

NDWCA Area II Minutes

Barnes County Highway Dept., Valley City, ND

Yet to be approved

October 28th, 2014

Area Director, Ron Manson called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Richland, Ransom, Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Steele, Logan and Stutsman. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU, 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.

Merlin read the 2013 area II minutes. Jerry moved to accept the minutes as read, Steve seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The 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:

Stutsman: Good year. Sprayed all roads twice this year. We used a lot of milestone this fall. Decent field day this year, about 100 people. Had about 2.5 million beetles, down from last year. Houndstongue and toadflax on the increase. In ROW north of Medina. Large spot of Spotted Knapweed along I-94 west of Jamestown. Also found a new site in Jamestown, near the county shop. \$60,000 in LAP to landowners. Have an excellent crew for now. Seeing down the road, it will be hard to find good help in the future. Used milestone at 7oz/ac on spotted knapweed. Used Tordon/Overdrive all season on Leafy spurge.

Logan: Uses Plateau/Amine in the fall. They did hire a new weed officer. Did some spraying. Staying atop of the Yellow Toadflax. Some knapweed, but it gets sprayed.

LaMoure: Started good. Not many bugs to collect. Have a lot of toadflax. We spray it with straight Tordon, knocks it down for a couple of years.

Dickey: Sprayed roads twice, some three times. Had a meeting with gravel pit owners, offered them special cost share. Used Milestone and Plateau this fall, Tordon last spring. Got our new building done, just some trim work left. Have some toadflax issues, but getting better.

Barnes: Started spraying late, but had a good year. Houndstongue control as usual. Going paperless using I pods worked well, with just a few problems. Spotted knapweed, still find a few plants on original site, no new sites. Yellow toadflax is expanding. We have been using Tordon/Overdrive. Purple loosestrife north of town in a WPA drainage area. Had a plane spray it with Roundup. Had a UTV burn up this year.

Cass: Started late. 8,000 acres covered. More weeds, but budget drained, same as last three years. Haying was a problem in ROWs. Had to wait until fall in the southern part of the county. As far as weeds, spurge and thistle 50/50. We really love our outback guidance system on our UTV. Flea beetles were not in large numbers. Purple loosestrife found in Briarwood. Also the usual spot in north Fargo. Another spot of Houndstongue found in the county. On the old site, still finding plants after 10 years. Found some Yellow toadflax on I-94 median, about 1 acre. Found some Common tansy at Maple River Dam. Plan to burn the area this fall, and spray next spring.

Ransom: Late start, starting on July 1. Most of the roads covered, about 90%. Some requests for beetles. Had a contractor spray state highways. We cost share gravel pits.

Richland: May 27 producers picked up LAP for Tordon/Overdrive/Plateau. 150 acre gravel pits sprayed by helicopter. 3500 acres county ROWs, 450 acres state ROWs. Sprayed top 1/2 until ran out of funds. Got an additional 500 acres funded from state DOT to spray some more. Sprayed 350 acres for Forest service, but could only use Amine. 25 sites of stem weevils from Bozeman. Good response from people. Found Yellow toadflax in WPAs and ROWs. Sprayed it. Around a slew, found Purple loosestrife. We have a new data-logger. Haven't used all the buttons yet.

Agencies:

Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU: Chemical updates- Paramount on Cheyenne National Grasslands. It is now called quinclorac.

Research: Yellow toadflax – use 1 qt. Tordon plus overdrive in June, July, August and September.

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. Passed around pictures of the leaves and plants, also had the dried plant part, also showed pictures of the actual plant at its location. A white showy flower that turns red. Will try and have a live plant at the annual meeting.

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.

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: 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 insecticides.

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.

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.

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.

Break

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, was nominated. He accepted the nomination, and his name will be placed on the ballot at the business meeting during the annual meeting in January.

Poster Contest: Merlin 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. It is open to 5th and 6th graders. Stan talked 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. Suggestions from Area II, to cc it to weed board secretaries or county contacts or possibly allow 4-H clubs to do it 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. Ron 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. Some meet every month of the year. Jim moved that the NDWCA ask to have the law changed from 1 to 3 meetings per year for both county and city weed boards. Jerry seconded the motion. M/C

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: Jim 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. Nearly all the counties present at the meeting spoke in favor of setting one for this area. All are in favor of having training.

Winter Show: Do we want to have a booth again at the winter show? Steve moved to have it again, and to purchase a book for giveaway. Stan seconded the motion. M/C

Other Business: One county complained that a neighboring county to them are not doing anything, or so it seems. Thoughts were to educate them, and work with them.

Area director, Ron Manson talked about the NAISMA conference held recently in Fargo. He felt we should all be aware, and spread that awareness to others about emerald ash borer, and the severity of it, and the damage it causes.

Ron asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting, Jerry seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary