noxious weed cases were opened with official or informal notices to control being sent to the property owner. Out of these cases, a total of seven notice of enforcement letters were sent to property owners by certified mail. The most common noxious weeds found in these cases are Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, and Wormwood. We also have seen two occurrences of new invasive species within the city limits: Common mullein, and Plumeless thistle.

The worst outbreak this year was Canada thistle, located west of the Memorial Highway. Approximately 130 acres of farmland was densely infected near the Prairie West Golf Course, to the point where the seeding looked like snow. Calls to the property owner yielded some action where the owner mowed the infestation.

In the past year, the city of Mandan has revised ordinances to strengthen weed control and better define the functions of the city weed board. Also, we have a new contracted sprayer this year that will perform all enforcement spraying and service to city owned parcels. Over the next year, we hope to tackle a number of other areas to better meet weed control needs:

Move spray contract bidding to multiple year awarding, rather than every year.

Seek increased budgeted funds to allow more flexibility to obtain equipment and professional services.

Request a dedicated weed control officer.

Some of these requests will likely be ongoing, depending on municipal budget conditions. However, we aim to maximize usage of our TAG grant funding, as much as possible. Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to [jcamisa@mandanpd.com](mailto:jcamisa@mandanpd.com)

**Logan: submitted by Heather Moser** (no report, just here to listen)

## **Government Report: David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ.**

### **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.** 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. Her phone number is 406-788-4004

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 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.

**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. Freelexx is a by-product of Duo. I work very closely with DOW. 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**

**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	Annual Noxious Weed Survey-
.	Non-Cropland in Farms	Total Infested Acres
\$400,000	\$400,000	\$200,000
Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
if 40 WB eligible, then each		
would get \$10,000	<u>WB acres</u>	<u>WB acres</u>

If 45 WB eligible, then each                      Total acres   X \$400,000                      Total acres   X \$200,000  
would get \$8,888.88

LAP Funding: Deadline December 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:**

Area Director: 2 year term

Jim Bahm nominated Rick Schmidt, Oliver County, and Merlin Leithold nominated Gary Hartman. No other nominations. Jim Haux moved that nominations cease. Janis Erdman seconded the motion. M/C

Election was held. One vote per county/city -----Gary was reelected

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate – Merlin nominated Rick Schmidt. Being no other nominations were said, Roger Griffin moved that nominations, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Rick. Joe Camisa seconded the motion. M/C

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate – Gary nominated John Arlein, City of Bismarck. Being no other nominations were said, Jim Haux moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John. Joe Camisa seconded the motion. M/C

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Can only be from areas I, II, & III

Merlin said that there are two so far. Jerome Behm, Ward County & Jamen Windish, Barnes County. Merlin mentioned that a person can also be nominated from the floor at the annual business 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:** Merlin read the resolutions from Area's III and I. Leon Pederson gave the reasoning behind the two resolutions.

There were no other resolutions at this time.

**KFYR Agri-International – Feb 24<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

Karissa Floerchinger informed Merlin that DOW would be willing to sponsor the booth again this year.

Everyone was in agreement to have a booth again this coming year.

Merlin said that when you see Karissa at the annual conference, thank her for sponsoring the booth.

Traveling Award: Goes to Morton County.

Other Business:

Being no other business, Gary asked for a motion to adjourn.

James Haux moved to adjourn the meeting, Rick Schmidt seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11.56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary