

(To be approved)

**NDWCA ANNUAL MEETING
January 6th, 2015 - 3:30 pm
Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan, ND**

The NDWCA Annual Business Meeting was called to order by 2014 President Jim McAllister at 3:35 pm.

Additional agenda items: none

Merlin Leithold, executive secretary, read the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes. Steve Ginsbach moved to approve the minutes as read. Brent Nelson seconded the motion. **M/C**

Presidents Report

President McAllister reported that this past year, we lost two very good weed officers. Losing Jared Burian, Golden Valley Weed Officer was hard, sudden and tragic. We never know how fast an accident can occur. Even when being careful, an accident can occur. We also lost Richard Anderson, Sargent County Weed Officer. Dick was a good friend and an excellent weed officer. Coming to the convention is not only to get educated, but also to see people, some you may have not seen since last year.

We are still pursuing research funding. A number of us attended the NAISMA conference in Fargo. We learned about weed problems from across the country.

We had the pleasure to hear Ryan Taylor and Doug Goehring, in September, to listen and to interact with them, on their plans if they became elected as Ag. Commissioner.

I encourage everyone to attend and get certified in ATV training. Get more involved in safety training.

We need to remember our objectives, leadership, education, weed awareness, liaison between city and county weed boards, assist the NDDA with weed management plans for the state, legislative issues, and support the development of research for noxious weeds.

We are constantly changing, as an association and as people.

Two seeds lay side by side in the fertile spring soil. The first seed said, I want to grow, extend my roots into the soil beneath me and thrust my sprouts through the earth's crust above me. I want to unfurl my tender buds like banners to announce the arrival of spring, and to feel the warmth of the sun on my face and the blessing of the morning dew on my petals. And so she grew.

The second seed said, I'm afraid if I send my roots into the ground deep below, what will I encounter in the dark? If I push my way through the hard soil above, I may damage my delicate sprouts. What if I were to open my buds and a snail tries to eat them, or if I were to open my blossoms, and a small child pulls me from the ground? It is much better for me to wait until it is safe. And so she waited. A yard hen, scratching around for food, found the waiting seed, and ate it.

The moral of the story: Those who refuse to risk and grow, get swallowed up by life.

We change constantly. But we cannot continue to do everything status quo. This week we will pick up information to take back home so that we can do a better job.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I know that the future of our organization is bright, and the men and women coming behind me are very dedicated.
Thank you

Financial Report

Merlin presented the financial report. He highlighted various line items.

Audit Report

Dan Dew, Jim McAllister and Joan Lorge were the audit committee. Dan Dew reported the financial report to be in order and correct.

Dan Dew moved to accept the financial report. Dan Folske seconded the motion. **M/C**

Budget

Merlin presented the budget for 2015. Jerome Peerboom moved to accept the budget, Joan Lorge seconded the motion. M/C

Education Report

Derrill Fick gave the education report. Had an earth day booth, we wore costumes, etc. We had sprayer schools in Dickinson, Stanley, Devils Lake, and Jamestown. Thank you to our hosts and the speakers.

Poster contest: the 5th and 6th graders in all of the schools in the state. This year we had 4 different schools participating. Please cast your vote in the exhibitor's room. Dan Schumacher from Linton, won last year. He received a plaque and all the students in the class received a t-shirt with the poster printed on the shirt.

We have retail items for sale at the registration table.

Dan Dew will take over as chair of the education committee,

NAISMA Report

Derrill stated that the national conference was held in Fargo this fall. We toured the NDSU greenhouse and also NDSU Plant Sciences Department... Thank you to the NDDA for sponsoring the registrations, and to the NDWCA for sponsoring a break. NAISMA is currently looking at the membership list, to get it current. They are also going over their weed list. Next fall, the annual conference will be in Vancouver, BC.

Legislative Report

The session is just beginning. Today the Governor had his state of the state address.

Merlin stated that there are several tax bills of concern. SB 2056 does a few minor changes. HB 1055, changes the entire tax code from mills to percent's. One mill now, will be .05 cents per \$1,000 property evaluation. Another bill, which has no number as of yet, consolidates the levies. This drops noxious and adds grass control to the weed law. This is quite serious. The NDDA budget bill, SB 2009 will be heard January 15, at 8:30 am in Senate Appropriations. Also, this Friday, there is a joint meeting of the legislative Ag. Committees to hear the Ag.

Commissioner give the safe send and container disposal report and commodities to give their reports.

Industry Report

Bill Walker, CPS Timberland gave the state of the industry report for 2015.

So far in 2015, everything he said at the area meetings has come to pass. Dow has taken a 5 to 7% increase. Lowered Milestone to \$277/gallon government agency. Milestone has gone up to \$78.75 quarts. Your local dealers are not in that price, just through distributors. Dicamba is still in short supply. DuPont is now Bayer for the range management division. Labels will be the same, for now. Price increases did happen, but all prices are through agencies only. It looks like they are coming out with Method, a liquid Perspective, without the Telar/Escort in it. Easier on forbs than Perspective. But, like Perspective, needs a label approval. Scott is still our rep., now with Bayer, while Katie is now the extension agent in Grant/Sioux Counties.

Government Report

It wasn't a great year for Flea Beetles. We helped at 5 different field days and board meetings. We supplied flea beetles to 4 different states. Yellow toadflax beetles have established quite well in areas in Montana, but with limited success. Houndstongue seed head weevil is getting closer to being released in ND. Federal budgets are tight, but the funds for biocontrol and research are pretty stable, so we hope to be of assistance again this coming summer. I built a new permit for ND for biocontrol. This will help us bring biocontrol agents into the state as long as they are established in the US.

It's nice to see more government agencies in attendance this year.

NDDA Report

Chelsey has nothing new to report from earlier today.

Old Business:

Trust Fund: Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer – We submitted the proposal to the Heritage Fund. We had worked with NDSU on this. Then we found out that the Heritage Fund would not fund research. We shelved it for now. We are now looking for a revenue source, to help us protect our landscape. This would be for education and research and more.

Aggregate Panel: The panel discussion has been moved to Thursday morning. Switched with Kevin Sedivic. Bring ideas to the panel on Thursday.

New Business:

Resolutions: There are no resolutions this year.

2nd Vice President Election: Eligible areas are II, IV & V. There were two nominations from the area meetings, Stan Wolf from Area II, and Kevin Schmidt from Area IV.

President Jim called for other nominations. Seeing none, Jerome Peerboom moved to close nominations, Dan Dew seconded the motion. M/C

Stan Wolf gave a brief nomination speech.

Jim Bahm gave a nomination speech for Kevin Schmidt, as Kevin had a prior commitment.

President's Transition

President Jim McAllister again thanked everyone for their support and turned the gavel over to the 2015 President, Derrill Fick.

President Derrill thanked Jim for his dedicated service.

Election Results:

New 2nd Vice President will be Kevin Schmidt

By Laws: Bill Walker: Bill explained like at the area meetings that changing the bylaws would simply mean that the government member on the state board would not have to be a fully paid member. Bill said that it is extremely difficult to get government people to serve because of this. It will be voted on next year at the annual meeting.

Other Business:

The 2016 annual meeting will be January 4 – 7, 2016 right at the Baymont Inn & Suites here in Mandan.

Beer and Brat social and auction will be held following the adjournment of the business meeting. Bring your auction items, if you have not already done so.

Don't forget to vote on the posters.

No other business was brought forward.

Steve Ginsburg moved to adjourn the meeting, Leon Pederson seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin Leithold
Executive Secretary