

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

June 30th, 2020

Yet to be Board Approved

President Cody Schnabel called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Members present were, Cody Schnabel, Bill Walker, Brent Nelson, Katie Dillman, Travis Jepson, Kent Luttschwager, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Rick Schmidt, Jim Hennessey, Jamen Windish, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests: ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring

Additional agenda items were: None

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

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, memberships paid so far. Merlin said that only 2 counties have not paid their memberships for 2020. Brent moved to accept the financial reports as presented, Jim seconded the motion, **M/C**

Conference Financial Summary. Merlin gave the financial report for 2020. One vendor has not paid their portion, including a break. After much discussion on charges that were paid to the hotel, Rick moved to accept the report. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the report. Nothing happened this spring due to the pandemic. The boot fees that we paid for Earth Day will be held for next year. Rick said that the 4-H Camp out at Medora will be held August 4-7 this year.

Legislative: Merlin, Cody and Travis met on February 18, with Deputy Ag. Commissioner Tom Bodine, Kent Junkert, Samantha Bruner and Richard Weisz, all from NDDA at the department in the state capital. We met because of the motion made in January that the legislative committee meet with the NDDA to discuss the \$200,000 that Ag. Commissioner Goehring stated we could get added to LAP the next biennium. Merlin led the discussion on highlights from the meeting. Good meeting. Merlin mentioned that Deputy Bodine mentioned that we could possibly get money from the fees for fertilizer tonnage fees. A good portion from these fees go into the general fund. If we would move forward, it would be a legislative bill. It would be a good fight. Cody said that the state was in better standing financially then compared to now. Good discussion. Merlin said as far as being the lobbyist, nothing else has happened. The next session begins in January, 2021.

By Laws/Policy Manual – Derrill, Bill & Brent gave the report. Derrill said that not much has happened. Bill said that the actual by laws will remain as they are. The focus will be on a policy manual, with a few tweets to the bylaws possible.

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent Luttschwager gave the report. Covid has messed up a lot of things. ND Game & Fish has tried to do things business as usual. When you're out in the field, you can self-isolate pretty easy. Testing for the sprayers was a problem, but hopefully it will be straightened out in the future. Most agencies have adapted to this pandemic to do business as usual. Funding for ND Game & Fish is solid. ND Game & Fish is self-funded. Federal Agencies are a different story.

NDDA: Richard will hold off until after the commissioner is done.

Industry: Bill Walker gave the industry report. Covid has not affected the ag. industry because the federal government has deemed agriculture as an essential service. So all weed people are essential as well. It has affected manufacturing some. There have been some product shortages, especially the products coming from offshore. NuFarm even used the protester excuse because they had to shut their Chicago plant down for a while.

Dicamba issue: Three new products that are sprayed over the top of crops are affected. Products that are used for noxious weed control in pastures, roadsides, etc. are not affected. Some states are allowing the products to be used until inventories are used up.

DuraCor: Issues on the label. Teraview and DuraCor are basically the same product, different labels. DuraCor has put a supplemental label on it. A lot of confusion on the definition of the label. The NDDA has said that according to the supplemental label, DuraCor is labeled for rights of way. The following was placed in the June newsletter. While TerraVue Herbicide does have right-a-way labeling DuraCor Herbicide did not and CORTEVA has added a supplemental label for DuraCor that allows for spraying of right-a-ways and utility lines transecting grazed areas, there was a question posed to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture on this very supplemental label on broader spraying of right-a-ways and they think it could be used on right-a-ways, I would ask that you verify this with the North Dakota Department of Ag if planning on spraying right-a-ways with DuraCor Herbicide, you can contact Luke Wagner, Agriculture Pesticide Inspector Supervisor, ND Department of Agriculture at 1-701-328-4922 for any further clarity on this use for DuraCor Herbicide. Corteva is now considering to put out DuraCor as a third product with a rights of way label. Corteva will be doing a huge push for DuraCor.

There have been several calls on the use Facet L. Some have been using it for controlling Leafy Spurge in tree belts and in sensitive areas. It works really well, but the cost is rather high. It came to Bill's attention that according to NDSU, you can put Overdrive with Facet L. They recommend this mix under trees, etc. But, Overdrive is a Dicamba that has volatility issues. Not a good recommendation by NDSU. The overdrive will pick up other weeds that Facet L won't, but you lose you safe qualities of Facet L. Morton County did some cost share on Facet L this season. Cody stated that the label states you can tank mix with stinger, but again not safe in sensitive areas.

Cody asked about Method in quart containers. Nutrien has been pushing, but not looking promising at this time for Bayer to package quarts. Still no decent label for haying and grazing.

As far as the numerous lawsuits that you hear and read about. None have been paid, so none have been settled. The settlements keep getting lower, but not getting settled. More lawsuits keep coming.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lobbyist Position: The minutes show that the board needs to fill the lobbyist position by or at the September meeting. Merlin is currently the interim lobbyist. Bill said that Merlin has been the lobbyist for quite a while. Bill asked Merlin if he would be interested in the position. Merlin stated that the reason he stepped down was because some had issues with him doing both the lobbyist and the secretary duties. So he felt that by stepping down as the lobbyist it would ease or eliminate the issues. Bill said that everyone has their opinions, but what the board is doing is working, so why are we messing with some of this stuff. Cost of hiring a lobbyist from outside the organization can be quite costly. Katie moved that Merlin be hired to represent the association as their lobbyist. Bill seconded the motion. More discussion: Derrill said that some past issues were: Merlin would look at bills that necessarily didn't directly affect the association. Merlin stated that he never made a trip to Bismarck just for that. Kent said that sometimes bills change during a hearing, making the position that the board wanted going in completely different, and a lobbyist has to be able to adjust accordingly. **M/C**

Area Meetings: results of counties surveyed: **Area I – Brent** – Didn't make any calls. Half the counties show up, some never show up. **Area II – Ron** – Didn't make any calls either. Some counties never show up, whether it's for helping at the winter show, or at the area meetings.

Commissioner Doug Goehring: Commissioner Goehring thankful for being able to come to a live meeting for a change, instead of a zoom meeting over a computer. Nice change.

The last time the commissioner was here, he stated that we could get an additional \$200,000 next biennium into LAP. That proposal does not look good right now. The Governor put out an executive order locking up agency budgets. Has not had time to sort everything out, to find a path forward. The Governor's office wants metrics now as well.

Commissioner Goehring mentioned that the formula for LAP will be changed. Funding will be based on a new formula. 50% based on non-cropland acres, and the other 50% on the weed surveys. It would still involve acres, but not weighted as much. One of the problems in the past is that the weed acres exceeded the non- cropland acres. This would change that.

Another change being considered would be to eliminate the 3 mill requirement for a county to receive LAP. There are concerns on both sides. Commissioner Goehring would like to get every county eligible for LAP. Some counties have excessively large budgets, because they have to levy and do so, to get three mills to receive LAP. That is not good government. There needs to be a safety net in place so that some poorer counties who have trouble keeping 3 mills, and only receive them because of LAP. The Commissioner feels that there still needs to be a safety net in place for those situations. Very good discussion took place. Statewide, every county runs their own program, and therefore the state program has to fit 53 different programs. Very complex program. Cody suggested an "or" clause in the law, like 3 mills or \$300,000 minimum.

Palmer Amaranth issues: Jim asked if the seed laws too open. A lot of seeds coming into the state are from not so reliable companies, even the internet. Producers need to be more vigilant on what they're buying. Numerous areas that grow crops like millet for seed, are in areas that are heavy on weeds like Palmer Amaranth. Equipment is also a very good source for bringing in

new weeds, whether it is with custom combiners or from purchasing equipment from out of state. Much discussion took place.

Bill asked Commissioner Goehring concerning the Dicamba issues. Asked whether North Dakota has a temporary use order in place. Since EPA did not formally inform Commissioner Goehring to issue a stop order, the commissioner allowed the product to be used. Approximately 6 days later, Commissioner Goehring received that order, so he had to issue a stocks and use order.

Merlin brought up the discussion on the possibility of getting some of the fertilizer tonnage fees that go into the general fund, for using towards LAP. Commissioner Goehring said that there would have to be a pretty good reason why the NDDA would want them to be moved into EARP. There has been talk about it. Merlin mentioned that the NDDA would like to bring in more counties to utilize EARP, but Merlin mentioned that by doing so, the fund in place for LAP, would have to serve more counties, thus reducing dollars some counties currently receive. This could be a good way to tie the need into place. Cody feels that commodity groups should get involved and eventually needing cost share on cropland acres for Palmer Amaranth. It is a noxious weed, which should be cost shared. Commissioner Goehring would have to think about this approach. Some legislators feel that numerous counties are acting irresponsible with what they have now, much less giving them more funding. There is no way to access that money for weed control, but access that money for other programs, and shift some of the other towards weed control. The commissioner stated that if everyone who gets appropriated from EARP, would use it, in a couple of sessions, the EARP fund would be broke, even though a reserve is building in the fund. A lot of different ways to look at it. The \$1.6 million that went out of EARP for the emergency hay program loan should not happen again. It was not the department's choice.

Cody and the board thanked Commissioner Goehring for coming to our meeting. Very good discussion and various topics.

Other? Jim said that the NDDA has to be commended for running the recertification program when it was in Bismarck. Kent asked what about next year? Rick said that it is being worked out for next year.

Area Meetings Cont.: Area III – Derrill – Did a few counties. Mostly they forgot. **Area IV – Cody** – Mainly that they forgot, should call ahead of time. **Area V – Katie** – Sent out an e mail to all counties, heard back from a couple of them. They like the meeting held on Fridays. Katie contacted the two counties why they aren't attending. Both counties said that they would try and make it.

The dates will be October 19 – Area II – Valley City or Jamestown

October 20 – Area I – Courthouse – Devils Lake

October 21 – Area III – NDSU Research – Minot

October 22 – Area IV – Hwy Building – Mandan

October 23 – Area V – Weed Building – Fryburg

All times will be starting at 9:00 am local time. Katie moved to set the above dates, locations and times. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

NDDA Report: Richard gave the NDDA report. LAP allocated 281,000, 56%, TAG allocated 50,000 18%, so far. On July 1, left over LAP funds will be reallocated. With the new formula, if

you do not fill out the survey, you are not eligible. It will be simple, straight forward. The 3 mill levy requirement. The commissioner covered it. Need input from counties on this. The more counties that are eligible, the less money to all counties. US Forest Service grants are available. Need more participation with this. Richard would like to get out this season, checking in on counties, to see what they do, how they run their program, and what their needs are. Is there a protocol in place to help out new weed officers? Maybe a mentor program could be used. Maybe one county should help out the neighboring county. Much discussion

Bio Control Field days are coming up. They are in Billings, Morton, Grant, and Benson Counties.

2021 Conference Planning – suggestions & ideas from the board. Back to Basics

Ideas - ATV Safety (Parks & Rec possibly)

Lane Kozel, from Iowa

Intended and unintended uses of weed control

Concerns with bee hives and pollinators

Rick can give a presentation with his spray trunk

(With digital calibrating)

Spray safety with farm safety

Do a skit on how to deal with a complaint

UTV/ATV what equipment to get

Bill – using adjuvants

Weed Board responsibility in cropland acres

Theme suggested: ***“Your Land, Your Weed, Your Problem”***

Entertainment: Merlin will ask a young family in his county. Musical group – country/bluegrass/gospel

Other Old Business: Bill talked about protocol at the convention. Acting properly, not dressing up at the banquet. No need for ball caps. The board needs to set a better standard. That also stands true for when you are the moderator at different sessions. Suggested that in the booklet, have it stated that proper attire for the banquet. Merlin also said that the prayer will be back at the banquet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Stan Wolf on the open position vacated by Dr. Rod Lym: a letter was included for the board in their packet, **and will be included at the end of these minutes.** The position also includes working with cropland weeds. Also, due to privacy laws, he cannot divulge any applicant names at this time. Possibly by the September meeting.

NAISMA DUES: Budgeted but not voted on whether to join again or to do join. Katie moved to pay the \$100 dues. Travis seconded the motion. Discussion on the dues and what direction NAISMA is doing. Voted on the motion. **M/F**

2022 Annual Conference: 2 options are on the table. We have interest from the Ramkota and Ramada. The Radisson downtown did not reply. The Ramkota is quite large, plenty of room, including parking. There are some charges that are more, but overall fairly close. The only major change if we would go to the Ramkota, the dates. We would have to meet, starting on Tuesday evening with the board meeting, concluding at noon on Friday, instead of Thursday. Jim moved to have the 2022 conference January 4-7 at the Ramkota in Bismarck. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Merlin will meet with Ally here at the Ramada to let them know, and he will also contact the Ramkota to let them know. Merlin will also check what dates are available for 2023, for the September meeting. Richard would like separate contracts for NDDA as well.

National Travel Savings Account: Merlin would like the board to consider whether we should put a cap on the National Travel. If we did, the money could go to the education fund until we spend funds from national travel, then they would be reverted back to the national travel fund. After some discussion, it was decided to leave it alone.

Other New Business: None

Being no further business, Katie moved to adjourn the meeting. Travis seconded the motion.

M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary

NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist Selection Committee progress report, June 24, 2020

Greetings to one and all. We are on track in our process in selecting candidates for the Noxious Weed Specialist position.

To recap the position, it is a 90% research, 10% teaching position. The teaching portion will be a junior/senior class most likely on seed technology traits. The research will be in noxious and invasive weeds in North Dakota in cropland and grasslands. Invasive weeds would include Waterhemp and other cropland weeds. The NDSU Plant Sciences, ND Ag Commissioner, and the Weed Control Association will be advising the successful candidate in the areas of research and weeds to investigate and report on. The selection committee is very aware that the needs of the Weed Control Association and weed officers/weed board and have referenced to the candidates that they will be required to present their research to the association and weed officers/weed boards and to work with the weed officers/weed boards.

The Covid-19 epidemic has slowed up the initial process in our work. Since we had started the process prior to the shut down we are able to continue to conduct the search. Start up date for the successful candidate can be stretched out to the forest part of 2021 if necessary. Several other candidate searches have been put on hold so we are lucky that we can proceed.

Members on the search committee are Drs. Kirk Howard, Tom Peters, Joe Ikley, Greta Gramig, Brian Jenks, Katherine Running (grad student), and myself. We have been meeting via Zoom for our meetings to determine the interview questions and process. We have received several applications and conducted our first round of interviews. Presently we have selected candidates for second round of interviews. The candidates will be asked to present a teaching presentation and a research presentation along with a second round of interview questions. Since there are still some travel restrictions, this will be conducted via Zoom. We expect that the successful candidate will then be asked to come to NDSU to get a tour of NDSU, the Plant Sciences department, their program equipment, and the local area. This is where we are in a nutshell.

Respectively submitted,
Stan