

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck

June 26th, 2018

Yet to be Board Approved

President Katie Clyde called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Members present were Katie Clyde, Joan Lorge, Brent Nelson, Gary Hartman, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, Jamen Windish, Cody Schnabel, Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, Richard Weisz, NDDA and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present: ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Samantha Brunner, NDDA

Commissioner Doug Goehring was present to discuss the department's upcoming budget and the EARP fund.

Doug passed out the special fund sheets (EARP is a special fund) that were requested by Bill on behalf of Katie. There will be a carryover at the end of the biennium. Doug explained the Governor's proposed spending cuts for the upcoming biennium, which he also provided copies. Something unusual about the Governor's proposal, besides a 10% budget cut in general fund spending, a cut in special fund spending as well. Special Fund cut would be \$899,634. Doug pointed out that he has never seen or heard of this before. This would not save the state any money, as the EARP fund money comes in no matter if it is spent or not. In this case, the EARP fund would just sit and grow. The proposal also asks for personnel cuts.

Doug is very upset. He does not want to cut special funds. A special fund cut could potentially reduce LAP as well. He will protect LAP. This has been tough on his staff, extra work to look at all angles.

An argument could be, if you cut special funds on spending, then it should be cut on the income side as well.

A lot of very good discussion. Numerous legislators are not impressed with the Governor's proposal. Doug does not need to cut special funds in his budget request to the legislature. He does not plan on asking for any cuts in his budget.

Registration fees in EARP are at \$350/registration.

Discussion on reallocation on LAP. Doug stated that he would be in favor of reallocation. All the allocation funds need to be spent in order to raise additional funding in LAP. The legislature would not look very favorably at additional funds without getting current funds spent. Reallocation is not easy. Very time consuming.

How do we get non-active counties active? More discussion.

Bill feels that the NDWCA board of directors needs to get more active on working with these counties.

Merlin handed to Doug our proposal for gravel pit inspections. Merlin stated that Rep. Dennis Johnson would be interested in sponsoring this at the legislature, with the department's

permission. Doug mentioned that Rep. Dennis Johnson had talked to him about this, and he would be in favor of this proceeding forward.

The Commissioner will begin the process of working on a reallocation program. The department will craft a letter for this. All the weed officers in attendance submitted to Richard how their county program is run, to provide models for other counties. This will help Doug show how LAP works for those weaker counties.

Katie and the board thanked Doug for attending and bringing all this to us.

Additional agenda items were: Merlin – Under New Business: Public perception on pesticides

BREAK

The January minutes were reviewed. Bill moved to approve the minutes, Jamen seconded the motion. **M/C**

Merlin read the financial, budget and membership reports. Brent moved to accept the financial report. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education Committee Report: Derrill Fick, chairman.

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2018 Sprayer Schools this year. They were held at the following locations: May 29th at the Carrington Research Center, May 30th in Minot at the North Central Research Center and May 31st in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control Office. We had a total of 144 attendees. This is a great turn out but we have room for more. We added something new to the training this year. It was a portion on Basic First Aid. Since we are working out in the middle of nowhere by ourselves or with one or two other workers we should know what to do incase an injury occurs while we are working. At each school we heard from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds from the new noxious weed coordinator Richard Weisz. The Pesticide and Fertilizer Division had their Agriculture Program Inspectors give updates and hands on examples of how to use the proper personal protective equipment and what is needed during a use inspection. There was a Right-of-Way recertification training administered by the Pesticide Training Program of NDSU and a weed ID portion put on by the NDSU Research Centers The final item at the school was the sprayer equipment calibration session provided by Bill Walker of Crop Production Services. We need to thank each presenter for their presentations and a special thank you to Karissa Floerchinger of DOW AgroSciences, Scott Ohnoutka of Bayer CropScience and Bill Walker of Crop Production Services for their support and sponsoring of the meals.

We had a booth at the earth day festival in Bismarck on April 19th. This is very well attended by grade school students so we are able to interact with the younger students and supply them with information about noxious and invasive weeds.

Anna Mata was awarded a plaque and tee shirt for her winning poster that we had judged at our annual meeting in January. Anna is in the 5th grade at South Prairie Elementary School in Minot, ND. All of the remaining students also received a tee shirt with the plaque printed on it. Thank you to Stan Wolf for doing a presentation for the students. Attached is a write-up in the Minot Daily News about Anna and the reason the why the NDWCA does the contest.

LAP Committee: We (Derrill, Jamen, Ron, and myself) met with Doug and Tom along with Chelsey and Richard about the reallocation of remaining LAP funds. We had a good discussion of how it was done in the past and the process that took place to get it done. Richard and Chelsey had print outs of every county

on what they used for LAP and what they didn't and how much was revoked the year it was reallocated.

As he stated earlier this morning, Doug said he would reallocate the funds that counties do not use the same way it was done in the past. This is a lot more leg work for the Dept. of Ag but the counties who use all of theirs will benefit if there is any left over.

Agency Reports:

Government: submitted by David Hirsch, Government Director

2018 Field Season Highlights So Far:

Budget:

- APHIS Biocontrol funding for APHIS is stable for the 2018 fiscal year.

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol:

- I have stayed in contact with the Loosestrife biocontrol rearing facility in South Dakota. I anticipate receiving a small supply of the loosestrife weevil in July that will be released north of Mandan. It's unknown at this time if the current Missouri flooding has impacted the existing weevil population at the site.

Leafy Spurge Biocontrol:

- PPQ has participated in 4 flea beetle field days so far this season. Beetle population densities are greater than last year's levels and very successful field days are happening. Demand for beetles remains very high.
- An important new field day was held this year in Morton County. Cody Schnabel and Bill Haase from the ND Game and Fish partnered to host a great event near St. Anthony. Over 400,000 beetles were packaged for approximately 75 landowners.
- APHIS Bismarck will be hosting a Leafy Spurge Biocontrol Workshop for Nebraska and Kansas crews the week of June 25th. Field crews from those states will be given instruction on flea beetle biology, the North Dakota field day techniques and equipment used. Field collections will be made in Morton and Grant Counties and they will travel home with coolers of beetles to start a program there.

Yellow Toadflax Biocontrol:

My intention was to harvest and redistribute yellow toadflax agents near Minot this season.

Unfortunately the workload and small staff did not make that possible this season. Discussions need to be made with partners to come up with a game plan to begin harvesting the toadflax agents

NDDA: Richard – LAP and TAG deadlines are June 30th, with July 9th the final day for submitting them to the department, for this past year – July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. Working on forest service grants. Working on Houndstongue towards becoming a noxious weed. Make sure LAP and TAG are used up by the end of the biennium

Chelsey – Passed around pictures of Canada thistle rust fungus. It may already be in the state. If you have it, or you think that you may, let Chelsey know immediately. If we don't find it here, or even if we do, we will get some later from Colorado. Need site proposals submitted, preferably

from each area. Currently we are in the middle of leafy spurge collection field days. Numbers seem to be up from last year as well.

Industry: Bill Walker, industry director, CPS

It has been quiet. The DOW/DuPont merger has taken place. They will now be called Corteva Agriscience. The Bayer/Monsanto merger is complete as well. That leaves us with two major companies, which narrows the window for new products, and competition. Bayer is working with EPA on expanding Method further into grazed areas. A haying label might be a long ways out if ever, due to the manure problems with carryover. Bayer has a new product coming out called Imbora, in possibly 6 months. It is a combination of Method and tricolpyr. That product should come out with a range and pasture label. Bill has not seen the product, etc. Bayer is keeping it pretty close right now. On July 2nd, CPS becomes Nutrient Solutions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Jamen - We met with Mike from Up and Running the gentleman who came and talked with us last year about the website. We explained to him that we have \$3000 budget to work with. He feels we could get a basic website within our budget that the association has set. I have also drafted a letter that has been sent out to various businesses across the state to help raise additional funds. We are asking a onetime fee of \$250 to be on the website and \$25 every year after the first for maintenance and changing of their information etc. We also added a \$500 lifetime fee. This seems to be going over real well. We will meet with him again the end of July. We have a response on this.

We are now gathering and organizing the required information that we will need to give Up and Running to make the process much easier once we give them the ok to start building the site. This will cut costs by having us gather and organize the information for them.

Our domain name will be NDWEEDS.com from namekeep.com. Will use the directory from the NDDA and use pictures and weed ID from NDSU. In July, we will pay \$1,500 down to Up and Running.

We don't want it too techy, making it easy to use and affordable.

Updating the site: The Company will do it. They have 3 different maintenance contracts. For \$500, we get a quarterly maintenance. We will also be putting items on the site. They will train one or two of us to do it. We will then train others.

Gravel Bill: Merlin contacted Rep. Dennis Johnson, asking if he would be the main sponsor on our bill. As you heard earlier, we needed the support from the commissioner for him to do so. And as you heard, we did get that support. Merlin gave everyone in their package of information the language when it was in Chapter 63, in the old Century Code. Merlin stated that it would have to be tweaked to fit into existing law, like the forage portion is now in Weed Free Forage.

The next step, would be for Rep. Johnson to take it, or give me permission to take it to legislative council to write up a first draft of a bill. That draft would have to be carefully be looked at, to see if changes are made. This could take place a couple of times.

Ron asked what if a county has a pit in another county. A lot of discussion on what should be in the law, as far as wording, etc, or if we should pursue it further. One county may need a contract

with another county. Merlin will bring this up with legislative council. Merlin will also ask if gravel is coming into a county from another county.

Brent stated that this is not forcing a weed officer to inspect gravel pits. This only gives a weed officer the vehicle to inspect and charge a pit if requested. Right now, they cannot charge for this.

Bill said it a tool to get started. It can always be changed in upcoming sessions.

Joan moved to move forward with this, with changing the necessary language. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

No other old business:

New Business:

Lobbyist for 2019: Ron stated that Leon Pederson is interested. Cody said that he has a board member, Woody Barth, who used to be the lobbyist for Farmers Union. Merlin mentioned that he remembered working with Woody on some bills, and also some against him. Good lobbyist.

Leon is interested as well. Brent is worried that distance from Bismarck could be a factor for anyone living a great distance from Bismarck. Merlin stated that he himself is actually too far from Bismarck.

Ron, Cody, Brent and Merlin will be on a search committee, and try and get someone or more for the board to approve at the September board meeting.

Commissioner candidate questions: Merlin let the board know that it has been a tradition for the board to meet with the Ag. Commissioner candidates. The NDWCA board does not endorse a candidate. Traditionally, we ask them 5 standard questions, which, with their answers, are published in the October newsletter for the membership to see. We do not have them come in together. Not a debate. Merlin will provide the questions to each candidate ahead of time, as well. Follow up questions may be asked from the board that day, if time allows. We usually give them 1 hour, usually one in the morning, and one right after lunch.

Question #1. What are your priorities for the NDDA for the next four years?

Question #2. ND State noxious weed list is currently at 11. The noxious weeds are Absinth Wormwood, Canada Thistle, Dalmation Toadflax, Diffuse Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Musk Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Russian Knapweed, Saltcedar, Spotted Knapweed and Yellow Toadflax. Do you feel this is adequate, or do you feel there should be more weeds on it?

Question #3. What is your opinion of noxious weed control and funding for it?

Question #4. We have some county weed boards that are very active, and we also have some county weed boards that are inactive. What would be your solution be to bring those inactive county weed boards to become active?

Question #5. Do you feel that the current number of staff in Plant Industries, in the NDDA is adequate, or inadequate? If inadequate, what changes would you do?

Liabilities for county weed boards at various field days: Cody stated that he brought this up to Chelsey. Discussion: Having a field day on private land could be an issue. May need to sign a waiver if you are on private land. Try to stay on public lands if all possible.

Public Perception on Pesticides: Merlin had a copy of letter that Stan received from one of his county commissioners concerning pesticides. Bill read the letter. Bill felt that we should make the public aware of what we are doing.

Being no further business,

Derrill moved to adjourn the meeting, Gary seconded the motion. M/C

Katie adjourned the meeting at 1:26 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold
Executive secretary

2019 Convention Planning Meeting

Ramada Inn. Bismarck

June 28th, 2019

2019 Convention Chairman, Cody Schnabel called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.. Those present were Cody, Richard, Bill, Derrill and Merlin.

Dates for 2019 are January 7-10 here at the Ramada.

Monday evening – board meeting at 5:00 pm

Tuesday morning – NDDA Commissioners forum, conference registration begins, exhibitor set up

Tuesday noon – NDDA Commissioner’s Luncheon

Tuesday afternoon – Commissioner’s Forum continues

Tuesday afternoon – Annual NDWCA business meeting

Tuesday evening – Beer and Brat Social and Auction

Wednesday morning – 8:00 am – NDWCA conference begins

Wednesday noon luncheon – possibly Bayer Crop Science scientist for a speaker on new chemical Imbora. Also women’s luncheon.

Wednesday afternoon –conference continues (No Breakout Sessions)

Wednesday evening – Banquet, awards and entertainment

Thursday Morning – 7:00 am – breakfast

8:00 Conference continues

Thursday noon – Conference concludes followed by a board meeting.

Speakers – Panel discussion – NDWCA 5 area directors – LAP – at 8:15 Wednesday

Other speakers considered: Andrew Thostenson, Kevin Sedivic, Brian Jenks, Clair Keene, Travis Carter, Bayer Crop Sciences, Adnan Akyuz, possibly a weed board actively using a drone, possibly Cass County. Merlin will check. Merlin will also check with Rod Lym, if he has a grad student, or a suggestion from him, also possibly someone from Mandan Research Center.

Theme: It will be our 35 convention. Derrill suggests finding something appropriate for the anniversary. Will have it for the September meeting.

Banquet entertainment: suggested that we get a comedian. Merlin will work on it. Bill said they will cover the cost, if it stays within last year’s range.

Merlin will work with Richard to plan their portion on Tuesday. Will have menus by September as well. Next meeting after the board meeting on September 25.

Cody adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm