

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

June 27th, 2017

Yet to be Board Approved

President Kevin Schmidt called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Members present were Kevin Schmidt, Joan Lorge, Bill Walker, Terry Volk, Brent Nelson, Jamen Windish, Stan Wolf, Katie Clyde, Derrill Fick, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Website:

Kevin turned the meeting over to Katie, who introduced Mike Renner, from Up & Running Website Design. Katie has been in contact with Mike concerning a new website. Mike gave a brief overview and benefits to our association. Pages could include a noxious weed database, donation button, showcase of vendors, events calendar, third party store, directory of the board and counties/cities, about the organization, area for minutes, etc.

Excellent discussion. They offer maintenance for the site, monthly for 15 minutes. Content updates (host) could be updated by someone from the board. One feature could also be where you click on a county, and information from that county would come up. Their website is upandrunningdesign.net. Minimum of \$3,000 setup fee, plus an annual maintenance fee of approximately \$475.00, for 5 hours work. They could also be the host, but that would be part of the 5 hours. Takes approximately 4-8 weeks to set up.

A third-party store, they charge per transaction a fee.

They can scale a project to meet an organization's budget. We could sell advertising to help pay for the site. The sites are also secured towards hacking. Kevin thanked Mike for coming.

Thoughts:

Stan – could possibly have local contractors advertise on the site. NDDA funding – nothing currently. Grants are federal dollars, and nothing now. Chelsey if this type of project would even fit towards a grant.

Terry - any web site. After you look at it a few times, if nothing has changed, it becomes old. There are good points to this new site, and a lot of things to watch out for. A website can become too elaborate as well. Our current website has a counter as well. Maybe a simple site could be best. Homestead.com is a national company. Terry built our current site. It's a do-it-yourselfer site.

Brent – Montana's website is nice, but once you have checked it out, and go back, nothing has changed.

We could table it until the September meeting, giving us time to check out sites up and running has done, and check other folks that set up web sites.

We need one person that puts everything on the site throughout the year.

We could also check with the association of counties for a web design.

Several places are available for clothes, etc. Possibly have pictures on the website from different areas of the state, for the plants to look different than on NDSU website.

Tabled until the September meeting.

Additional agenda items were: none

Minutes were reviewed. Brent moved to approve the minutes as presented, Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, memberships paid so far, and the budget update. Katie moved to approve the financial report, Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. Sprayer schools were well attended. Over 150 people attended the three sessions. Bill did calibrations, NDDA gave updates. Excellent feedback. Carrington attendance was up, but Minot and Dickinson was way up. Thanks to the host counties, and to the meal sponsors, DOW, CPS and Bayer. Discussion on how to get attendance on the eastern side of the state higher. Do we move the site? If so, where?

Earth Day was April 20th at BSC in Bismarck. Katie, Jamen, Leon and Derrill attended. The new banners were nice to have.

Jamen: Banners are done, and given to all the areas. Ron will send Merlin the bill, so we can get the grant from NDDA. Those that have used them, like them.

Poster contest: Stan went to Carson. The students had fake an injury day that day. Stan had a walking cast on from his foot surgery, giving the impression to the students he was doing it for them. Pizza was well received furnished by the Grant County Weed Board.

Legislative: Merlin gave a summary on what is going on in the legislature. Session has ended, budget passed unscathed, as far as we are concerned.

Concluding thoughts to the board: The board needs to find out what counties need for LAP. Merlin keeps hearing from counties, needing more funds. Bill asked who receives EARP funds. Merlin will ask Ken Junkert and get it to the board.

When should we gather the information from the counties? Merlin feels we should have the information by the annual conference. Bring it up at the area meetings, and get it compiled by January to present to Commissioner Goehring at that time. Chelsey gets figures from counties, but not everyone needs everything in to Chelsey, if not needed.

Outreach: Leon not in attendance.

Kevin called for a short 10-minute break.

Agency Reports:

Government: David Hirsch could not be here today. Kevin read his report to the board.

Leafy Spurge: Covering as many Spurge Beetle Days as we can.

Purple Loosestrife: Working to obtain Gallurelcella beetles from the SD Dept. of Corrections to augment releases made last year north of Mandan along the Missouri River. I hope to be returning from my trip with the bugs.

Yellow Toadflax: Attended the monitoring of several yellow toad flax biocontrol sites near Burlington, Ward Co.

Results of monitoring:

There is successful establishment of *Mecinus janthinus*.

Populations have grown considerably since last year.

It is hopeful the sites may be producing harvestable populations in the next few years.

Damaged and killed plants are common at the sites.

This weevil is providing very good yellow toadflax control in Montana.

More releases are planned.

NDDA: Chelsey Penuel gave the NDDA report. Plant Protection has a new division director. His name is Scott Hochhalter. Comes from NDSU, where he was a soil conservation specialist, that worked with soil conservation districts. The department has a new website design.

New biennium starts July 1. No new numbers as of this time, however expecting similar numbers to last year. Sees no change in numbers. Old biennium is coming to an end. Applying for new forest service grants again, similar to past grants. Lane is trying to get to all the flea beetle days. In mid-July, we will be getting spotted knapweed insects. Get applications in soon. Lastly, flea beetle sorters, which were made at Roughrider Industries, if you need some, get ahold of Chelsey, and so she can move forward with them. Nets: NDDA has purchased them in the past from Gemplers, Bioquip, Forestry suppliers and others. Weed free forage, has been quiet, due to the drought. Some hay available, contact Lane.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report. Section 18 labeling. Bayer stated that Montana and Wyoming have tried, but were shot down by EPA. Bayer is working with EPA, for Method, for spot treating, not blanket treating. Rangeland compared to improved pasture. Improved pastures are irrigated and hayed, besides grazing. Rangeland looks better to get labeled. In Canada, it is improved for both. So, we need to be patient with the Section 18 right now. Compost rules are tougher in the US. Some shortages in certain chemicals. Perspective and Streamline is being phased out. When it's gone, it's gone. Method 2x21/2 and quarts as well. Less grass damage compared to Perspective due to the SU chemistry. The rest of the industry is smooth and quiet overall. Method rate is 6-8-ounce range.

OLD BUSINESS:

Iowa Conference: Katie, Leon and Bill went from the board. Ron Manson, from Stutsman county went as well. A wonderful time was had. Breakout sessions all day. Timed sessions. Different weed problems there from here, like garlic mustard, for one. Bill handed out the agendas, author bios. A very in-depth learning conference. A lot of government agency people attended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Range Camp: Do we want to sponsor Kevin Sedivic range camp again this year. It is \$500. We do budget for it. We don't sponsor a camper, just a blanket sponsorship for general costs. Bent moved to sponsor it again this year. Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Alvin Johnson letter: Alvin sent this to Dave Hirsch. Merlin made copies for everyone. It would change the law. Does it pertain to weed control? It looks like a township issue. Are these minimum maintenance roads or county roads? Merlin will call Alvin and talk to him. Check if it pertains to adding more roads to weed control. Could be a water board issue. Is he looking for easement roads to be added? Alvin brought it up in January to Commissioner Goehring. Commissioner Goehring stated it could be a water board issue. Alvin seems to disagree. Do we want to change the definitions of roads?

2019 Annual Conference Location: It would be held January 7 – 10, 2019. Bill moved to have it at the Ramada in Bismarck. Katie seconded the motion. M/C

Next meeting: September 26th, 10:00 am.

Terry Volk brought up a letter from Tim Semler, retired NDSU extension agent, concerning noxious weeds in CRP, and Federal Government rules. No action taken on this letter.

Being no further business, Jamen moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill seconded the motion. M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary

2018 Convention Planning Meeting

June 27th, 2017

Following board of directors meeting

Jamen Windish, 2nd Vice President, chairman on 2018 convention, presiding.

Others present, Stan Wolf, Bill Walker, Kevin Schmidt, Derrill Fick, Katie Clyde, Terry Volk, Chelsey Penuel, and Merlin Leithold

Area III is the host area this coming year.

Katie suggested the theme should be Neighbors helping Neighbors. We could get other agencies involved, such as Forest Service, Game & Fish, Corps, tribal lands, national park service, ND parks and Recs, ND School lands. We need to work with them, work across the fences, learn what they do, interaction with them. Can they travel? Panel discussion? Have it during the breakout sessions? Need strong moderators to cut people off if questions go south. Have the Federal agencies separate from state agencies? How can weed boards help the agencies.

Everyone agreed to the theme.

Will have breakout sessions. Need to contact speakers for the time slots.

Speakers normally that we have are Kevin Sedivic, Rod Lym, Andrew Thostenson.

Have a panel discussion, under general assembly, for the agencies. Have an hour panel discussion for Federal, and one for State.

Bill will check and see if he can get someone from Iowa to come and speak.

Three breakout sessions on Wednesday afternoon. Kevin was interested in doing it again. Have Tim from Warne Chemical do a breakout on winterizing your sprayer. Merlin will check with Tim

Vendor presentations cut to 30 minutes.

Need a luncheon speaker on Wednesday. Jamen would like to see a humorist for that. Merlin will check into it.

Wednesday's Women's luncheon – Merlin's wife will be working on it again.

Thursday banquet, Merlin has been in Cottonwood band, not 100% confirmed, but Merlin will let the board know. Bill will pay half the cost.

Let Jamen or Merlin know for breakout speakers.

Will meet again after the September board meeting.

Meeting adjourned!