

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Yet to be Board Approved

President Katie Clyde called the meeting to order at 10:13 am. Members present were Katie Clyde, Joan Lorge, Brent Nelson, Jamen Windish, Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, Kevin Schmidt, Cody Schnabel, Gary Hartman, Dave Hirsch, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests included Brian Jenks, NDSU North Central Research Center, Beth Burdolski, Penny Nester, and Ron Wiederholt from NDSU Extension, Eric Delzer, Colby Lysne, and Samantha Brunner, NDDA.

Katie turned the meeting over to Merlin, who welcomed special guest, current and Republican candidate for ND Ag. Commissioner, Doug Goehring.

Doug gave a brief bio of himself.

He is a farmer south of Menoken, in Burleigh County. Along with his son, they farm around 2,300 acres in a diversified manner. The NDDA runs 115 programs. They work with over 98 boards and councils, covering nearly all segments of ND Agricultural. Some of these are constitutionally, some are statutorily, and some by choice.

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

Doug: To survive, be a bit fluid, and recognize the challenges. This is what we have been doing. It is all about collaboration. No one person does it alone. A recent example is Palmer amaranth. Between NDSU, county weed officers and boards, ND Seed Commission and NDDA, we try and tackle these issues head on, develop protocols and work with them. Be calm and truthful when working with all issues.

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

Doug: When we have meetings, we ask what weeds are prevalent in different areas in the state. We give county weed boards the ability to address this more specifically. By utilizing LAP and TAG, you can target those weeds. I feel challenged by expanding the noxious weed list unless we have a really good reason to do that. I have been resistant on the Palmer Amaranth issue because it had not been found in the state. Had a lot of consultations on this. You want to have protocols in place to where when it becomes an issue, you are ready to tackle it. I never have said if, but when. Unfortunately when it happened, did not realize that it would be this extensive. This will require extensive work by everyone.

Katie asked a follow-up question: Where is Houndstongue in the process of becoming a noxious weed?

Doug: It has been approved, and is currently in the administrative stage.

Cody asked about Palmer Amaranth?

Doug: It will be going on the noxious weed list in the very near future.

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

Doug: We utilize EARP funds for LAP and TAG to the tune of around 1.7 million dollars, over a biennium. As some or all of you here are aware, there was a request by the governor, in his budget request, to cut special funds. We have had conversations that these funds are public dollars not taxpayer dollars. They serve the industries requests for needs and problems they exist. The EARP fund have numerous things funded out of it. I will cut it as requested, but I will also be requesting it back. The legislature has the final say. The governor can make the budget, but the legislature appropriates it. The legislature does not like to cut special funds.

**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?

Doug: We have sent Chelsey out to counties to encourage those counties to utilize the money. I have even made a plea with you to help with this. It is the United States of America. We cannot force them to utilize the money, but we do strongly encourage them to do so. Have sent letters to county commissioners as well.

Kevin asked if we can let local farmers know that they're weed boards are not using the money. Maybe they would talk to their commissioners.

Doug: How much do we want to stir the pot? Some counties do not receive LAP funds because they do not carry the 3 mill requirement. The problem with changing the requirement is that the value of a mill is different in every county.

Merlin stated that some counties are at three mills only for the purpose of receiving LAP. If that requirement went away, some of those county weed boards could be in serious financial trouble.

Doug: Possibly removing the mill concept, and set x amount of dollars required to receive LAP. Not sure if that would be the answer. Asked Gary about Burleigh County, if that would hurt his county. Gary stated that at the rate he cost shares Milestone to his landowners, it could become problematic.

Ron said that with Palmer Amaranth now on the scene, he sees some county weed boards that just won't care. They won't do anything. What can we do to get everyone involved? He knows of some weed boards that are doing nothing, where some of their funds are being transferred to other departments in their counties. We have some core groups that are involved daily, but you can see where some counties are not doing anything.

Doug: On Palmer Amaranth issue, I have just approved sending a letter to all landowners in North Dakota, those we have in our data base. If we find that there is Palmer in a county, and the weed board is inactive, I will go directly to the county commissioners. I will go to their meeting if need be. There is a noxious weed law that has to be enforced. If need be, I may go to

the legislature for special funds for the Palmer Amaranth issue. Still debating this. Inactive counties are frustrate me.

**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?

Doug: First of all, I would have a conversation with Samantha. (Samantha Brunner, head of plant industries) Currently, if we are short staff, we have to hire temporary staff. I am open for asking for resources if I can show a need. I didn't play the game very well by adding staff. I got in trouble last session, because there was a mandatory cut. Lost 8% of my staff, staff that I didn't acquire over the last 10 years. The game that is played is ask for more and settle for half. I have never asked for anything that I didn't need or justify. The legislature likes that approach with me, as they give me more programs and funds, but they also at the same time want a staff count, because of the fact that government is growing. My staff has been great because they have taken on new duties. If we have an area or you see an area that needs to have an extra FTE, I am all in favor of going in and asking for it. We are seeing more resources coming to the state from oil activities. We can only cut staff so far.

Dave stated that it can be frustrating when you manage your department, and they ask for cuts.

Doug: Yes, especially when you submit a needs based budget, and they still want to cut it.

Doug: I have a question for you: We have a lot of different programs and divisions. Do you see places that we should have more staff?

Merlin said that he sees one, and that is in noxious weeds. The board has in the past talked about adding an FTE for outreach. Could you use an FTE, ½ for noxious weeds? And ½ for a different program.

Doug: Interesting concept about cross-training. It's great to cross-train people in different areas. We did do this in one area. We do have one, but it is difficult to have two bosses. You will generally dislike one or the other, and then the work in that area suffers as well. I like the concept, but I have to try a different approach. I would like to bring in another person in plant industries, but I would have to talk to Samantha to make sure we can have enough duties to justify it.

Doug: Finding extra funds is the problem. The EARP fund is fully tapped. Raising the EARP registration fees could be difficult, because registrants have had conversations with me to not raise the fees.

Dave asked Doug, how have things evolved from when you first met with us as a candidate 14 years ago to today?

Doug: Had no prescribed way or vision. Our role is spelled out for us in statute. It is our responsibility to the public to be responsible with the resources, and put the best programs in place that makes sense. I was asked a while back from a reporter, if I was proud of what we have done. We have implemented programs here that have been accepted and even implemented clear across the United States. The pollinator plan, for instance, is being adopted in 42 states. The White House has even conceded by saying go ahead and use that plan. I believe when you take common sense approaches, and being truthful and direct with people,

you can make it work. We have done other programs over the years, the program to help with flooding up at the Mouse River area, the emergency livestock hay transportation, the hay lottery, and others. If there is a need, sitting down and looking at what is the most effective honest approach. Over the years, that is exactly what we have done. I am proud of that and the fact that the staff not only thinks of ground zero, but a broader approach as well. The Dicamba issue is another one. We were the first to do a special label as well. Without having conversations with various groups, none of this could be possible. You have to take the common sense approach to make it work. That is something we will continue to do over the next 4 years.

At this time Merlin turned the meeting back to Katie.

Katie asked for introductions. She then turned to Chelsey to lead the discussion on Palmer Amaranth. They passed out information pamphlets on Palmer Amaranth. Palmer Amaranth has been found and confirmed in one county, and suspected in a couple more. McIntosh County has three fields have been confirmed positive. Two of those came from a combine that was not cleaned out before it was purchased and brought in. Several other counties have had samples sent in, very likely positive. Information has been sent out last week, to all landowners in McIntosh and neighboring counties. The NDDA is taking a very fast approach on this.

A lot of discussion took place. If a plant is suspected, it needs to be identified before anything is done. Sending in a sample cost \$50. The NDDA website is being updated to help landowners, weed boards and others. The more information that can be given to the public, the more aware they are as well. Palmer can come in various ways.

Jamen asked what part of the plant is needed. Answer: not the head, and only a portion of the top of the plant.

Joan stated that these new combines cannot be cleaned out like the older machines, and that is a problem.

Gary was wondering if we could stop these custom combiners from coming in without being cleaned out. Joan said that in some states, you cannot come in without having a clean machine. Doug said there may be a state law here to that effect as well. But the problem is, very few weigh stations in the state, some being eliminated over the years because of budget constraints. Giving the farmers a list of pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides is needed.

Brian Jenks stated that he has pictures where a farmer sprayed 3 inch palmer, and was very effective, in the same field he sprayed 6 inch Palmer, non-effective. The reason, Palmer grew 3 inches in two days. Plus the resistance of this plant means we need to get the farmers to use pre-emergence herbicide, or we could have a big problem on our hands.

NDSU has created a poster on Palmer Amaranth. NDSU also will have a bulletin to hand out at trade shows, etc.

Brian is optimistic that we can eradicate Palmer Amaranth in the state.

Amaranth seed is a food source in other countries. Palmer Amaranth is a native weed in the southwest part of United States. But it likes to spread in soils that receive moisture.

Katie was wondering if there was a way to get information out to non-landowners, such as oil companies, etc. It is something that can be looked at doing, but it can be tough, as some companies are so big, to get the correct information down their chain.

With other projects the landowner is usually still the ultimate authority to watch and control noxious weeds.

The wild world of weeds workshop this winter will be an excellent place for training as well.

It is generally a cropland, disturbed areas problem, but it has been growing in pastures as well.

Katie thanked all the guests for coming

### **Break**

**Additional agenda items were:** none

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

**Financial Report:** Financial report was reviewed, Merlin highlighted a couple things.

Gary moved to approve the financial report, Cody seconded the motion. M/C

**Lobbyist:** Leon Pederson is the only one expressing an interest in the position. After a little discussion, there were concerns on paying a salary, because our dues are primarily from taxes, through counties. We can pay mileage, as that is an indirect payment. As far as the budget on the legislative line, historically we don't go over with mileage. Ron called Leon on the phone.

Leon stated that he would not ask for a salary, and that he would not be worried as far as mileage. When he uses it up, it's done. He has a lot of friends he can stay at.

Jamen moved that we hire Leon as the lobbyist for 2019, no salary, just mileage up to our budget line. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education:** Derrill gave the education report. He has started sending out e mails to schools for the poster contest.

**Annual Meeting:** Merlin gave a breakdown on the schedule for the conference. He has a few speakers confirmed, and several unconfirmed. Has several spots still open. Ron led discussion on public perception on spraying in public areas. It was suggested that we get Eric Delzer from NDDA, or if he can't, Andrew Thostenson as well. Theme for conference: left it to the committee.

### **Agency Reports:**

**Government:** David Hirsch gave the government report.

Last summer – did not do any Purple Loosestrife control north of Mandan, because of flooding all summer on the Missouri. There is possibly a site in Barnes County, which is not prone to flooding, so that site could be ideal.

Leafy Spurge biocontrol – Quite of few field days, helped with 6 field days. The demand remains high, with good attendance. Cody held an excellent field day at the game & fish management

area south of Mandan. Good numbers, good attendance, good food. And even the media was there.

Also would like to thank Cody, Game & Fish, and Merlin for use of their sites, when I hosted folks from Nebraska this summer. They learned a lot, and were able to take good numbers back home.

Yellow Toadflax biocontrol – A little disappointed. The Burlington site was doing great, and I thought that we could harvest from this site. But, we missed the window for harvesting them. Found no rust on Canada thistle to distribute.

One other item, I will be retiring next spring, possibly March or April. Has spent 34 years with APHIS. Working on a transition plan so that everything continues on a steady course.

**NDDA:** Chelsey Penuel gave the NDDA report for Richard. 66% of LAP has been spent. Reallocation letters have been sent, and will start January 1. No new agreements are being drawn up. TAG – 36% spent. Weed publications – the large book is here, the small pocket guide should be here very soon. The color of the book has changed. They have added Palmer Amaranth and Narrowleaf Hawksbeard to the books. Also, added Houndstongue to the noxious weed list, already outdated, as we are now going to add Palmer Amaranth, which we have as county list.

With the weed forum coming up in January, Chelsey will have a weed free forage inspector meeting, and also with counties that want a joint powers agreement. Not sure the location, possibly at the Ramada or at the capital.

NAISMA and UMISC will have a joint conference in October in Minnesota this winter. You can use TAG for this.

With Samantha taking the division director's position, there is an opening in plant industries for a full time position, working with some apiary.

**Industry:** Bill is on vacation. Merlin passed on that Bill wants everyone know that all is quiet in industry, for the most part.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Website:** Jamen stated that they met with Mike from Up & Running this summer. They will start building the web site the middle of October, and it should take 4 to 6 weeks. There will be a home tab, an about tab, which will have our mission statement and bylaws, there will be pictures of the board, with their short bio's. Directory of noxious weeds, linked back to NDSU, area for the minutes, contact information, newsletter page, interactive calendar, for field days, etc., sponsor page. There will be an online donation or a PayPal button. They will make a video how to update a website, so that down the road, others on the board can update the site. We should have the site paid for with sponsorships, as soon as they are all in. As far as a yearly maintenance fee, only as we need it. We will have full control with Go Daddy. Domain name is ndweeds.com.

**Gravel Pits:** Merlin went over the page that was handed out with the first draft of a bill. The board went over the draft line by line. Numerous changes were suggested by the board for Merlin to take back to Legislative Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2019 Budget:** The board set the budget for 2019. Jamen moved to temporarily accept the budget and present it for approval at the January meeting. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Area meeting agendas:** Merlin went over the agenda for the areas. Website update, Poster Contest, legislative issues. 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president nominations from Area's I, III, and V. Area director's terms up are Area's I, IV and V. Area I is eligible for reelection, IV & V are not.

**Next meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary

**2019 Convention Planning Meeting**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Following board of directors meeting**

Cody Schnabel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, chairman on 2019 convention called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm.

Members present were: Cody, Chelsey, Gary, Derrill and Merlin

Merlin will talk to Brian Jenks, Clair Keene and someone from the Sheyenne River Valley to talk on Facet L.

Menu: Do not have it yet. Merlin will work with Cody when he gets it. For the banquet, steak & shrimp. Make sure that the Wednesday luncheon is different than Tuesday's lunch. Possible entertainment is Church of Cash.

Theme: decided on **35 Years of Informed Weed Control**

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm