

## NDWCA Area V Minutes

Slope County Courthouse, Amidon, ND

Yet to be approved

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Area Director, Joan Lorge called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Bowman, Slope and McKenzie. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Schalla, DOW, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: Merlin – pesticide use

2014 area V minutes were reviewed. Tim moved to approve the minutes as presented, Randy 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:**

Bowman County: submitted by Randy Gaebe

Noxious weed Controlled: **CANADA THISTLE**, Houndstongue, Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Wormwood, Babysbreath, Black Henbane, Musk thistle, Scotch thistle.

Activities: ROW applications – 2x on many roads, private land custom application – 70 landowners>440 acres, public land custom application – Corps of Eng.>22 acres: ND Game & Fish; County Water District>14 acres, public land targeted grazing – Corps of Eng. And ND Game & Fish>400 acres.

Cost share programs: (\$1,500 maximum per landowner)

1. 25% cost share on custom application – 70 landowners>440 acres
2. 80% cost share on Milestone sales in mid-June and throughout the summer – 103 landowners=213 quarts Milestone: estimated 1,000 acres (all values 4 times higher than last year)
3. 100% reimbursement on noxious weed herbicide cost with at least 20% in kind effort. (10 participants on 873 acres) \$8,300 reimbursed
4. 25% reimbursement on noxious weed herbicide application equipment: up to \$550 per operation. – 13 landowners = \$3,628 in cost share
5. 50% reimbursement for Helicopter application on difficult terrain: 36 landowners on 2,558 acres

Slope County: submitted by Joan Lorge

Our Houndstongue program grew again this year, with 2 new producers getting involved. We now have 7 active participants in the program and 2 others that are every other year participants. With Houndstongue, we offer 80 – 20 cost share, on both chemical and application. If we hire the applicator, or we do in kind, and let the landowners have the herbicide if they apply it themselves.

We again treated spotted knapweed in Marmarth, going over the same areas but are finding less every year.

We treated more miles of ROW for Canada thistle this year, than we ever have before. We are seeing good results from the past couple of years, using Milestone and getting to cover more acres, because we don't have to treat those acres again the next year.

Our fall cost – share was the largest that we have ever had, with over 40 landowners taking part in the program. We cost share Curtail, Forefront, Milestone, Plateau, and Tordon in the fall, with most people getting the Canada thistle control products.

McKenzie County: submitted by Amber Higgins

Canada thistle is a major problem. Had trouble killing wormwood with Milestone. Hellfire (chemical) is a bad problem. We found as the season went on, that we were not getting enough chemical on the plants. Our rates given to us by the previous sprayer, are too low. We are seeing a lot of Salt cedar along the Yellowstone River. Gravel and scoria trucks are spreading weed seeds as well. Mullen is becoming a huge problem.

Billings County: Submitted later for attaching to minutes

January 7-9 Les Simnionw and Katie Clyde attended the North Dakota Weed Control Associations Annual Meeting in Bismarck. Multiple other weed boards attended the meeting, where we heard from guest speakers and multiple panels, including a gravel panel that discussed how other counties were trying to help control the spread of noxious weeds by inspecting and certifying gravel pits and rock piles.

In late January Les and Katie teamed up with the Golden Valley Weed Board at the Medora Beef Days. They spoke with Billings County landowners and other landowners from around the area, along with several agencies from around the state. Kevin Sedivec a range specialist was there speaking about reclaiming land after oil activity, pipelines installation, and other reclamation procedures. Les and Katie visited with him about how landowners could help protect their land from noxious or invasive species being introduced in the reclamation process. Kevin explained that the best way for landowners to protect themselves was to have a contract in place before the land was disturbed that strictly stated how the land must be reclaimed and who was responsible for controlling noxious and invasive species if they appeared after the land was reclaimed. Many Billings County Landowners expressed interest in this process.

In March the BCWCB met with Whiting Oil and Gas and their contractor sprayers for 2015, and Carmen Waldo from the U.S. Forest Service. Katie and Les spoke about some areas of concern within Billing County where they would like to see more being done by Whiting. The contractors in charge of those areas exchanged cell phone numbers with Katie and Les and asked if they could be contacted if we noticed any areas of concern in the 2015 summer.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> Katie and Les attended the Medora Grazing Associations Annual Meeting, at the Medora town Hall. They brought with them multiple plant displays, A Guide to North Dakota Noxious and Troublesome Weeds Booklets, and sign up sheets for landowners to sign up for Leafy spurge Flea Beetles collections and for summer spraying. There were several landowners from Billings and Golden Valley County that attended this meeting and spoke with Katie and Les about weed control.

The BCWCB started out its season with eleven seasonal employees, nine of which were first year sprayers. Due to the fact that almost all the seasonal employees were new to the weed control program, there was a lot of training that needed to be done before they could spray on individual crews. Most of June the spray crews teamed up on jobs, so that the new employees had at least one person with experience with them at all times. This seemed to work very well and helped the BCWCB finish jobs more quickly. Equipment that was used in the 2015 spray season was five one ton pickups, three UTV units with sprayers, and one three quarter ton pickup.

Les and Katie started spraying the chip seal along the road and bridge maintained roads in late April. The edges of the chip seal were sprayed to prevent grass from growing up into the road and cracking the pavement, all the county maintained chip seal was treated. In May the BCWCB began spraying Black Henbane along Franks Creek road that was seeded with grass in late summer 2014, the Black Henbane was not sprayed in the fall of 2014 along Franks Creek Road because Les and Jeff Iverson thought it would kill the newly seeded grass and the Black Henbane would not make a seed until the following year. The Black Henbane was treated in May 2015 and was killed without harming the grass. BCWCB decided to perform the same treatment on the new road that was built in summer 2015 along Franks Creek in hopes of letting the grass get a head start and the Black Henbane will be treated in spring 2016 before it makes seed. Other roadways with Black Henbane were also treated in May along with Hoary Cress and Hounds tongue infestations. There was a new infestation of Hounds tongue found at the Medora Bible Camp this summer. The BCWCB started spraying Leafy Spurge in mid-June and continued treating it throughout the summer along with Common burdock, Canada thistle, and Absinth wormwood. With all the nice weather this fall Katie was able to spray Leafy spurge and Canada thistle up until late October.

In late June and early July Kay Poland assisted the BCWCB in hosting field days to collect Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles. Billings County hosted three Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle fields days this summer two of which had two collections in one day. Multiple agencies and private landowners attended to collect Flea Beetles for the control of Leafy Spurge. A total of 660,000 Flea Beetles were collected. Some of the agencies involved include the U.S. Forest Service, ND Game and Fish, Mckenzie County Weed Board, Golden Valley Weed Board, Aphis, and the ND Dept. of Agriculture. Billings County Weed Board redistributed 65,000 Flea Beetles throughout the Little Missouri Grasslands within Billings County. This is not including beetles that were redistributed by the Private Landowners, Forest Service, Aphis, Golden Valley County, Mckenzie County, ND Game and Fish, and the ND Dept. of Agriculture employees. 2015 was a great year for Flea beetle collections; there were a lot more people that showed up for these events then in the past. Billings County hopes to continue improving these events in upcoming summers.

In 2015 we noticed an increase in weed populations throughout the County and it is believed this is due to all the moisture received in the 2014 summer, the residual that we often have from some of the chemicals did not hold in the soil due to all the moisture. This may be why you may have seen more weeds this year than previous years.

Katie and Les both renewed there certification with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture this spring to be able to certify gravel and rock piles for Billings County. Throughout the summer they worked with Jeff Iverson to inspect new gravel and rock piles and re-inspect existing ones. BCWCB continued working with the zoning board to inspect property before allowing construction or disturbance of the land in 2015. There were not as many requests for inspection in 2015 as 2014 due to decreased oil activity, but the County is still actively using this program.

Agencies:

Government report: None

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.

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

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.

Elections:

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

Jo Ashley, Area II has been nominated so far. No other nominations

Government: David Hirsch has been nominated. No other nominations

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

Poster Contest:

Merlin read the letter from Dan Dew, 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.

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, Joan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Gene moved to adjourn the meeting, Tim seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11.40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary