

NDWCA Area V Minutes

Slope County Courthouse, Amidon, ND

Yet to be approved

October 27th, 2017

Area Director, Joan Lorge called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Stark, Hettinger, Bowman, Slope, Dunn, Mercer, Billings and McKenzie. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Karissa Floerchinger, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: None

Minutes:

2016 area V minutes were reviewed. Tim Oberfoell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Katie Clyde 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, & 10th 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. There will be a board meeting Monday evening at 6:00 pm. Tuesday morning and part of the afternoon will be the Ag. Commissioner's forum. Around 3:30, we will have our annual business meeting. Tuesday evening will be the beer and brat social and auction. Please bring an auction item or items to be auctioned off. Net proceeds go to the education committee for their years' activities. Wednesday will begin at 8:00 with a welcome from the Mayor of Bismarck followed by speakers. The women's luncheon and program will begin at 10:30. The noon luncheon will begin at 11:00. At around 12:30 we will go into three breakout sessions. We done this last year, and it worked well. Around 4:00 we will go back into one full session. Wednesday evening, we will have a social at 6:00 sponsored by DOW, followed by our awards banquet and entertainment. This year's entertainment is again Cottonwood, a bluegrass band from Washburn. CPS is a sponsor for the entertainment. Thursday morning, we will again have the exhibitor breakfast, starting at 6:30, followed by speakers at 8:00 until noon. There will be a board meeting at noon on Thursday to wrap up the activities.

Exhibitor Breaks: We would like everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. There is a letter printed that you can take to them. Also, there is one on our website, to be downloaded.

Awards: Once again the association will be offering two awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Weed Warrior Award. Fill out the form and mail or e mail to Merlin by December 15th. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

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

County reports:

Billings: submitted by Katie Clyde

The Billings County Weed Control Board has been working with their county safety coordinator to begin improving the safety of their overall program. In the spring of 2017 the weed board purchased another 6X6 Polaris Ranger along with a 75-gallon spray unit equipped with baffles to make a more stable and safe unit. The 6X6 aren't as easy to maneuver through trees and tight spaces but are much more stable under a heavy load than our 4X4 units. We also have fewer flat tires with the 6X6 units. Currently, we have four side by side units equipped with 75-gallon spray units with roller pumps, five one-ton pickups with high volume pumps and transfer pumps for filling side by side units and a three-quarter ton pickup. We have four trailers used for hauling side by sides to spray locations.

The 2017 spray season started out assisting the county's road and bridge crews with some total vegetation projects. The edges of the county maintained chip seal were sprayed to help prevent vegetation from growing into the road and cracking the chip seal. The seasonal staff started in mid to late May. In total, we had eleven seasonal employees working the 2017 spray season. They started out spraying Houndstongue, Hoary cress, and Leafy spurge in the late spring and early summer. In mid to late June, the crews started spraying Common burdock, Canada thistle, Absinth wormwood, and Spotted knapweed. Throughout the summer, we worked for several different organizations, including the US Forest Service, ND Department of Trust Lands, Medora Grazing Association, NDDOT, and private landowners. Most of our seasonal staff finished working around the third week in August; three stayed spraying through the end of October.

The flea beetle collection season started much earlier this summer than in 2016. In total we hosted four public collection dates, with both morning and afternoon collections. Over one million beetles were collected in 2017. Each collection beetles were divided equally between everyone that participated in the collection. Some of the agencies that participated in flea beetle collections were Little Missouri Grazing Association, USDA, NDDA, and the ND Game and Fish. We also had several weed boards from around the area who attended including: Billings County, McKenzie County, Golden Valley County, and Williams County.

We wrapped up our 2017 season spraying Leafy spurge with Plateau and MSO. In 2016, we started aerial spraying on several different federal allotments within Billings County. We continued aerial spraying in 2017 and treated roughly 800 acres of Leafy spurge along Wannagan Creek in western Billings County, with a helicopter in early October.

Bowman: submitted by Randy Gaebe

Weeds controlled in Bowman County in 2017 were Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Houndstongue, Wormwood, Spotted knapweed, Black henbane, Baby's breath, Saltcedar, Musk thistle and Scotch thistle.

Our cost share programs for 2017 were:

Custom application: 25 landowners: 288 acres Pesticide distribution: 90 landowners :129 qts. & 23 2.5 gal. Milestone, 15qts. Method, 22 gal. GazonNext
Commercial application: 12 landowners: 629 acres, Equipment reimbursement: 1 landowner,
In-kind reimbursement: 3 landowners

Dunn County: submitted by Cliff Freebee

We have 50/50 cost share. We have concerns with all the hay being brought into our county, especially from out of state. Our main weeds are Leafy spurge, Canada thistle, Absinth wormwood and Yellow toadflax. We are inspecting gravel pits. We have trouble with gravel coming into the county. Baby's breath is terrible. We are taking care of oil sites.

