

NDWCA Area III Minutes

North Central Research Extension Center, Minot, ND

Yet to be approved

October 29th, 2014

Area Director, Dan Dew called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ward, Bottineau, McHenry, Williams, Burke and Renville. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: none presented.

2013 area III minutes were read. Dan asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. None were presented. Dan declared the minutes approved as read.

Old Business:

Dr. Rod Lym asked that Merlin take the photos and description of Japanese Knotweed to the remaining areas, and pass them around. Found a plant in Grand Forks of Japanese Fleece Flower, a horticulture variety of Japanese Knotweed. Has been there for years, has not spread, yet, but that is how they all started. Rod will try and have a live plant at the annual meeting in January.

Annual Meeting update:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 6, 7, & 8th, 2015 at the Seven Seas in Mandan. There will be a board meeting Monday evening at 6:00 pm. Tuesday morning and part of the afternoon will be the Ag. Commissioner's forum. Around 3:30, we will have our annual business meeting. Tuesday evening will be the beer and brat social and auction. Please bring an auction item or items to be auctioned off. Net proceeds go to the education committee for their years' activities. Wednesday will be a full day of speakers, a noon luncheon, and of course the banquet in the evening. Greg Hagar, a country western singer, will be the entertainment. We will have the banquet in the large meeting room. Feedback from last year was to have the banquet in the large room every year. More elbow room. Thursday morning, we will again have the exhibitor breakfast, followed by speakers until noon. There will be a board meeting at noon on Thursday to wrap up the activities.

The hotel no longer has a full service restaurant. They serve a free continental breakfast every morning, and you can get burgers etc. through the bar, and also pizza. The meals for the annual meeting has not changed.

Exhibitor breaks have gotten expensive. The board of directors has proposed to have sponsors for the breaks. We want everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. Merlin will get a letter printed and put on our website, to be downloaded, for folks to take to these businesses. Good feedback, with numerous business names mentioned.

County reports:

Burke:

LAP for noxious weeds was up. Temperatures were too cool for good Flea Beetle activity. Beetles are losing ground to leafy spurge.

Burke County was unable to fill all sprayer positions and only operated one crew spraying county ROW. Gravel pits continue to be a problem, although most operators are good to work with. It is finding someone to do the spraying that is tough.

One old gravel pit which is not in current operation has Canada thistle, musk thistle, absinth wormwood, leafy spurge and spotted knapweed within a 15 foot radius in one spot. EOG has a road through the pit area and readily agreed to have their crew spray the road, shoulders and 50 feet to either side.

Finally have a full board again.

Big increase in Yellow Toadflax spots along Hwy 52.

Williams:

Jim asked who uses county equipment to spray on private land. They are being overwhelmed by the increased workload, can't get ROW's done. They plan on changing their policy, possibly raise their rates and limit the hours spent on each landowner. Sprayed for 35 landowners @ \$40/hr., 600 hours on ROW's. Beetles are everywhere, just not sweepable. This is encouraging, for the long term. Sprayed Plateau this fall. They have calls every year to spray gravel pits in late fall or early winter. They lock their chemical on their trucks as required by the NDDA pesticide inspectors.

Bottineau: submitted by Dan Burke

Late springs have become the new normal: delaying spraying operations through most of June. The ROW held a lot of water from heavy rains all summer. The western half of Bottineau County was hit hardest. Some farmers went a second year without planting crops.

When it wasn't raining the wind was blowing. Time became a factor as the days passed with little spraying done. Fortunately, during the few good days early in the season we did spray the in-slope of the highways. That put us ahead of the mowers and we had good control. Finally, in July we had a two week stretch of nice weather that allowed us to get back on schedule. Frost and fall ROW mowing ended the season with some touch up work left to do; but, overall the spraying effort was effective.

The 4oz Overdrive + 8oz Tordon mix is still doing an excellent job. Spray crews find that Leafy spurge is disappearing on the ROW and they spend most of their time locating and spraying "secondary noxious weeds" like Canada thistle, Milkweed and False Chamomile.

Lack of collectible flea beetles has suspended any growth in our bio-control program. Environmental conditions have been tough on populations.

Cost-share is continuing at a relatively low participation rate. Bottineau bumped up cost-share limits this spring from \$2,400 to \$2,760 in an attempt to bring more participants with little effect. The weather is partially to blame for this year's lack of demand for funding. Landowners couldn't get out in the fields due to wet conditions. Even spraying by air was difficult with aerial applicators overbooked for most of the season.

The pending approval of Perspective for pasture and rangeland is being watched with anticipation. Test plots have shown it to be very good at long term control of spurge and other weeds with only one

application. Those kinds of results could merit special cost-share incentives to get landowners to try it. When high level effectiveness is demonstrated from one treatment; farmers should get excited about noxious weed control again and make better use of the cost-share program.

We added a new truck to our equipment this year, a 2015 C3500 with flat bed and a 400 gal. tank. It was used lightly to spray some ROW cattails at the request of the county commissioners. It's a nice outfit and easy to operate; but it's not up to ROW cattails. They grow 8 feet above the edge of the road and a truck boom can't get over the top of them. You might get a few cattails at the edge, but more likely you get off-target drift from a boom spraying more upward than outward; definitely not recommended.

Excessive rain, flooding and spreading acres of cattails add up to lost crop production and damaged roads. The county commissioners have met with local water boards to find a solution. Aerial application of Roundup by helicopter was one option discussed.

McHenry: submitted by George Lemer

2014 brought the loss of Vice Chairman Marlow Kitzman to cancer. Three members attended the state convention held in Mandan in January.

Members of the weed board assisted at a booth at the Ag. Expo in Minot. The annual report was completed and sent to the NDDA office. Annual dues were paid to the NDWCA.

A spring newsletter highlighting the year's program was published in mid-April and is distributed to all operating producers in the county. Spring chemical sales are held on four half days and one full day. Chemicals offered this year included Milestone, Tordon22k, Escort, Forefront HL, Overdrive, Plateau and Curtail. A fall letter was sent to these producers offering chemicals for sale by order only with one scheduled pickup date. Approximately 128 producers took advantage of the discounted prices this year. Producers spent approximately \$92,048.50 with the weed control board spending \$82,853.10 in the LAP program.

The board completed and approved the 2015 budget. All monies received and disbursed by the county weed board continue to be filtered through the county auditor's office.

TAG monies are used to assist with ROW spraying. Two additional individuals were hired for ROW spraying for 2014. Commercially certified board members and weed supervisors also continue to assist in spraying the county ROWs as required.

Due to the excessive amount of moisture in McHenry County, ROW sprayers experienced a very challenging year finding many new varieties of plants. County roads are the primary concern with additional township roads sprayed as time and weather permits.

Crops continue to be seeded into the ditch ROW and are very vulnerable to chemical drift when ROW is sprayed. Landowners are not controlling weeds on ROWs and can expect spray damage to crops seeded in the ROW.

Three board meetings and one sprayer meeting planned for mid-November.

Ward: submitted by Derrill Fick

In January we had a booth at the Ag. Show. We hired one contractor and two employees. The spring started cold, wet and late. Did not start spraying until mid - June because the ditches were wet and

some roads were still under water. We are running 2 pickups and a bigger truck with spray tanks, 1 4-wheeler, and 1 UTV.

We cost shared Tordon and Plateau with 87 landowners participating.

We have been finding more Canada thistle in the ROWs and rangelands. We again had a grant with the NDDA for the control of noxious weeds in the flood zone areas. It was a continuation of last year's locations. We could tell a difference of who sprayed their thistle or who did nothing at all in the river bottoms that get hayed or grazed. Still finding lots of Houndstongue. Seems to be as much as in previous years even though some of our worst areas have gotten flooded the plants seem to be returning. Sprayed for Purple loosestrife along the Souris River again, even though there was some erosion that occurred from the flood the river still had loosestrife growing along its banks, but not as much as in previous years. Still finding plants outside of the city where drainages go to the river. Been finding more Yellow toadflax showing up in rangeland areas. Leafy spurge seems to be a little less, but did not get some ROWs sprayed because of the water. Spotted knapweed is still giving us trouble in the same areas.

Again, have been finding a lot of Gall flies for Canada thistle this year. Have noticed that the areas that we released the Yellow toadflax insects have shown fewer plants but still hard to collect insects. Did not collect any Leafy spurge flea beetles this year again. Whenever we would do any sweeping we could find the beetles but enough to collect and hand out.

As far as gravel pits. Last year we had a request to inspect for weeds in November.

Renville: submitted by Dan Dew

We added 2 new members to our spray crew. The 2 new people are Travis and Jenessa Fritel. The rest of the crew consisted of Tonya Naumman, Cody Beck, Katie Johnson and Lexie Bahl. We have purchased a side by side ATV using TAG money. With the new ATV, four-wheeler and two spray trucks, we were able to cover more ground in many different conditions.

Because of the cold and late spring, we got a late start and seemed to be playing catch up all summer. Wet conditions and windy weather hampered our work. Once we got going it did go fairly well. We dealt mainly with Canada thistle and Milkweed this year. We did spray for Absinth wormwood and Leafy spurge as well.

We collected flea beetles from a sit east of Rugby and placed them in five different locations.

We do have a list of contact people for each township and these people have let us know where the noxious weeds are. This has helped a lot.

I inspected one gravel pit and had it sprayed before gravel could be hauled from it.

I dealt with two complaints and had a commercial spray crew come in and spray them. The landowners had the cost assessed against their taxes.

I also attended the NAISMA conference in Fargo on Sept. 29 thru Oct. 1.

We also sprayed 5 lots at Renville County Park and assessed against their taxes.

LAP not used as much as before (down 30% use).

Agencies:

Government report: David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ. Dave could not be at the area meetings, so he sent this report with Merlin to read to each area.

Dan Dew read the report.

Government Report

USDA APHIS PPQ, Bismarck, ND

2014 Field Season activities:

- Spurge Beetle harvest was at least fair at most locations. The cool wet season reduced harvest potential as compared to warmer dry conditions which are more suitable.
- PPQ facilitated or helped at 5 field days and provided presentations at 2 meetings.
- PPQ supplied North Dakota spurge beetles to 2 states. 3 other states had made requests for ND flea beetles but due to the lower numbers harvested they did not receive any.
- I had made a request for additional yellow toadflax bio control agents obtained through PPQ in Montana. Two released were obtained and delivered to the ND Dept. of Ag. The extreme cold last winter in Montana may have reduced bio control insect populations.
- I have established a new bio control agent permit based on ND needs. It contains a long list of agents that ND uses but has many others that ND may want or need in the future. The permit will make the bio control option available for the management of new invasive weeds if weed managers decide bio control should be implemented. Weed managers may obtain bio control agents through this permit by working through APHIS PPQ. This new permit does not supersede any other permits that weed officers or other agencies may have or want to establish on their own.
- Houndstongue agents: Research on the seed weevil is in the final stages and the researchers may be applying for a US release permit this winter.
- APHIS PPQ bio control funding seems to be stable for the 2015 field season so local staff will be available to help with field days and presentations.

Industry:

Mike Schalla – Dow AgroSciences. I represent the manufacturer. I cover vegetation management, not crops. I can refer you to those within our company that do. I am excited for the upcoming year. North Dakota is a higher use state for milestone. Canada thistle is the #1 weed in North Dakota. We have a couple of new products on the horizon. Milestone can be sprayed to the waters' edge, while the aquatic label for it will allow you to spray into the water, to get plants that are in the water. This will not control

aquatic weeds. We are hoping that with the predate set at December 6th, it will get the aquatic label. Thanks for all your business.

Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply. Thanks for your business, in the past and into the future. Our chemical comes out of our Pierre, SD warehouse, so we can get chemical to you quickly. Thanks for allowing me to take part of this day.

Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division. Thank you to all of you folks for the business this past season. Hope to continue to work with all of you this coming season as well.

Perspective: Pre approval date has been moved from October 10th to February, 2015. So nothing has changed as far as the label. When they hear something, they will let Bill know and he will forward it to Merlin to be put on list serve. DuPont thinks that the state of Texas will be applying for a state section 18, for the use of Perspective on Mesquite. If that takes place, North Dakota could do the same. This could help push EPA to lift the label restrictions.

DuPont: Increased prices for Streamline and Perspective on October 1 by 5%.

Dow: Not a lot of changes. The aquatic label on Milestone could happen by December 1. In 2015, prices will increase for Milestone by \$2.00/quart. But it will decrease in gallons by \$20/gallon for government agency only. Other Dow products will see a 3 to 5% increase.

Dicamba still in short supply and huge price increases. Glyphosate and 2-4D supplies are stable at this time. Inert may change in insecticide.

At this time, Dan Dew, area director, thanked Tom, Mike and Bill for their help and support at the annual meeting and at other various activities.

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist. I am the new noxious weed specialist. I took over for Rachel. Rachel is still with the department. My phone number is still the same as it was with Rachel 701-328-2983. The noxious weed people are Carrie, our program director, Lane, Jim and myself. Jim will be attending the annual meeting, so if you have any computer, data-logger questions, see Jim.

We have various publications available, get ahold of me and I can get them to you.

Weed Seed Free Forage: 2014 - 11,943 acres inspected, 11,176 acres certified, 2 times more than last year. 20,115 tags issued, and 3 producers used the purple and yellow twine.

Biological Control: 1.25 million flea beetles collected and redistributed throughout the state. Helped with field days in Benson, Stark, Grant and Stutsman Counties. Released 725 yellow toadflax weevils in Ward and Bottineau Counties. Spotted Knapweed weevils were monitored for release in Golden Valley County. In 2015, plans are: April/May: Monitor yellow toadflax weevil insectaries for establishment, June: Collect and redistribute knapweed flower or seed head weevils on hard to access stands, June/July: Collect or redistribute leafy spurge flea beetles, help with field days or just with collecting, August: Monitor knapweed root weevil for establishment, collect and redistribute if necessary.

Funding: USFS Grants: Toadflax – closed, Houndstongue – closed, Flood/Land Enhancement 1, land Enhancement 2 & 3 – are open to the public, Early Detection Rapid Response – for county weed boards.

TAG: All weed boards qualify, 44% spent so far, reimbursement vouchers due by July 3rd, 2015.

Can use these funds for nearly anything. Need pre approval from the department.

LAP: Boards that levy 3 mills or budget the equivalent of 3 mills qualify. 67% so far. Vouchers due by January 3rd, 2015.

Each county viewed where they are at on their LAP spending so far. Discussion on reapplying for LAP after January, to be used by the end of June. We don't want to return any funds back to EARP.

Jim McAllister, 2014 NDWCA President: He encouraged people to attend the annual meeting. The association of counties is concerned about the use of ATVs used in spraying. He also encouraged counties to spend their allocations from the NDDA.

New Business:

Awards: Merlin showed everyone that the association now has two awards. We have combined the early career and senior awards into one award, the Weed Warrior Award. We have also created an award called the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to those former members who have now retired, whether they are alive or have passed on, and were part of the association's board at one time. Nomination forms will be on the website, and are available to be picked up today as well.

2nd Vice President: Can only be from areas 2, 4 & 5: Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer, has been nominated. He has accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Poster Contest: Dan Dew mentioned that this has been going on for 8 years, and that the board of directors wants it to continue. The question is how we make it better. Derrill said that it is open to 5th and 6th graders. Derrill mentioned as to what the education committee does with this contest. We only get a couple of the same schools each year. Merlin said that so far, suggestions were to get the weed boards aware as well, to follow up to the schools. Also, get it available to 4th graders. Maybe 6th grades have too much going on already. Also, it has been suggested to possibly open it up to 4-H clubs. Dan Dew feels that the weed boards/officers should be more involved, follow up to the schools. Chuck Weiser asked what education is being done with it. We should do more to educate the youth on their knowledge of weeds. He said that possibly we should work with other groups as well.

Changing state law: Merlin mentioned that when the board met with Commissioner Goehring on September 23rd, one issue discussed was that some weed boards seem disengaged. Checking in state law, it was discovered that weed boards only are required to meet once a year. It used to be three times. Merlin said that the commissioner would like us to possibly have state law changed requiring three meetings per year. The board wants it brought to all areas for discussion before moving forward with it or leaving it alone. Dan asked for a show of hands how many counties meet at least three times per year. All counties present raised their hands. A lot of discussion occurred. When asked who would be in favor of changing the law from 1 to 3 required meetings, one county was in favor of changing the law, five counties were against it.

Resolutions: None were brought forward.

Changing the government position on the board: Bill brought forward the idea to change our bylaws to allow the government position on our board of directors be a non-paying member. Government employees usually cannot get their employer to pay dues to an organization such as ours. By changing the bylaws, we could possibly get more people interested in the position. David Hirsch is the only

government full paid member in our organization. This could not be changed until the annual meeting in 2016. This is being brought up now for discussion only.

ATV Training: Dan Dew feels that this is very important. He asked how many counties do ATV training, other than the sprayer schools. The discussion being heard from county officials, is that certification will be required. This cannot be done at sprayer schools. This training is a hands on approximately 6 hour course. All the counties present at the meeting feel there is a need for more intense training. A question was asked whether there are roll over kits for ATVs. Dan Folske found several online after doing a quick search. Area III would be in favor of having a training session.

Being no other business, Dan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Terry moved to adjourn the meeting, Chuck seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary