

## **NDWCA Area IV Minutes**

**Morton County Hwy. Department, Mandan, ND**

**Yet to be approved**

**October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Area Director, Gary Hartman called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Morton, Emmons, Sheridan, Burleigh and Oliver. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences, David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary, Grant County.

Additional agenda items: Merlin - pesticides

2014 area IV minutes were reviewed. Rick Schmidt, Oliver County moved to approve the minutes. Roger Griffin, Morton County, seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Annual Meeting update:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 5, 6, 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Baymont Inn (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 begin at 8:00 with a welcome from the Mayor of Mandan followed by speakers. At noon we will have a luncheon. Right after lunch we will have our booth people give their presentations. At 2:00 we will load buses and head to Bismarck for a tour of the new Heritage Center. We should be back by around 5:00. There will be a place to check on the registration form whether you want to go. No extra charge for this. In the evening starting around 5:30 we will have a social sponsored by DOW, followed with our evening banquet and awards and entertainment. 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.

Exhibitor Breaks: We would like everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. There is a letter printed that you can take to them. Also, there is one on our website, to be downloaded.

Awards: Once again the association will be offering two awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Weed Warrior Award. Fill out the form and mail or e mail to Merlin by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**County reports:**

Burleigh: Submitted by Gary Hartman

Burleigh County Weed Board started spraying operations May 25<sup>th</sup> and continued to Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, comprising of 1200 acres ROW and 1600 acres private landowners. Cost share of Milestone was 110 customers. Most prevalent weeds for 3 yrs. running are Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle. The

Missouri River flood of recent, has really made a chore of weed control. Hundreds of acres, mostly in wooded areas are covered in a blanket of Canada thistle. The discovery of Musk thistle on state Hwy 36 in 2014 has led to 5 adjacent landowners' discoveries of the same. One customer alone took 3 days of spraying and scouting on CRP fields. Spotted knapweed is under control for NOW. Three spots in the county. No Yellow toadflax reported or seen. Houndstongue control is limited to the river corridor. Private spraying was done for 3 customers. Purple loosestrife spraying went well, with only 1 new spot discovered. Black henbane was again present on private land and was sprayed.

Flea beetle sweeping was good in Grant and Morton Counties. Thank you to Lane Kozel, NDDA and Merlin Leithold, Grant County. We continue to have some problems with organic farming methods. We will try to work better with landowners on this. Burleigh County is adopting the gravel pit inspection procedures and will send out information to pit owners this winter, so they can gear up for 2016. Thank you NDDA, Chelsey and others, for your help throughout the year.

Grant: submitted by Merlin Leithold

We had a good start on the summer spraying program. We hired Mid Dakota out of South Dakota again this season, to spray for landowners. I spray all the roads in the county, 1583 miles of county roads and around 100 miles of paved roads for the NDDOT. Mid Dakota sprayed for 24 landowners, either early summer, mid-summer or again this fall. We had 62 additional landowners spray their own, and take part in our cost share program.

In Grant County, our cost share program consists of the following chemicals: Tordon, Plateau, Curtail, and Milestone. We cost share at 80% up front, if they purchase from us. If they fill out their spray logs, and return them to us, we will cost share the remaining 20% as in kind, towards their labor. They may also purchase from a dealer, but we base our cost share prices on our cost, so purchasing from us enables them to receive 100% on these chemicals, with proper paperwork. We also sell Amine, Surfactant, and MSO at cost, for strictly noxious weed control.

We had our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Leafy Spurge Field Bug Day this summer on July 6. Approximately 250,000 bugs were collected and handed out. We had 80 people in attendance, mostly from other counties. Thank you to the NDDA, Lane Kozel, to Cody and crew from Morton County for bringing equipment to help. And to Gary from Burleigh County and John from the city of Bismarck, for sweeping more beetles than they took along home.

We did get all of the roads sprayed this season, and all of the landowners, who requested our help, sprayed.

I did receive 3 signed complaint letters. On one complaint, the oats field was hayed before the Canada thistle bloomed. The second complaint, the landowner asked us to spray for him, Canada thistle in a pasture. The third complaint was this fall, a homeowner in New Leipzig. The city of New Leipzig sent the letter. The homeowner had not mowed his lawn all summer. Canada thistle all around his house, and a couple of Absinth wormwood plants as well. The homeowner claims he uses the dried leaves from the wormwood in an herbal tea. He has cherry tree seedlings growing all over from cherry pits they throw out. He claims this to be his nursery, which he digs out and transplants to his parents farm. He plans on starting a cherry tree grove. We has the Sherriff deliver the letter, and after 10 days assessed him a \$10/day fine. His parents cut off all the weeds, bagged them, and took them back to the farm, to burn,

after the third day in the penalty phase. The guy also argues that the law states that fines are only assessed on business days. The weed board decided to forgive him the 3 days in fines, or \$30. Case closed until next year, then we wait and see. The guy is also planning on starting a letter campaign to have wormwood taken off the noxious weed list. We had the county commissioners in full support of us, and we also used the county state's attorney for legal advice.

Overall a good year, despite the weather, and we did have a great fall.

Morton: submitted by Cody Schnabel

Starting on March 1<sup>st</sup>, I Cody Schnabel became Morton County's weed control officer. I have enjoyed very much becoming familiar with the duties involved in being a weed control officer.

Throughout the summer, we sprayed all of the county roadways, at least once. These roadways include all state highways, county highways, county roads, and housing developments. I also sprayed all active gravel pits for noxious weeds. We may have missed some minimum maintenance roads and section line roads, just for the lack of time to get everywhere. After getting done once through by August 10<sup>th</sup>, we proceeded to spraying all state highways, county highways and also many of the main gravel ROW's a second time. I finished out the spraying season on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

We invited many Morton County landowners to the annual Grant County leafy spurge beetle sweep. It was a great success. Most of the people I called showed up and took home a bag of 3000 beetles. I also planted some myself and will be monitoring if they recolonize in those spots. I will strive to keep landowners informed on how beneficial these bugs can be in keeping our spurge problem under control. We would like to thank Grant County for inviting us.

Morton County offered a Landowner Assistance Program this year. We offered 700 gallons of Tordon22k for \$10/gallon, of which all sold out. We also sold 120 gallons of Tordon at the full price of \$50/gallon. We offered 40 gallons plateau for \$26/gallon, of which all sold out. I didn't sell any Plateau at the full price of \$130/gallon. We offered 750 quarts Milestone for \$16/quart, of which all sold out. I did not sell any Milestone at the full price of \$75/quart. We offered 180 gallons of Curtail for \$8/gallon, of which all sold out. I sold 7.5 gallons Curtail at the full price of \$40/gallon.

Emmons County: submitted by Elmer Brandner

2 complaints on organic farmers with Canada thistle. One guy cut it off. Landowner is not happy with his renter. The other guy had flax seeded, plans to combine the flax with the Canada thistle.

Started spraying in May thru October. Went to Corps meeting in April. Didn't use all of their funds. We didn't get all of the road ditches sprayed. Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle are our two main weeds. Have a spot of spotted knapweed. Got a new truck and sprayer, but using the old pump and motor, to cut costs. A lot of trouble with it. Did some cost share.

Sheridan County: submitted by James Haux

We have problems with organic growers as well with noxious weeds not being controlled. Had a few landowners sent notices for noxious weed control. Had 7 grants to landowners. Found some Houndstongue in a flower bed. Had a spray crew who is continuing to spray.

Oliver County: submitted by Rick Schmidt

The Oliver County Weed Board hired S&M Lawn Service to spray the 4 state highways in Oliver County. Chemical is provided by the county. The NDDOT reimburses the Oliver County Weed Board for labor and chemical.

The chemical sales for the year of 2015 include: Curtail – 75 gallons, Milestone – 253 quarts, Plateau – 111 gallons, Tordon – 250 gallons, Opensight – 14(1.25)pound containers, 2-4D – 15 gallons, Liberate – 50 gallons, MSO – 290 gallons, and Perspective – 43 small containers.

The Oliver County Weed Control Officer received 28 complaints of Noxious Weed Violations. Notices were sent and all landowners came into compliance before fines were levied. Some of the potential violations were CRP lands that complaints were turned into FSA.

Finding people to spray is hard. Use of Milestone is growing, being used in a lot of wrong places. We send violation letters to the landowners, not the renters. We have found that bio control is not the best means of control.

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.

Kevin Schmidt, Area director, read the report.

Government Report: David Hirsch - USDA APHIS PPQ, Bismarck, ND

Flea Beetles – Numbers up from last year. We participated in 5 spurge beetle days this past summer. Fewer field days each year. Counties seem to be relying on 2 field days to supply everyone's needs. We need to establish more sites capable of having field days or be able to sweep good numbers from.

Flea beetles are just one tool in the tool box, in the fight of Leafy spurge. We will be able to again assist you in having a field day, whether it is to help set one up, or come to your day and assist in sorting, sweeping, etc.

New Beetles: Stem weevil for Yellow toadflax has been established near Minot in Ward County. First time ever this has happened in North Dakota. Exciting news! We will keep you posted on its development. Distribution of this weevil is still several years away.

Industry: Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences

First of all, thank you for all the business this past season, and for your continued business in the future.

Dow is launching 2 new products for the upcoming year. The first is already for purchase, and it is called Graslan L. It is a premix of Tordon plus 2-4D Choline. The 2-4D Choline is a new type of 2-4D that is not an Amine or Ester. This is a brand new 2-4D that Dow has come out with that has some great benefits. First, it has a low odor which is great for applying around cities or towns. Secondly, it has near zero volatility, which means, that on hot summer days, it won't move off site. Finally, the formulation results in less drift, under normal application conditions. Graslan L will have a caution signal word, which is

safer than the danger signal word that most 2-4D's currently have. Graslan L will be for sale in 2x2.5 gal, 30 gal drums, 250's or bulk. The recommended rate is 2-5 pts/acre which will contain 1 pt. Tordon and 2 pts 2-4D Choline. You can add milestone or other Dow products for different weed issues. You may also add Tordon to it to create your own 2-4D – Tordon ratio. Graslan L does not have extra haying or grazing restrictions.

The second new product is Vastlan. It is not currently available to purchase. It contains tricolpyr with a Choline salt. Vastlan has excellent activity on trees and brush, like salt cedar. It will have a caution signal word and have low volatility attributes as well as an aquatic label. Vastlan will be for sale in 4x1, 2x2.5, and 30 gal drums.

Pricing for 2016 will have a flat Tordon and Milestone pricing. Milestone for agencies will be \$277/gal for 2x2.5's and \$70.75/quarts.

Dow has a new Prairie and Grassland Management Guides that contain information that producers have found very beneficial. If you would like any literature for winter trade shows, please let me know. I'll make sure to get you some.

Dow has a new equipment support program that will offer credits at dealers. Please contact me for more details about that great opportunity.

One last reminder for Bareground or gravel pit treatment acres, Dow's herbicide, Opensight, is labeled for 6.6oz/acre. That provides excellent control and residual. Opensight allows for those acres to be hayed or grazed as well. Opensight is also on the equipment program. For more questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & CPS Timberland Division

Perspective: Still not labeled for haying and grazing. EPA is now asking federal agencies if they need the product, and what quantities they would use. Reminder, Perspective is currently labeled, it just has a 1 year haying and grazing restriction.

Bayer does have a product called Method 240SL. It is liquid Perspective, without escort and telar mixed with it. Does an excellent job on Leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Bayer will probably package it in 2x2.5. Rate: 12oz/acre, approximately \$325/gallon. Expect a slight increase in 2016 on this product. But remember again, 1 year haying and grazing restriction as well.

Graslan L from Dow is an excellent chemical. The 2-4D in it is a little more active than regular 2-4D. This premix may be the future.

Milestone still has a government agency attachment. Prices will remain stable, but retail prices will increase by 1% or \$3/gallon.

BASF: One salesperson in the entire US. He is an office person. Prices for Plateau and Overdrive should remain stable in 2016.

Other chemicals used by weed boards should remain fairly stable.

Butterflies and Bees: Be very careful out there next season. Milkweed and pollinator plants. Hot topics. Watch what and how you spray.

CPS: 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. Our warehouse in Spearfish is run by two of the best, Jesse and John. We can extend bid prices from 2015 to 2016. Feel free to contact me or the warehouse anytime.

Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply.

Thanks for your business, in the past and into the future. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call. The chemical industry is an ever changing market. Thanks for allowing me to take part of this day.

Extension: Jackie Buckley, Morton County Extension Agent

The city of Mandan has hired a code officer. Job duties include working on weed issues. They plan on appointing a weed board in the near future. They do not plan on doing any spraying, but they will contract that out.

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist.

Biocontrol:

Leafy spurge collections 8 field days: McKenzie, Billings (3), Stutsman, Grant, Stark and Benson 900,000 total beetles collected.

Yellow toadflax: 6 biocontrol sites – established in 2 sites near Minot, continue to monitor

Spotted knapweed: 1 site in Golden Valley County, continue to monitor

Weed Seed Free Forage: 2015 – 14 inspectors, 46 inspections, 7519.9 acres inspected, 28,887 tags issued, and 1311 bales used the purple and yellow approved twine.

At the NAISMA conference, some changes to the weed list was made. Also, they are looking for a new twine vendor. The department may seek one themselves.

Commissioner Weed Forum: Jan 5, 2016 - Free to the public – free noon meal –WEED OFFICER IS REQUIRED, UNDER STATE LAW, TO ATTEND –the board may send a board member, if the weed officer cannot attend. SOMEONE MUST ATTEND!!

Annual Weed Survey: Due Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do not copy and paste from last year's report? Double check names and addresses on report, to make sure they are correct, as this is the directory, not only for the department, but for the association as well.

Funding: NOGA'S (Notice of Grant Awards) have been sent out. Several counties in this area have not signed and returned the forms. These are the new forms that have to be signed for you to receive state funding, whether it be LAP or TAG.

TAG: All weed boards qualify, \$5,000/counties, \$2,000/cities No longer need prior approval, unless questionable. Grant periods: July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017.

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. Landowners must contribute 20% total cost of chemical and or in-kind. Grant period July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, July 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016. Only \$18,000 were returned to EARP last biennium. Good Job Everyone!!

NAISMA Report: Derrill Fick – read by Merlin

NASIMA Report: Derrill Fick

Many biological agents were discussed. Over the years there have been many weeds that have had bio agents used for their control. There is still continued research from overseas companies that are looking for new bio agents so we have more options for weed control.

A program called Play, Clean, Go was discussed which is a program designed to help prevent the spread of Invasive species. No matter what you are doing: working, hunting, or recreational activities they idea is to be aware of any weeds that might be stuck to you, your animals or to your vehicles so you do not spread them to other areas.

While listening to some NAISMA members from Canada at this meeting in Vancouver it became very apparent that us as chemical applicators have to be very diligent in the way we apply our chemicals. The Canadian government has restricted or taken away the use of many chemicals that are used by weed control people. We must be thankful for what we can do and what we use as long as we follow the label and do exactly as prescribed or we will be down to injecting chemicals into plants with a syringe as they do in Vancouver!!

There will be more detailed updates at the annual meeting on these and other topics that were discussed at this meeting. I just wanted to make everyone aware that the worst case scenario, short of not doing anything in weed control, is already happening in some areas.

As President of the Association I just wanted to thank everyone attending these area meetings for their continued support of the association and to continue the great job of weed control despite the challenges of the weather and other day to day activities in weed control.

New Business:

Elections:

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Can only be from areas II, III & V:

There have been no nominations so far.

Jim nominated Jo Ashley, from Velva, Area II. Merlin will contact her to see whether she accepts.

Government: David Hirsch has been nominated earlier. Dave said that he would accept the position again, if elected in January. No other nominations

Industry: Bill Walker and Mike Schalla have been nominated earlier. No other nominations

Poster Contest: Gary read letter from Dan Dew, 2015 NDWCA education chairman

The information should be out to the schools by the end of October. He is requesting that the posters be returned to him by Friday, December 11. Any questions can be also directed to Dan.

By Laws: Merlin read the change to the bylaws. This will be voted on at the annual business meeting. There will be a definition added to the definitions defining calendar year.

Resolutions: None were brought forward.

KFYR Agri-International – Feb 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Mike Schalla has indicated that he would be willing to sponsor the booth fees again. Thank you Mike!

Everyone was in agreement to have a booth again this coming year.

Traveling Award: Morton County.

Other Business:

Pesticide Issues: Merlin

Merlin summarized an article concerning the banning of certain pesticides in a county in the state of Maryland. Issues like these are beginning to occur across the country. We as applicators need to be aware of our surroundings, and be good stewards.

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

James Haux moved to adjourn the meeting, Kevin Schmidt seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary