

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan

January 4th & 7th, 2016

Yet to be Board Approved

President Derrill Fick called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Members present were Joan Lorge, Ron Manson, Leon Pederson, Brent Nelson, Dan Dew, Kevin Schmidt, Jim McAllister, Chelsey Penuel, Stan Wolf, Cass County, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Additional agenda items were: Doug Goehring will join us later in the meeting.

Later joining the meeting were Elvin Johnson, Nelson County, and Doug Goehring, ND Agriculture Commissioner.

Merlin read the September minutes. Joan moved to approve the minutes, Leon seconded the motion. M/C

Pizza Hut delivered. Break for pizza.

Merlin read the financial report and the budget. Kevin moved to approve the financial report and forward the budget, as presented, to the annual business meeting. Dan seconded the motion. M/C

At this time, Commissioner Goehring joined the meeting. Introductions were held.

Commissioner Goehring thanked the board for the opportunity to visit with them, before the annual meeting.

There will be approximately 5% in cuts in the overall department budget, due to less oil revenue coming into the state coffers. The noxious weed division, gets its funding out of the EARP fund, so Doug foresees no cuts to our funding. But, there is always the possibility that some other need could arise, and the legislature could look towards the EARP fund as a revenue source. We all will need to be aware of that, and remain vigilant. The proposed EPA regulations were discussed at quite length. The NDWCA has submitted a letter of opposition to the proposal. The deadline has been moved to Jan. 22, for submitting letters. Doug recommends that everyone on the board should send a letter opposing this new proposal. Merlin mentioned that we have it on the agenda as a presentation on Thursday morning.

Ron asked the commissioner what the association can do to make not only us an association, but all the counties in the state, look better to everyone. Ron continued to say that he feels that all counties should be on a level playing field. The commissioner agrees 100% with that idea, but how can that happen, when you have 53 counties, running their programs 53 different ways. We need more communications, among counties themselves, but also with the Ag. Department. Doug mentioned that his staff has a hard time communicating with a few counties, when their calls and letters get no response.

Leon brought up the fact that in certain counties, the county commissioners are the weed boards. This is a major concern. In some counties, one or more commissioners are on the weed board. If they are a non-voting member of the board, that would be fine, but in some cases they are voting members. Doug understands the problem, especially when the entire weed board consists of the county commissioners. A lot more discussion on this should take place.

Discussion took place on changes to the noxious weed law last session, in the tax committees. Shall was removed in some instances, and may was inserted. This will be looked at to see what needs to happen, a bill next session, to correct these.

At this time, Elvin Johnson, Nelson County, met with the board and Commissioner Goehring, with his county's concerns regarding notices for roadside spraying. Also, what kind of notices should be given? Consensus of the board and Commissioner Goehring, is to put three notices ahead of the spraying season, in the official county paper, and or in NRCS or other newsletters.

Commissioner Goehring then asked what the board feels should be in a letter to county commissioners on duties of a county weed board and the weed officer. Doug feels that the state needs to get firmer to the counties, on what the weed boards, or lack of, what they are doing.

Bill asked the commissioner who receives funding from EARP. Bill does not want to see the funds used for non-agricultural use. The commissioner assured Bill that they are used strictly used towards agriculture needs.

At this time the commissioner thanked everyone for the time to be at the meeting, as could not stay, as he had another meeting to attend.

Committee Reports:

Education: Dan Dew, education chairman, stated that 9 schools participated in the poster contest, sending him 43 posters. The board is invited to stick around after the meeting to sort these down to ten, to be voted on, over the next three days. The winner will be presented a plaque and the entire class will receive t-shirts with the winning poster printed on the front of the t-shirt.

Chelsey mentioned that there may be funds available for a matching grant to redo the 5 area education boards. It could be 50% match or higher.

NAISMA: Derrill is off the board. At the Vancouver Conference, they were shown different bio-control results on different weeds by Cabi. They toured a park in Vancouver, with many different weeds, and what control methods were taking place. A lot of chemical use restrictions in Canada.

Legislative: Merlin reiterated that changes need to happen to some of the wording in the noxious weed law. As far as Merlin can tell, no interim bills are being work on with weed law concerns. Leon mentioned that he wants to expand the legislative committee, to get more input, and to help with legislative issues.

Convention: The agenda is filled, with speakers in place. Meals are ordered, entertainment is hired. Merlin has everything in place with buses and the heritage center, for the tour. Needs to give final numbers to them on Tuesday afternoon. Have two buses, will probably need a third, as we have 50 signed up, with 22 as not marking down. Will ask them as they pick up their meeting packets. Pre-registration is up considerably from the last several years. The mild weather has helped. The lifetime achievement award this year goes to Wayne Colberg. He was the first association president, for two years, and then he became the first association executive secretary. He was one of several guys that helped organize and begin the weed association. He cannot attend, but his son Mike will attend on his behalf.

Agency Reports:

Government: Dave Hirsch cannot attend this year's annual meeting.

NDDA: Chelsey stated that they are ready for tomorrow, for the Commissioners forum, hope everyone can attend. They have Carol Randall and Sharlene Sing, from the US Forest Service. Also, Brad Brummond, will be speaking about organic farming/weed control.

A lot of [NOGAs or Notice of Grant Awards](#) have been received, some more left to come in. Only 6% of the LAP [and TAG](#) funds were returned back to the EARP fund. We need to continually improve on getting the funds used.

Industry: Bill Walker – Not a lot has happened since the September board meeting or even the October area meetings. Method is now available in 2X2 1/2 gallon containers, priced at \$311.04/gallon. Still has the same restrictions as Perspective. The Dow/DuPont merger was discussed. It should not affect our area, will wait and see. Tordon is under EPA review this year. That could be interesting.

OLD BUSINESS:

By Laws – Merlin read the proposed changes to the by-laws. They were brought to all 5 area meetings, for discussion. Leon moved to take the proposed by-law changes to the annual business meeting. Bill seconded the motion, M/C

Derrill asked Dan Dew to read the changes at the meeting.

Thursday noon lunch: Does the board want pizza, like last year, or order off the menu. Consensus was to order off the menu.

Other old business:

Dow is sponsoring the exhibit booth for Area IV at the KFYP Agrilnternational.

Being no other old business, Derrill transitioned the presidency to Leon, and Leon then recessed the meeting until Thursday at around noon.

Thursday, January 7th.

Leon Pederson, the 2016 President, called the meeting back to order at 12:00 pm.

Those present were Derrill, Kevin, Joan, Stan, Gary, Terry, Bill, Katie, Brent, Chelsey and Merlin

Introductions: New board members, Katie Clyde, Area V, new second vice president, Area I Director, Brent Nelson, Area II Director, Stan Wolf, and Area III Director, Terry Volk.
Congratulations and welcome to the 2016 NDWCA Board of Directors.

Additional agenda items: pamphlets for weed boards, committee assignments, and Leon's meeting with Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Secretary's contract for 2016. As is in the budget, the wages cannot exceed \$7,200/year. Also as stated in the previous meeting minutes, Merlin will be paid \$40/month for use of his cell phone for association business. That needs not to be in actual contract. Kevin moved to hire Merlin for 2016 as the association secretary for \$7,200. Joan seconded the motion. M/C Contracts were signed.

Convention: The tour of the Heritage Center went well, with 65 people on the tour. Beer & Brat - \$4,200 Gross. We had 115 registered. 11 women attended the women's luncheon, 107 at the banquet, and 99 at the luncheon... Overall, one of the largest conventions in recent years.

Merlin will make sure speakers give bios' ahead of time.

Discussion on jackets. Will get a company lined up to take orders at the area meetings, and in the October newsletter, to have them in time for the annual meeting.

Upcoming meeting dates were set: March 29th – 9:00 am, June 28th – 9:00am, September 27th - 9:00 am, January 9th – 6:00 pm. All these meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. Merlin will get the rooms booked. Also, he will reserve a small block of rooms for those who need to come in the night before.

Area meetings: October 24 – Minot –Area III, October 25 – Devils Lake – Area I, October 26 – Valley City – Area II, October 27 – Mandan – Area IV, October 28 – Amidon – Area V. All start times will be at 9:00 am, local time.

Leon: He was over at the capital and met with Commissioner Doug Goehring and also Deputy Commissioner Tom Bodine. They discussed various issues. One being the language in the century code were certain words were shall, and now are may. They see that some changes need to take place.

Another issue concerns why the law only requires one meeting for a weed board in a year. Leon feels that it should be four. The commissioner feels that one is not enough, and a possible law change may need to happen. Other ideas were concerns of some landowners not controlling

their weeds, weed boards, active and non- active. More discussion and meetings will take place on these matters, especially as we get closer to the next legislative session.

Pamphlets: Discussed various ideas on building a pamphlet, about the size of the annual meeting booklets, for weed boards/weed officers, to have as a guideline for everything from their duties, to conducting a meeting.

Each of the area directors need to bring back ideas to the next board meeting in March.

Merlin enlightened the board about a phone call he received from Daryl Zarak. He is on the Stark County Weed Board, and also with the ND Farmers Union. He has concerns with weed control on well sites. He would like to see eradication of noxious weeds on these sites. He would like the weed law to reflect this. Merlin invited him to our March board meeting, for more discussion. What Merlin has heard so far, his views are not necessarily those of the Stark County Weed Board?

Committees: Leon asked Derrill, as immediate past president to also be on the legislative committee, along with the executive board and Merlin.

Education Committee: Dan Dew has expressed interest not to be on the committee any longer. Leon appointed Derrill as the new chairman. Leon also stated that the entire association board is now on the education committee.

Annual Meeting Committee: Katie Clyde, as second vice president, is the chairperson. Stan, Area II director, is on the committee, Derrill, as education committee chairman, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold.

Area II is this year's area for hosting the annual meeting.

No further business was brought forward.

Joan moved to adjourn the meeting, Brent seconded the motion. M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold
Executive secretary