

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck

January 6th & 9th, 2020

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jamen Windish called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Introductions. Members present were: Katie Dillman, Jodee Egly, Billings County, Brent Nelson, Rick Schmidt, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Richard Weisz, NDDA, Bill Walker, Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, Cody Schnabel, Travis Jepson, Stan Wolf, Cass County, Kent Luttschwager, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present: ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

Additional agenda items were: The Ag commissioner will be coming to the board meeting. We will place him in the agenda when he gets here.

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

Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed. Rick moved to approve the financial report, until the annual audit. Cody seconded the motion. **M/C**

Budget: The proposed budget for 2020. Discussion. It was decided to add a line of \$600 in the budget for website, since we have annual costs associated with the website. Merlin asked if the office supply line could be raised due to increases in ink, etc. It was decided to raise the line from \$200 to \$400. Brent moved to approve the budget as changed and send it to the annual meeting for final approval. Cody seconded the motion. **M/C**

Resolutions: None brought up at the area meetings

Committee Reports:

Education Committee Report: Derrill Fick, chairman. Poster Contest. Only one school sent in posters. They cut out pictures from magazines and pasted them onto posters. Question if we would run into copyright issues if we reprinted them onto t shirts. It was the consensus of the board to not use them. Discussion on why we don't get more replies. Possibly send out by regular mail instead of e mails. Possibly have area directors/weed officers work with schools. Do it by area each year, like we do the conference? Personal contact is needed. Possibly change the time that we have them do it.

Convention Report: Merlin went over the convention booklet, times and schedules. Has all time slots filled with speakers. Preregistrations are down from last year by about 30. We have all breaks covered this year. Thanks to those sponsors. Mayor Steve Bakken will be back again this year on Wednesday morning. Corteva is our social sponsor and Bill Sorenson is our entertainment on Wednesday's banquet.

By-Laws Committee: Derrill stated that what was presented at the area meetings will be presented at the annual meeting for approval. The committee also consists of Brent and Bill. After the conference, they will start working on a policy manual. Possibly having a rough draft done by early fall.

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent said that Saltcedar is a concern along the Missouri & Yellowstone Rivers in the northwestern part of the state. Montana is lax on treating it, so it is a concern. They float the river every year. This last year, they treated around 1,400 plants, with the oldest this year being around 9 & 15 years old. With the flooding, it pushes the growth area farther out of the original river banks. Usually spend around 30 hours annually. Kent would like to give reports from other agencies as well.

NDDA: Outreach material available. Some NOGAS still need to be turned in. LAP has changed into a single year. LAP formula may be changed. There are 3 suggestions for the 3rd column. Waiting for the commissioner's input on this. The noxious weed surveys are changed. They are easier and shorter. US Forest Grants are still available. Jim Mossett will not be speaking tomorrow. They (reservations) want to work with weed boards. When a weed officer gets hired, who helps that weed officer learn what needs to be done, paperwork, reports, meetings, etc. Good discussion.

NDDA:

At this time, ND Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring came to the meeting. Commissioner Goehring cannot make it tomorrow for the forum. Deputy Commissioner Tom Bodine will be in here in his place. The department is starting to already work on budgets for the next biennium. Need to provide an outline for the Governor's office.

Merlin asked if Governor Burgum, who is not into special funds, cut funding from EARP, or eliminate it altogether. Commissioner Goehring stated that the legislature appropriates, so it is up to them, and he cannot foresee that happening.

Katie asked if we were to receive money from the Legacy Fund, would we have the possibility of losing funding for LAP & TAG from EARP. Commissioner Goehring stated that probably not, but he also stated that it would take quote "some pretty heavy lifting to get money from the Legacy fund".

Ron asked how the Legacy fund works, and how other states receive grant monies. Where are the priorities for this money? Commissioner stated that there are probably \$2 billion in requests for several hundred million. Nearly one half of this extra money is already spent by the legislature. It will take a couple of biennium's to catch up. The legislature already has ideas for the other half. Money could be earmarked for infrastructure and education. Another problem with our proposal, is the money going to a non-governmental agency. They feel that this creates a lack of oversight.

Commissioner Goehring that there may be something through EARP that can be done. With legislators, they see a problem with the counties that do nothing. Merlin stated that those same counties have been inactive for the last 20 years if not longer. The Commissioner stated that the legislature is feeling better about weed control in general. Redistributing of LAP funds has helped.

Rick asked about the issue of Palmer Amaranth. We believe that it came in with Millet seed. Where does that put us? They could get scared for buying millet. What type of protocol can be done?

Commissioner Goehring said that according to state law, it's pretty wide open. Suggest farmers to buy their seed from dealers who are licensed, who bag their seed. They should be getting their seed tested. Especially advise growers not to buy seed from out of state dealers, or even online.

Derrill asked if Palmer Amaranth had zero tolerance in the seed law. Commissioner Goehring stated that all noxious weeds have zero tolerance.

Cody asked if it is illegal for a grower to buy a truckload of seed from anywhere. Commissioner stated that under most circumstances they could buy the seed.

Ron said that we are probably at stage one, when it comes to Palmer Amaranth. What do we do going down the road. Commissioner said that if we show up to the grower with the attitude that we are here to assist you the best way we can. Working with all entities is a plus.

Merlin asked what can be done to get more funding to counties. Do we raise EARP? What can we do? Commissioner Goehring suggests that the NDDA could throw \$200,000 into LAP for now. The commissioner will visit with companies to see what their feelings. He will also visit with the Ag. Association as well. Merlin asked if the board should have the Ag Association come to our board meeting. The Commissioner feels we should wait for now, let him visit with them first. So possibly we could have something in place for the legislative session in 2023.

Project Safe Send continues to be an expensive program. It just doesn't reduce in volume received. Companies dump their old chemicals, which really hurts the budget.

Commissioner thanked the board for allowing him to attend the meeting. Jamen and the board thanked Commissioner Goehring for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend.

NDDA: Richard continued. The department wants to help new weed officers the best they can. There should be certain steps that all weed officers could follow, like the Palmer Amaranth protocol. Brent said that there is a version that was on our old website, to help weed officers. Richard feels that the shorter the better.

Ron and Derrill feel that the old weed officer handbook needs to be updated, revamped. Very good discussion.

Should we have credits for weed officers and board members for attending meetings to receive funding?

What is the problem with these counties that are not doing very much in weed control? Answer: numerous reasons, from funding to personal, to board members to county commissioners.

Where is the incentive for a weed officer to go above and beyond normal duties? If they even have a job description.

Brent says it can be a county government problem. Every county does it different in all departments, at all levels.

Maybe we should invite the association of counties to our board meeting, to get their take on this.

Chelsey: No longer require permits for certain domestic biocontrol agents, in the lower 48 states, as of August 9, 2019. The list of these agents may change and can be found online on the APHIS website. This will speed up the process for obtaining PPQ 526 permits - check with Chelsey about if 526 permit is required for ordering from out of state. Saltcedar biocontrol – probably never be able to get *Diorhabda*. Other biocontrol – helped with leafy spurge flea beetle field days - numbers were down, bugs came out late, estimated 2.1 million from public field days. Helped with Nebraska training to learn how to run a field collection day and getting some releases of flea beetles. Got Canada thistle rust fungus released and will monitor and release in the next year. Monitored yellow toadflax *Mecinus janthinus* release site in Ward County and found them to be established but not yet able to collect, released additional agents nearby and at a new site in Stutsman County. Looking into the spotted knapweed agents in Golden Valley but need to work with the new weed officer to find exact locations and contacts. Weed Feed Forage numbers were down considerably this year.

Industry: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Bill Walker came late to the meeting. He stated that not much has changed since the area meetings, and he will give a full report at the annual meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

By-law proposal: Katie moved to send the by-law changes to the annual meeting. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Legacy fund Proposal: Discussion on what to do. Should we move forward? From what Commissioner Goehring said, getting funding would be extremely difficult at this time. Stan wondered if we should put together a proposal, not for the Legacy fund at this time, but for possibly to show legislators what our needs are, and then possibly down the road, get funding either from EARP or the Legacy fund.

Katie would like to see a committee to talk to the commissioner about more funding from EARP.

Derrill moved to not proceed with a proposal from the Legacy fund at this time. Brent seconded the motion. **M/C**

Question on how much more funding is needed for counties. How many counties need more funding? Brent would like to see figures from counties to see who needs more funds

Possibly have a committee to work on the proposal for the Legacy fund for the future

Bent moved that the executive committee talk to Commissioner Goehring before the March meeting about his \$200,000 proposal and future EARP funding needs. The executive board can have others attend as well, their discretion. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Range Camp Scholarship: Merlin has talked to Myron Dieterle. He likes the idea of sponsoring two campers for Range Camp. Kevin Sedivic would pick the two campers, those who financially need the help. The campers would submit to us a report on what they learned at the camp. The scholarship would be called the NDWCA Scholarship. Myron feels that he would not like the Dieterle name on the scholarship. Currently the camp costs \$140/camper. The \$280 would come out of the youth fund with the association putting \$140 into the youth fund from the beer and brat social on an annual basis. The NDWCA would continue to sponsor the \$500/annually for camp expenses. Katie moved to sponsor 2 campers annually. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Website: Jamen had a call from Wahpeton College again about having interns working on the website. Jamen asked if they could do educational videos. Has not heard back. Brent suggested to leave it as is for now. Maybe revisit this in a year or two.

Mike from Up & Running will do another instructional video to add another year of minutes. Jamen will continue to update the website, but would like others to be able how to update.

Jamen could send out the letters to the board, those he sent to vendors for support to advertise on the website. Could generate more funding. Consensus was to go ahead with it. Jamen will update the letter then send to the board.

Area Meeting Attendance: Attendance is still down. Something needs to change. You have industry reps and NDDA personal attending the area meetings. It is not fair to them to have just a handful in attendance.

Lobbyist: Since Leon is no longer involved in weed control, we should have someone to be a lobbyist. Brent moved to have Merlin to the lobbyist for the association in the interim. Cody seconded the motion. **M/C**

The board will look between now and September board meeting at the latest, to hire a lobbyist for the session.

Jamen thanked everyone for the support this past year. He learned a lot, and hopefully he leaves the association in a better position than when he started.

Being no other old business, Jamen transitioned the presidency to Cody.

Cody asked for a motion to recess the meeting.

Brent moved to recess the meeting until Thursday around noon. Katie seconded the motion. **M/C**
Meeting recessed at 7:15pm.

Thursday, January 9th.

Cody Schnabel, 2020 President, called the meeting back to order at 12:14 pm.

Those present were: Bill, Katie, Brent, Jamen, Cody, Derrill, Ron, Travis, Richard, Jim Hennessy, Chelsey and Merlin.

Additional agenda items: None

NEW BUSINESS:

NDWCA Logo: Katie wondered why two logos were being used on everything. Merlin stated that there was a motion last year to use both.

Katie moved that the association use only the new logo from this day forward. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Executive Secretary's contract for 2020. Merlin left the room for a time. Discussion was held. After a consensus, Merlin was invited back into the room. Brent moved to approve the secretary contract for Merlin at the current rate of \$8,100 annually. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**
Contracts were signed.

By Law Committee for 2020: Katie moved that the committee be Brent, Derrill and Bill. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

Cody and Merlin will sign the new by laws. Merlin said that the association needs to send a letter to the Ag. Dept. asking them to select someone to serve on the board of directors as an advisor. The board also needs to appoint Kent, if they so wish, as an advisor as well. Bill moved that

Merlin draft a letter for Cody to sign, and send to the department asking them to appoint someone as an advisor to the board. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Derrill moved to appoint Kent to the board as an advisor. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

Convention Update: Board reviewed the conference surveys. It was suggested that we have daily surveys. We need endless coffee. Steaks were raw and bloody on some. Some like them rare.

Tyler from the Ramada came in at this time. Generally things went well. Problem areas: Should sand the parking lot, rather icy. Coffee: You can get free coffee up front, why can't it get to the back. Tyler said that the hotel will correct that and provide complimentary coffee. PA system: worked great when they worked. When they didn't, the porter had no idea what they were doing. Will have porter cards to get ahold of them when there is an issue.\

Steaks: Can they be done to how people want them? Tyler says it can be done. Merlin will work with the hotel on a system.

Hotel rooms: Not all the rooms were clean.

Board meetings set for 2020 – the 4th Tuesday again, March 31, June 30, and September 29, at the Ramada Inn, Bismarck. All three meetings will start at 10:00 am., central time. Then on Monday, January 11 at 4:00 pm. Order off the menu. Jim moved to have them at the above dates and times. Katie seconded the motion. **M/C**

Sprayer schools: Have them in May. 3 schools. May 26, 27 & 28. Carrington, the 28th, Minot the 29th, and Dickinson on the 30st. Registrations to begin at 8:30 local time. Katie moved to have the sprayer schools at the above dates, times and locations. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Area meetings: A lot of discussion on the attendance at the area meetings. Should we move the dates? Go later or earlier? Travis moved to have the area directors' contact each county/city in their area, to see if they attend the fall meetings. If they don't, why not, and what dates work better for each county, and bring the data back to the March board meeting for a final decision. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

2022 Annual Conference Site: Should check the hotels in Bismarck before we commit to the Ramada. Have to check with Montana to see when they have theirs scheduled. Also check with vendors. Jim moved to have Merlin check with other hotels and have something by the March meeting. Travis seconded the motion. **M/C**

Lobbyist: Merlin received a call from Secretary of State Al Jaeger on Monday evening. Our former lobbyist, Leon, did not fill out his lobbyist annual report form. He then received \$25 fine, did not pay it, then it went to \$50. It has now been paid. Bill moved that if this issue is not resolved, the board will take care of it. Katie seconded the motion. **M/C**

Entertainment: Merlin looking for ideas for next year. I idea is variety/comedy

Being no further business,

Katie moved to adjourn the meeting, Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Jamen adjourned the meeting at 1:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold
Executive secretary