

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

March 26th, 2019

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jamen Windish called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Members present were, Jamen Windish, Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Brent Nelson, Katie Clyde, Travis Jepson, David Hirsch, Cody Schnabel, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Leon Pederson, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary. Guests were Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer, and later, Doug Goehring, ND Ag. Commissioner, and Tom Bodine, Deputy ND Agriculture Commissioner joined the meeting.

Additional agenda items were: Merlin had one that he accidentally omitted from the agenda – Rates for inspecting pits since HB 1149 has been signed by the Governor. Also, in the packets, the last page is a list of executive duties, which can be discussed at the end. There were no other items.

Minutes were reviewed. Katie moved to approve the minutes as presented, Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Financial Report: Merlin began to give the financial report, including the check register, memberships paid so far. Jamen reminded everyone that if you are doing official association business, please use the official address, as he did not, and it created some confusion.

At this time Doug and Tom came, so the rest of the financials were put on hold.

Jamen welcomed Doug and Tom to the meeting. Jamen said that the big issue is Palmer Amaranth.

One of the issues is funding. It is a noxious weed. You can use LAP funding. Hard to get more funds from EARP. Would like to get more for it. If we find some Palmer Amaranth, it will be small in acreage. The commissioner does not want weed boards to get too worried on this. The awareness needs to start with producers first. State law states landowners are responsible for noxious weeds on their property. Weed boards are there to assist the landowners. As far as protocol, no one has all the resources to do everything. Can't stop wildlife either. We need to continue to strongly educate landowners. Get people engaged. The NDDA is here to support NDSU Extension and weed boards. We may need a new program coming out of EARP in the future, for funding for testing and other things.

Weed boards don't have the resources to strictly concentrate on Palmer Amaranth. Ron asked if this is a 5 to 10-year noxious weed on the list, then it comes off? Doug doesn't anticipate it coming off the list for the next 20 years. Ron asked if then the next step is to add Water hemp to the list? Doug said if NDSU comes to him and asks to have it put on, then it will be time to have a good conversation about it. Dave wondered if it will be slow enough coming in like Saltcedar, to keep it in check. Doug feels that it could come into the state in a big way. Scouting and monitoring will be the keys.

Farmers have been making cuts due to low commodity prices. One cost has been stable, is chemical costs for weed control. Thanks to those companies for keeping them stable.

Doug feels that the department may need to put together a one page sheet that helps weed boards in what to look for, how to respond if found, frequently asked questions, etc.

Tom stated that landowners need to know where to go to get a plant tested, and the costs. Richard said the costs started at \$100/test, but they came down as the year went on. NDSU is looking at doing tests as well. Chelsey said that the genotyping center is working on this to test the seeds. Right now, the plants get tested in Illinois. The extension agent and weed officer should be getting the sample to be tested. They should be the first line of defense. As far as costs, the department will try to help weed boards offset the costs.

Stan asked if the suspect plant needs to be GPS. Yes, it should.

Brent asked what level of testing needs to be done. If it has been found in an area in a county, do we keep testing it. Doug said it is a common-sense issue. If you found it, it's a judgement call. If you had it tested, and its Palmer Amaranth, and you find a plant not far away, call it Palmer and treat accordingly.

Stan mentioned that in 2018, the exact location of the plants found were kept secret. Is that the plan again this year? Doug stated that yes it should be. You can state that it is in the northern part of a county, etc. Stan then asked if we have an open record request, then what. Doug said that can happen, and if requested provide the information, hoping that that individual won't spread the location.

Doug reiterated that the fear of God needs to be put into landowners' minds to keep this from spreading rapidly. Doug feels that there is a lot more out there then what was found last year. And because it was found in neighboring counties, and with possibly having some flooding issues this spring, we could see large infestations.

Weed officers will need to work with their extension agents, and vise versa. Rick said that in extension, there are a lot of new agents, who may not know their role. Rick will work on that as far as extension goes. Doug said that the weed officer also needs to be engaged as well.

Maybe a letter of support should be sent to county commissioners, specific to each county, encouraging them to continue what they are doing with weed boards, and encourage them to do more. The weed association can assist the department wherever it can.

HB 1149: Doug feels that it should be left up to the weed boards. Bill feels that it needs to be a set fee across the state. Merlin emphasized that according to the bill, which is now state law, it states that the commissioner may adopt a fee schedule that counties may charge. A lot of discussion on the bill.

Chelsey went through the guidelines that the department has been working on, as a draft only. A lot of discussion and ideas for the department to put together.

Brent asked what weed list are we using. If a county has a list, they should be inspecting for those weeds along with the state noxious weeds. Doug stated that by law, you must at least inspect for the 13 state noxious weeds. Brent asked if a weed board is required to inspect a pit. Line one of the new law says may certify, so the answer is no. Stan said the certificate should state that the certificate is in compliance with the noxious weed law.

A committee of Katie, Derrill, Bill and Jamie will work with on it and have it finished by the middle of the month.

Doug emphasized that whatever you draw up should recommend only to counties, not mandate it.

Stan thanked the commissioner for the letter of support for the position vacated by Dr. Rod Lym. Jamen thanked Doug and Tom for coming this morning.

Break

Budget: At this time Merlin continued with the financials, the budget sheet. Bill moved to approve the financials, Katie seconded the motion. **M/C**

Convention Update: Merlin went over the financials on the convention. We had a net profit of \$6,168.50 on the convention and \$3, 292.16 net profit on the beer and brat social. Registrations were slightly down from last year. Had 11 booths again this year. Retail sales were up from last year. Sold out of coffee mugs. In 2020, Area V will be the host area. Question on entertainment. Merlin stated that he needs to get to work on this for next year. What type of entertainment? It was suggested that we get a magician. Merlin will work on it.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. Getting everything ready for Sprayer Schools, which will be May 28 in Carrington, May 29 in Minot, and May 30 in Dickinson. Derrill will be getting the word out. Working on sponsors. Same as before, weed Id, ROW training, calibration, etc. Plan on doing the presentation April 2nd. 45 students in the 5th grade class. Stan will come up for this. Earth Day is April 25th at BSC in Bismarck. We will have a booth again. Cody will bring the banners to set up. Poster contest winner from South Prairie School, Minot. Will have the presentation this Friday.

Legislative: Leon stated that Merlin took the lead on the gravel bill. Derrill came down for the hearing as well to testify. It went through the committee and both houses rather quickly. Merlin said that the bill was written correctly and posted correctly. No opposition in either committee. Merlin thanked the board for allowing him to be the lead on this bill. He thanked Derrill for coming down, and to Stan for getting testimony from Cass County, making the bill easy to pass through.

By Laws Committee: Leon has been working on it. Some of the proposed changes are language changes, but there will be other changes as well. Should be ready for the board to review in June. One of the major changes is to bring the number of board members from 10 to 9. Eliminating the Government position from the board as a voting member, to a advisory member.

No other Committee reports.

Agency Reports:

Government: David Hirsch gave the government report.

2019 Field Season Goals:

Budget:

APHIS Biocontrol funding line item for APHIS is stable for the 2019 fiscal year

Other project budget lines have not been approved as of today. If other categories are not approved, this would jeopardize the hiring of seasonal staff and PPQ's ability to help at field days.

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol:

Flooding along the Missouri in 2018 the entire summer and submerged the control site north of Mandan. It's unknown at this time to what extent the infestation and existing weevil population was affected. Continued monitoring will be conducted, and additional releases will be completed if available insects can be obtained.

Flooding along the Niobrara River in NE Nebraska was severe and may have impacted the biocontrol insectary supplying us bugs.

Leafy Spurge Biocontrol:

PPQ will participate or conduct flea beetle field days, if funding is approved. Demand for beetles remains very high.

PPQ in Nebraska and Kansas would like to travel to ND to collect flea beetles for those states. Last years efforts were very successful.

Yellow Toadflax Biocontrol:

Additional monitoring and discussions need to be made with association members to build a game plan to begin harvesting/redistributing the toadflax agents. It was learned last season that yellow toadflax agent harvests will likely occur in early May in North Dakota.

Canada Thistle Rust Biocontrol:

The goal is to establish rust harvest sites and create another tool for thistle management. Planning needs to occur to develop this tool to the state and begin redistribution.

Transition Planning:

I will be retiring on May 31, 2019.

Biocontrol Contacts will be: ND – Taunia Martin, Bismarck office: 701-250-44762

SD – Amy Mesman, Pierre office: 605-224-1713

Biocontrol agent import permit:

PPQ has maintained a permit that can be used to import Biocontrol agents into the Dakotas. Taunia and Amy will maintain the permit for all to use as needed.

Thanks, and best wishes to the NDWCA for your support, collaboration, and important and impressive work the association does for ND Agriculture and the Environment.

Sincerely, Dave Hirsch

Industry: Bill Walker gave the report. Roundup lawsuit: As seen on TV: The dollar awards keep dropping. Once it gets out of California, and a judge looks at the actual scientific facts, changes could take place. Roundup is the most widely used product in the world.

Bayer is working to get their new product Imbora registered in the southwestern part of the country on in range and pastures, for grazing only. The feeling is if that takes place, Method could follow suit for range and pasture in our area, for grazing only.

Nutrien Solutions is putting pressure on Bayer to package Method in quarts again, at least for a short time.

As far as prices on chemicals that were talked about in January, has taken place.

NDDA: Richard gave the NDDA report. The Commissioner and the deputy mentioned that we are getting a protocol in place for Palmer. We do have a new Forest Service grant available Let me know if you are interested in applying.

OLD BUSINESS:

Support Letter for Dr. Lym's position: The entire letter is in the packet handed out. Stan mentioned that a total of 21 organizations/weed boards signed onto the letter. There may be more that sent in a letter on their own. NDSU and Extension have not set a job description yet. But it looks like the position will be high on the list to be filled because of Palmer Amaranth.

Banner Update: Jamen said that they are done. He has three palmer banners for each area and one biocontrol banner. There are also instructions on how to fix them if they come apart. They will be for sale for counties to purchase. Jamen will put it on list serve. Jamen thanked the NDDA for purchasing the Palmer banners.

Website: Website is basically done. Waiting for a picture and a bio. Will replace the noxious weed pictures soon. Any activities can be added. Contact for the website: Should be a committee, President and 1st, 2nd vice president. We are on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook name is Leafy Spurge.

Purchase block plan for maintenance. A basic upkeep (Oil Change), quarterly or monthly. \$100/hour charge. Jamen will ask Mike on this as well.

PayPal: Do we want this payment method on our website for accepting payments? All charges are absorbed by the user. After some discussion, Bill moved to go ahead with this. Travis seconded the motion. **M/C**

Jamen will check with Mike, and work with Merlin to set it up.

Logo: We need it in the minutes to change the logo. Ron moved to change the logo. Katie seconded the motion. **M/C**

Jamen will talk to Mike about registering the new logo and possibly the old logo. He will get back to the board.

Palmer Amaranth: Protocol: Jamen worked with Richard and Katie and Cody on this. They also worked with Brian Jenks. This will be the same as what extension will be using. This is just a guideline. Cody moved to go ahead with it. Rick seconded the motion. **M/C**

Jamen will put it on the website and send it on the list serve.

Nebraska Amaranth Tour: Soybean Council is planning to sponsor a trip. Dr. Tom Peters is coordinating this. It would be in August. We could send a couple on this tour. Stan would like names who would like to go. Up to 6 would be interested on going.
Cost Share for Palmer: LAP and could be used. Does not need to be chemical for LAP.

Government Board Position: With Dave retiring, the position will be open. With no government entity being a full member, we could appoint one to an advisory position. After much discussion, Katie moved to appoint Kent Luttschwager to that position. Cody seconded the motion. **M/C**

No Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Milkweed Seeds: Milkweed seeds are in packets that are being given out by the ND Parks and Rec. to those purchasing season passes for the state parks. Four weed boards have it still on their county noxious weed list. The area directors will contact the counties in their areas to ask them to kindly remove milkweed from their county lists.

Executive Secretary Duties: Merlin mentioned that even though this is the list that has been in place when he took the position, he doesn't follow it. It is outdated. Merlin will update it with what he is doing currently and bring it to the June meeting for review by the board.

Other New Business: Stan asked whether we wanted to purchase new coffee mugs to sell, since we are sold out. Stan will check on prices and let Jamen know.

Being no further business, Katie moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary