

**(To be approved)**

**NDWCA 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 3:30 pm**  
**Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND**

The NDWCA Annual Business Meeting was called to order by 2017 President Kevin Schmidt at 3:48 pm, with 54 in attendance.

Additional agenda items: none

The 2017 minutes were reviewed. Joan Lorge, Slope County moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Manson, Stutsman County, seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Presidents Report**

President Schmidt thanked everyone for coming. Kevin acknowledged the board for all the hard work they have done during the past year. He asked them to stand. The board had 4 meetings, but Kevin could only attend 3 of them. The area meetings were held in October, attendance was generally very poor. If you are a county board member, or weed officer, you need to attend those meetings. Merlin, Dave, Chelsey, and Bill work hard to put these meetings on. They travel throughout the state to put these on. Discussion: When you are part time, there should be more lead time to letting everyone know when they are. Merlin said that let him know if you are not getting your e mail, as addresses change, and he doesn't know if you get the newsletter or not.

Being a county board member, it was a learning experience getting on the state board comprised mainly of weed officers. But it has been fun. In closing, Kevin invited everyone to enjoy the conference. The weather sounds like it is going to turn ugly, and hopefully everyone makes it home safely on Thursday.

**Financial Report**

Merlin presented the financial report. He highlighted various line items. Derrill Fick put the check register on the screen as well. Financially, we have grown again this year. The education committee purchased banners, with a partial grant. That is what the beer and brat social is for. Merlin explained the history of the youth savings account. Merlin also reviewed the final report for the 2017 Budget expenditures and income.

**Audit Report**

Chuck Weiser and Derrill Fick were the Audit Committee. They reviewed a portion of the books. Chuck reported that everything is in order and accurate.

Brent Nelson, Walsh County moved to approve the financial report. Elvin Johnson, Nelson County, seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Budget**

Merlin presented the budget for 2018. Steve Ginsbach, Richland County moved to accept the budget as presented, C J Pearce, Emmons County seconded the motion. **M/C**

## Education Report

Derrill Fick, chairman, gave the education report. Funds mostly come from the auction. Bid high and bid often. One project, is the poster contest. Make sure you judge the posters in the vendor room. The contest is for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the state. The winning student gets a plaque, all the students in the class get a t shirt with the winning poster printed on it. Stan goes to the winning school and puts on a program. Last year, the winner was from Carson, and the Grant County Weed Board purchased pizzas for the students. Sprayer schools were held last spring in Carrington, Minot and Dickinson. The NDDA pesticide inspectors showed what to expect when you get inspected. Chelsey gives a department update. We have ROW recertification and weed id. Bill Walker does sprayer calibration. Exchange of ideas from county to county as well. 133 total participants this year. Thanks to DOW, Bayer, CPS, Cavalier, Ward and Stark Counties for sponsoring the sites. Jamen spearheaded the banner project. Had a matching grant from the NDDA. 7 banners per area. 35 in total. They are there to be used by counties. Had a booth at the Earth Day show in Bismarck. Working on new pamphlets for the association. They will be available on the website to download and print.

## Legislative Report

Merlin gave a very brief legislative report. The NDDA budget, our portion passed unchanged. It was a quiet session for us. The pesticide rewrite had no changes affecting us. The upcoming session is less than a year away. LAP funding may be on the docket, just in discussion phases at this time. May have one concerning gravel/aggregate. We'll see how the resolutions turn out.

## Industry Report

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry director, CPS Timberland gave the state of the industry report for 2018. First, I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, or called when I had my surgery. I appreciate it very much.

Looking forward into the 2018 year I can tell you that **Bayer** will increase the pricing on some of their "Agency Priced" products Perspective Herbicide 2017 pricing \$87.04 per lb. 2018 pricing \$92.32 per lb. (all sizes) **Bayer is "Discontinuing" the production of Perspective Herbicide, only product available is what is in the distribution systems.** Streamline Herbicide 2017 pricing \$91.68 per lb. 2018 pricing \$97.12 per lb. (all sizes) **Bayer is "Discontinuing" the production of Streamline Herbicide, only product available is what is in the distribution systems.** Method 240 SL Herbicide 2017 pricing \$318.72 per gal. (2.5 gal. cont.) \$91.52 per quart No price changes on **Method 240 SL Herbicide** for 2018 Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide

2017 Pricing \$1,091.84 gal. (2.5 gal. cont.) \$303.36 quart

2018 Pricing \$1,113.60 gal. (2.5 gal. cont.) \$309.76 quart

All new pricing takes effect January 1, 2018 any product purchased and taken before that date would be at 2016 pricing All other products such as Escort XP, Telar XP, Krovar I DF, Oust XP, Oust Extra and others might see slight to no price increases for 2018

Haying and Grazing Outlook (Method 240 SL Herbicide)

**Method 240 SL Herbicide** received a supplemental labeling for application of Right-A Way sites that transect grazed sites in late 2017 (For Individual Plant Treatments on Vegetation Management Sites Transecting Grazed Areas, IPT)

While this is targeted at woody plants (brush) labeling also states – including many terrestrial and riparian invasive and noxious weeds

**DOW** has left the government pricing unchanged on the following products for 2018

**Milestone Herbicide** 2.5 gal. cont. \$277.00 per gallon

**Milestone Herbicide** 1-quart cont. \$70.75 per quart

**Milestone Herbicide** Bulk cont. \$277.00 per gallon

**Opensight Herbicide** – will have no price changes for 2018 still \$87.50 per lb. in all sizes

**Tordon 22K** - will have no price changes in 2018 and the special government pricing is still in effect, this special government pricing is not available from Ag retail dealers, COOPs and such

**Graslan L** - introduced in 2106 should have no increases in pricing for 2018, Graslan L has DOW's Choline based 2, 4-D in it, 2.5 pints per acre of Graslan L is equal to using 1-pint Tordon 22K and 1 quart 2, 4-D amine per acre

**Vastlan** - is moving forward, DOW's new 4 lb. be gallon Triclopyr made with Choline acid, has "WARNING" labeling as compared to the older formulation of Garlon 3A (3 lb. per gallon product), that has a "DANGER" labeling.

**Vastlan** has all the same labeling as the Garlon 3A product, using reduced rates to get same control, aquatic application labeling. **Curtail** has seen some slight price increase in 2018, about a 5% increase or so.

**DOW** introduced **Freelexx** in 2017. **Freelexx** pricing for 2018 has taken about a 15% price increase, that puts its pricing right up with a 6# Ester type costs (\$20.00 per gallon range)

Again:

It is their new Choline acid based 2, 4-D

Is a new and innovative form of 2, 4-D amine that works like a light Ester type product

Claims it will have reduced volatility when compared to traditional forms of 2, 4-D, and it does

Claims it will be lower odor than many other 2, 4-D products, and it is

Claims better cold handling characteristics for storage

**Seamless/Monsanto** – we have seen the glyphosate pricing creeping up since mid-2017, expected to continue upward through early 2018

This will really depend upon the off-shore generic markets as to how much prices increase

If you are using products such as **Roundup Pro Concentrate** or **Roundup Custom** (aquatic glyphosate) these have had about a \$2.60 per gallon increase so far and expected to go up

Some of their dry products like **Roundup Quick Pro** will have a 3% to 5% pricing increase as well

Surfactants, Drift Control Products, Dyes and other additives.

What we see here on the companies that have put out their pricing for 2018 is that most all pricing is stable from 2017 to 2018, we should see almost no price increases to minimal price increases (only 3% to 5% on some select products)

2, 4-D type products have seen a slight price increase starting about mid-season in 2017 (2.5% or so, so far), while this looks like it has stabled off we really will not know until cropping season starts in 2018 as to where these go

Glyphosates again are showing price increases and again these started about mid 2017 season, we have seen increases on all types (generic and branded) up about \$1.50 to \$2.60 per gallon so far, depending upon the off-shore supplies we could see some more increases before the season starts

Interesting product to possibly try in 2018:

**E-2 Herbicide** – NuFarm product                      Approx. \$36.50 per gal. - 2.5 gal. cont.

Mixture of 2,4-D amine, dicamba and Fluroxypyr, Leafy Spurge in sensitive sites, tree belts, inner-city sites

### **EPA says herbicide in Roundup weed killer doesn't cause cancer, contradicting California regulators**

December 18, 2017 Geoffrey Mohan, Los Angeles Times

The federal Environmental Protection Agency on Monday said glyphosate, the primary ingredient in the weed killer Roundup and one of the most widely used herbicides in agriculture, likely does not cause cancer.

The assessment contradicts the conclusion of a European scientific panel as well as California regulators, who have included the chemical on the Proposition 65 list of probable carcinogens.

Environmentalists worldwide have fought to encourage governments to ban or strictly limit use of the pesticide.

The European Union in November voted to extend the license of the chemical for five years. EPA will be considering a similar extension of the product's registration for use in 2019, and Monday's draft assessment is a foundational document in that process

The controversy over the chemical is tied to opposition to genetically modified crops (GMOs), Monsanto (which is merging with agrochemical giant Bayer) has patented versions of several major commodity crops that have been altered to resist its patented Roundup weed killer.

The Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups fighting to limit use of glyphosate, said the EPA had been unduly swayed by the chemical's manufacturer.

The only way the EPA could conclude that glyphosate poses no significant risks to human health was to only analyze industry studies and ignore its own guidelines when estimating cancer risk, said Nathan Donley, a senior scientist for the group.

The National Assn. of Wheat Growers, one of several groups suing California over its Proposition 65 decision, said the EPA's conclusion further isolates the state, **which relied on "unscientific findings" from the World Health Organization's cancer review panel.**

Glyphosate is sprayed on more than 200 crops across 4 million acres in California, including 1.5 million acres of almonds, making it the most widely used herbicide, according to the state Department of Pesticide Regulation, a branch of the state EPA.

## Dicamba issues:

Dicamba drift and volatilization issues were a real deadly problem in 2017 and are expected to be worse in 2018 and the next few years to come

Problem stemming from NEW dicamba resistant GMO Soy Beans and crops

The new Dicamba products for these crops NOW have a “Restricted” use designation and require special dicamba –specific training and exam before applying

Engina, Xtendimax with Vapor Grip Technology and Fexapan are all new for the GMO ‘s and have restricted use labeling

We do not know if the Restricted use labeling will bleed over to the other current labeled dicamba’s as well (Rifle, Banvil, Strut, Diablo, Clarity, Vanquish, Overdrive and many others)

SO – Let’s take a minute and talk about this and how it might affect you

First, I realize many of you are using “Overdrive” in your spraying operations, let’s understand that Overdrive Herbicide is a “dicamba” product and the dicamba that is used in Overdrive is “NOT” a lower volatile product, they use a regular ester type dicamba such as Banvil and do not use a Clarity type (amine formulation) for the dicamba

In the areas where you are contending with Soy Beans and the huge possibility of 50% or more of those areas in 2018 being the so called dicamba resistant varieties being planted, you will not only have to deal with the coming storm with these but with many other broadleaf crops such as Potatoes, Sugar Beets, Canola, Alfalfa, Lentils, Non-GMO Soy Beans and Wheat and Tree Belts and much, much more with possible increased dicamba damage complaints.

I realize that Overdrive does bring some better control to the table when coupled with Tordon 22K and some other products but, I am not sure that I would chance the use of the product for the next couple of years until they actually refine the dicamba’s being used or the GMO crops.

Any dicamba found in any crop that you or your contractors spray along or by, will be brought directly to you, weather you are using a dicamba product or not.

I have already seen this in 2017 and the so-called crop advisors steer blame away from anything they have done to the county or state applicators and, blaming them for anything that shows up. I see this first hand several times in 2017 and we are not even in the big storm yet, (3 different events in Iowa and the product that damaged the beans was the product actually sprayed on the Soy Beans for weed control, Sonic Herbicide)

But the crop applicator blamed the county for the spraying damages until disproved, the complaint was a direct result of the ever increasing dicamba complaints in 2017.

I would really look at switching your programs away from any dicamba type product usage for the next year or so unless absolutely necessary and switch over to other products such as Freelexx, Escort XP, Tordon 22K, Milestone, Method 240 SL, Opensight and others that have little or no volatility (physical drift can still be an issue with any pesticide application).

I would **“NOT”** apply any dicamba type product in the late spring, summer or early fall or until all crops have started to turn or have been harvested, I would not spray any dicamba type product once any crop has started to emerge in the spring and even make the decision to stop dicamba applications a week or so before crop emergence or seeing planting.

**I would keep excellent spraying records on all areas applied and what was used on those sites, especially if the product has a dicamba in it.**

If control is a concern (and it is) then you could up your Tordon 22K rates to 1 quart and add 1 quart of Freelexx per acre rates, in most cases this is probably jumping your Tordon 22K rates up but this would give you some better residuals on your Leafy Spurge and others, many of you run 1 pint of Tordon 22K and 1 quart 2, 4-D amine on your normal spraying so even 1 pint of Tordon 22K and 1 quart of Freelexx would give you adequate control on the Leafy Spurge and others (but not quite the same as Overdrive/Tordon 22K) and should almost eliminate volatility issues but, will “NOT” eliminate physical drift possibilities.

Also with the introduction of the Method 240 SL Supplemental Labeling now this might help out in some of your areas for Leafy Spurge control as well, 7 to 8 ounces per acre along with a good surfactant does quite well on Leafy Spurge “BUT” you still cannot apply to areas that might be hayed without setting aside for 365 days and, it is a spot spray application only in the areas that it could be used (ROW areas that transect grazed lands).

As always, if mainly treating Canada Thistle problems then I would suggest Milestone or even Opensight Herbicides for this application, we greatly reduce any volatility issues with these products and Freelexx could always be added to either of these products to increase weed control especially if Leafy Spurge is in the areas.

It would not be perfect on Leafy Spurge, but it would help until you could possibly do a fall treatment with Plateau or another product combination such as Tordon 22K and Overdrive then.

As the dicamba issues move forward, we as roadside managers for weed control, should look at some alternatives for now that “DO NOT” include any types of dicamba’s, especially in areas where these types of crops will be grown.

## **JUST THINK ABOUT IT**

### **NDDA Report**

Chelsey is not in attendance.

### **Government Report**

Dave Hirsch, NDWCA Government Director, USDA APHIS, PPQ, gave the government report. Federal budget is not settled. Therefore, their budget is not settled either. Hoping to help this coming summer with bio-control field days. But currently, not quite sure, all depending on the budget.

### **2017 Field Season Highlights:**

#### **Budget:**

- APHIS Biocontrol funding for APHIS was stable for the 2017 fiscal year.
- The 2018 Federal Budget has not been finalized. It’s hoped PPQ will be able to participate in field day activities again in 2018.

#### **Hound’s tongue biocontrol:**

- No further news on when the permit for this biocontrol agent will be issued and materials become available for ND. Biocontrol scientists are using extra care to make sure the application

is complete and host specificity studies are well documented. This will help the chances of the agent application being approved.

**Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol:**

- One year ago, PPQ released a foliage feeding beetle for the control of purple loosestrife at a large infestation along the Missouri river in Morton County. Insects were obtained from the South Dakota Dept. of Corrections from insect rearing ponds at Yankton, SD. The harvested insects were containerized and transported to the Morton Co. site by canoe. Plans were to augment the sites with additional insects in 2017 but production at the SD insectary was low and they were not able to supply ND. The loosestrife infestation at the site remains high and future releases will be needed. An order of insects for next season has already been made.

**Leafy Spurge Biocontrol:**

- PPQ participated in 4 flea beetle field days. In general, the average flea beetle population across ND would be considered “good” this season. The number of Field day events and opportunities remain relatively low across the state with notable exception in a few counties. Demand for beetles remains high. An informal survey of random spurge site I conducted show spurge beetles occur in nearly all sites checked however many sites had low numbers and would benefit by additional releases. Several sites I monitored show good spurge control from beetles.

**Yellow Toadflax Biocontrol:**

- Insect populations at several toadflax sites near Minot were evaluated. A growing population of toadflax stem weevils was noted at several sites. Insects appear to be well established. Further releases are planned to help the sites continue to develop into harvestable populations over the next few years. A major milestone could be achieved if agents could be harvested locally. Locally grown insects would be better adapted to the ND climate, their lifecycle would be in sync with local weed development and establish better following redistribution.

**Canada Thistle Biocontrol Agent Release Approved:**

- A leaf rust disease (*Puccinia punctiformis*) has been approved for general redistribution in the US. Establishment and redistribution techniques have been worked out for the disease. Good success has been achieved in many locations in Colorado. The PPQ Permit to receive biocontrol agents has been updated and we are ready for next summer.

Dave is hopeful to get some for every area in the state. The bigger the site the better. River bottom areas with dew at night, possibly even wooded areas. Houndstongue: this summer they may be able to make an application for a permit to release biocontrol. Closer, but no promises.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Resolutions:** Merlin read the resolution from **Area II**, which was passed by Area II on 10-25-17

**Whereas:** Federal, State, and County highway departments are requiring gravel and aggregate products for certain projects to be sourced from locations that were inspected and documented to be in compliance with the North Dakota Noxious Weed Law, and

**Whereas:** the county weed officer is asked to conduct the inspection and provide the documentation of compliance with the North Dakota Noxious Weed Law, and

**Whereas:** the inspection and documenting the compliance is above the normal duties of the weed officer as defined in the Noxious Weed Law, and

**Whereas:** the current Noxious Weed Law does not allow for the recuperation of expenses for the inspection,

**Therefore, be it resolved:** that Area II does hereby ask the North Dakota Weed Control Association to work for a legislative bill that will allow the weed boards to charge for the inspection and documentation of gravel pits when requested upon by gravel pits when requested upon by gravel pit operators.

Stan Wolf moved to adopt this resolution. Joan Lorge seconded the motion.

Discussion: One question asked, how does this go above and beyond the scope of duties as a weed officer? Stan stated that currently, we cannot charge a fee for issuing a certificate of inspection, since it was taken out of the law in 2009. Yes, it is above and beyond our current duties. This makes the product a value-added product. We only want to reinstate language into the law that was removed. We do not want to create a new program. After much more discussion both for and against, and questions such as why it needs to be in the law, Kevin asked for a voice vote, one per voting member in support and in opposition. With no conclusions either way, Kevin then asked for a show of hands, in support or in opposition. With a tally of 10 in support and 9 in opposition, the motion passed by a simple majority. **M/C**

Merlin read the resolution from **Area V**, which was passed on 10-27-17

**Whereas:** In North Dakota the many Federal, State County, Township, City and Private landowners have spent many thousands of dollars, annually, and over the years for the control of noxious weeds that have infested their land.

**Whereas:** Noxious weeds are capable of being rapidly spread by seeds blowing in the wind, by human activities, by livestock, by wildlife, and/or by an extensive root system.

**Whereas:** If a noxious weed has been identified and there are very few plants found in a certain area, it would be much easier to control, than a noxious weed that has been established, with an established root system and/or a tremendous seed bed.

**Whereas:** Some weeds contain a toxicity that can be detrimental to not only livestock but also humans.

**Whereas:** Although some counties may already have Houndstongue on their county noxious weed list, others still do not.

**Therefore, be it resolved:** That Area V, is in full support, asking that the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the placement of Houndstongue on the State Noxious Weed List.

**Therefore, be it further resolved:** That the North Dakota Weed Control Association ask the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and North Dakota State University to consider Houndstongue as our state's next state listed noxious weed.

Joan Lorge moved to adopt this resolution. She also stated that last year the resolution did not state that we also ask NDSU. Leon seconded the motion.

Discussion: Joan stated that Houndstongue to all over, and spreading, and difficult to control. Kevin asked for a voice vote for this resolution. Unanimous approval. **M/C**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Election:** Eligible areas are I, III, IV. There was only one nomination from the area meetings. Cody Schnabel, from Area IV, Morton County. Kevin called for nominations from the floor. Leon moved that nominations cease, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Cody Schnabel. George Lemer, McHenry County seconded the motion. **M/C**

Kevin had Cody stand and be recognized. Congratulations Cody.

**Government Director:** 2-year term

Kevin asked for nominations for government director. Bill Walker nominated David Hirsch. No other nominations, Joan moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for David Hirsch. Elvin seconded the motion. **M/C** Congratulations David.

**Industry Director:** 2-year term

David Hirsch nominated Bill Walker. David moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Bill Walker. Jamen seconded the motion. **M/C** Congratulations Bill

**President's Transition**

President Kevin Schmidt again thanked everyone for their support and turned the gavel over to the 2018 President, Katie Clyde. She will try and do the best she can.

President Katie thanked Kevin for his dedicated service, and energy. Thank you, Kevin.

**Website:** Katie let everyone know that the board is looking into a new website. Terry has run it for a number of years, but he is retiring, so the board has looked into both a company to build a new site, and a private individual. If you

**Other Business:**

The 2019 annual meeting will be January 7-10, 2019, at the Ramada Inn, in Bismarck. Beer & Brat in the Assembly room will start shortly. If you have an auction item, and you haven't given them to Merlin, bring them with you to the social. Make sure everyone signs up to show they were at the meeting. We will see you tomorrow morning in this room at 8:00 am.

Ron Manson moved to adjourn the meeting. Joan Lorge seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 5:23pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin Leithold  
Executive Secretary