McKenzie County: submitted by Amber Higgins

2017 flew by. We crammed a lot of spray time in, seemed like we were running out of pleasant weather to finish up, but we accomplished all our spraying for 2017.

Most troublesome weeds in our county this season as always, Canada thistle. It seems as every new spray season approaches, we come into larger patches of Canada thistle, especially with all the oil field traffic, pit traffic, new roads, and updating and expanding county roads and highways.

We have seen a rise on county ROW with Black Henbane, more in the Grassy Butte area, south end of the county.

Field bindweed seemed to be popping up more on ROW's.

We have seen an improvement with Leafy spurge over last year, but still an ongoing battle.

Mercer: submitted by Brad Seifert

It has been an interesting year. \$170,000 chemical cost shared with a 80/20 split. Cost shared Curtail, Milestone, Tordon, Plateau, Rifle D, 2-4D, and Landmaster BW. Besides Leafy Spurge, Canada thistle, and Absinth wormwood, we have problem weeds Baby's breath, Black henbane, and Houndstongue. Didn't think we had Houndstongue in the past, but now that a person can identify it in the field, I am finding more and more of it.

Stark County: submitted by Travis Jepson

This past February, long time Stark County Weed Officer, Diane Allmendinger retired. She will be missed in Stark County, and we thank her for her years she spent with us, and wish her the best of luck as she continues her weed officer duties in Dunn County. The weed control board hired Jeremy Jepson and Travis Jepson to take on the weed officer duties for the county.

This spring, we implemented a mandatory safety training for all employees. In this training, we cover PPE, hearing protection, safe machine operation, fire safety, and ladder safety. After completion of the safety modules, employees sign off on the training, acknowledging that they have completed training and a copy is put in their personnel file.

We made the decision to switch our GPS tracking system over to Ag Terra. We used their Strider program to create forms for daily log sheets, inventory tracking, inspection reports, and cost share vouchers. The transition to the GPS tracking software on the tablets hasn't been perfectly seamless, but the bugs are being worked out and it seems to hold good potential for data collection.

This year, our cost share program had 192 participants and of those 192, 41 are new to the cost share program. This year, Stark County paid 60% of the cost of chemical. We sold \$151,234 worth of chemical.

We sold 624 qts. of Milestone, 147.5 gallons of Milestone, 125 gallons Plateau, 564.5 gallons of Tordon, and 920.5 gallons 2-4D.

We had a successful year spraying. The total gallons applied to state ROW's dropped this year, compared to last year, reflecting some level of control is being achieved.

We once again held a field day for the collection of Leafy spurge flea beetles. Although the number of participants was up from a year ago, it is still far lower than in the past. We had a terribly windy day for it, but the collection went well, and everyone went home with enough beetles to make a few sites.

This summer the weed board made the decision not to renew the contract that Stark County has with the City of Dickinson, to do spraying within city limits. The current contract with the city ends the 31st of October. This will allow us to put more personnel out on county ROW's starting next summer.

At the last weed board meeting, the board voted to purchase another truck. This winter, we will build a boom spray system for it.

Slope: submitted by Joan Lorge

Drought, Hot, Dry and Windy. Need we say more! Other than we tried.

This year a few things changed in Slope County. We changed our cost share program to a 70/30 program after 25+ years at 80/20. We also decided not to cost share the application costs of Houndstongue treatment. We still provide herbicide for in-kind on Houndstongue.

We treated one township in the SE corner of the county that did not have any spraying done to the shoulders of the road by our road department, for Canada thistle. We wanted to see if we could kill it without having to wait for the weeds to recover after being sprayed with Roundup. The township talked to me later, and was going to have someone spray what we didn't reach, they seemed to think we had done a good job with the areas that we could reach. We had a big problem this year finding days to spray, so that was compliment.

We again sprayed the US and State highways for Leafy spurge, Wormwood, and Canada thistle. We added E2 herbicide to our Tordon for Leafy spurge treatment along Highway 85. We will see next spring if this was worthwhile adding to our program. Highway 12 from the Bowman County line to the Montana state line was sprayed using Milestone. There we sprayed Canada thistle, Wormwood and Spotted knapweed. Highway 21 was sprayed in spots from the junction of Hwy 85 to the junction of 21 to Bowman County.

Marmarth was again sprayed for Spotted knapweed. We were surprised and pleased that we did not find many plants this year. The Phragmites that we found in Marmarth was positively identified and sprayed this fall. It was the invasive non-native kind, that we found. We used Roundup, Liberate and Choice Weather Master, when we sprayed it. We will monitor it next year and spray any plants that we did not kill.

Houndstongue: We are fighting it and it continues to expand its range. I found new areas just last week, hard to get at and in the trees.

Saltcedar: A rancher around Marmarth reported pulling a few Saltcedar plants around a dam. This is another weed that seems to show up again every couple of years.

We again had our fall herbicide distribution, we had 43 participants this year, down from last year, but with the drought, it was still a good turnout. We cost shared Tordon22K, Plateau, Milestone, GrazonNext HL, and Curtail, for Leafy Spurge and Canada thistle control. For Houndstongue, we cost shared Escort and 2-4D.

We are worried about what could be in all the hay that has been brought or will be brought into the county because of the drought. We are thinking of possible ways to keep people looking for weeds or keeping the areas that they feed in small when feeding the purchased hay.

Government Report: submitted by David Hirsch, government director, read by Joan Lorge

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.

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. Moot 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.

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist:

Last year Gary took her place here in Amidon. He is no longer with the department. Scott Hochhalter took his place.

Chelsey's contact number: 701-226-4321 – Noxious weeds, federal & state funding, enforcement issues
Lane's: 701-328-2250 - Biocontrol, Weed Seed Free Forage
Jim's: 701-425-8454 – Mapping, dataloggers, NDDA online maps

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

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

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

Outreach materials are available – let Chelsey know

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

Funding: 3 open federal grants

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

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

LAP – 43 eligible weed boards

LAP Formula Example

Eligibility	USDA-NASS Statistics of acres of Non-Cropland in Farms	Annual Noxious Weed Survey- Total Infested Acres
\$400,000	\$400,000	\$200,000
Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
if 40 WB eligible, then each would get \$10,000	<u>WB acres</u>	<u>WB acres</u>
If 43 WB eligible, then each would get \$9,302.33	Total acres X \$400,000	Total acres X \$200,000

Return NOGAs ASAP

Ideas for using TAG:

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

New Business:

Website: Katie mentioned that we are getting a new one built because Terry Volk, who currently keeps ours is planning to retire. Asking what you want on the site. Joan mentioned that we should use Facebook, and leave the web page simple.

Houndstongue: Katie said that the association is taking it to all areas again this year to get it on the state list. Katie feels that it should be on. Questions why it is being held up. Bill said that according to Rod Lym, it got held up at the NDDA. We have also heard that Rod stopped it. Rod seemed to be in favor of putting it on the state list. The consensus from the other four areas is it should be on the state list. Katie moved to use last years resolution from Area V, but to include in it that if passed at the annual meeting, that it will be sent to the NDDA and NDSU. Tim seconded the motion. M/C

Gravel Pit Inspections: Joan read the letter from Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer. The question was brought up last January at the conference and at subsequent association board meetings if weed boards had the legal authority to charge fees for inspecting gravel pits and provide a letter of compliance stating that noxious weeds are under control.

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

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

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

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

Good discussion. Cliff says that pits not being inspected needs to stop.

Elections:

Nominations for 2nd Vice President: Can only be from areas I, III, IV

Merlin said that there is one nominated so far: Cody Schnabel, Morton County weed officer, Area IV.

There were no new nominations.

Merlin said that a person can be nominated from the floor as well, during the annual business meeting of the association.

Poster Contest: Joan read Derrill Fick's report.

Legislative Issues: No other legislative issues

Resolutions: Merlin said besides the resolution from Area II on gravel pits, and now from Area V on Houndstongue, there are no others.

There were no other resolutions at this time.

Whereas: In North Dakota the many Federal, State County, Township, City and Private landowners have spent many thousands of dollars, annually, and 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 in a certain area, it would be much easier to control, than a noxious weed that has been established, with an established root system and/or a tremendous seed bed.

Whereas: Some weeds contain a toxicity that can be detrimental to not only livestock but also humans.

Whereas: Although some counties may already have Houndstongue on their county noxious weed list, others still do not.

Therefore be it resolved: That Area V, is in full support, asking that the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the placement of Houndstongue on the State Noxious Weed List.

Therefore, be it further resolved: That the North Dakota Weed Control Association ask the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and North Dakota State University to consider Houndstongue as our state's next state listed noxious weed.

Other Business: Cliff stated that weed officers should get together to discuss the hay movement.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary