

## NDWCA Area III Minutes

### North Central Research Extension Center, Minot, ND

**Yet to be approved**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

Area Director, Terry Volk called the meeting to order at 9:18 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ward, Bottineau, and McHenry. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Karissa Floerchinger, Dow AgroSciences, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

**Additional agenda items:** none presented.

2016 area III minutes were reviewed by attendees. Jerome Peerboom moved to approve the minutes as presented, Chuck Weiser seconded the motion. M/C

**Old Business:**

**Annual Meeting update:**

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 7, 8, 9, & 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. 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 Bismarck followed by speakers. The women's luncheon and program will begin at 10:30. The noon luncheon will begin at 11:00. At around 12:30 we will go into three breakout sessions. We done this last year, and it worked well. Around 4:00 we will go back into one full session. Wednesday evening, we will have a social at 6:00 sponsored by DOW, followed by our awards banquet and entertainment. This year's entertainment is again Cottonwood, a bluegrass band from Washburn. CPS is a sponsor for the entertainment. Thursday morning, we will again have the exhibitor breakfast, starting at 6:30, followed by speakers at 8:00 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

During the conference we will again have for sale caps, vests and jackets.

## **County reports:**

### **McHenry: submitted by Jerome Peerboom**

Four board members attended the state convention held in Bismarck in January.

Members of the weed board assisted at a booth at the Ag. Expo in Minot. The annual report was completed and sent to the NDDA office. Annual dues were paid to the NDWCA.

A spring newsletter highlighting the year's program was published in mid-April and is distributed to all operating producers in the county. Spring chemical sales are held on four half days. Chemicals offered this year included Milestone, Tordon22k, Escort, Telar, Overdrive, Plateau and Curtail. A fall letter was sent to producers offering chemicals for sale by order only with one scheduled pickup date.

Approximately 150 producers took advantage of the discounted prices this year. Producers spent approximately \$151,297 with the weed control board spending \$117,615.10.

The board completed and approved the 2018 budget. All monies received and disbursed by the county weed board continue to be filtered through the county auditor's office.

Four sprayers met to discuss right of way spraying for 2017. County roads were the primary concern with additional township roads sprayed as time and weather permitted.

Three board meetings, one sprayer meeting were held throughout the year with an additional meeting planned for mid-November.

### **Ward: submitted by Derrill Fick read by Chuck Weiser**

In January we had a booth at the KMOT Ag. Show along with the McHenry County weed board.

We hired two contractors and two employees. Spraying started late May because of the warmer weather. We are running 2 pickups and a bigger truck with spray tanks, one 4-wheeler, and 1 UTV. In the beginning the spraying went good because of the dryer conditions, but as things got dryer the chemical was not working as well. Had to redo some areas and we also waited until some rain started to fall to finish.

We have been finding more Canada thistle in the ROW's. It became more visible part way thru the spraying season and really showed up after ditches were cut and we got more moisture. Mixed Milestone at 6oz/ac and Tordon at 1 qt/ac.

Finding many more small patches of Yellow toadflax around the country. Hitting these patches with higher rates of Tordon.

Still finding lots of Houndstongue. Seems to be as much as in previous years, even though some of our worst areas have been flooded, the plants seem to be returning.

Sprayed for Purple Loosestrife along the Souris River again, even though there was some erosion that occurred from the flood, the river still had loosestrife growing along its banks. Seems to be more this year than previous years. Still finding plants scattered outside of city where drainages go to river.

Leafy Spurge does not seem to be increasing in acres. It has helped to be able to use chemical Method in the areas that don't get hayed. It seems to control the spurge better.

Spotted knapweed is still giving us trouble in some areas. Some years it looks like we are getting ahead of it then the next year it seems to come back just as thick.

We hired a helicopter to spray some private pastures and some gravel pits.

Again, have been finding Gall flies for Canada thistle this year.

Have noticed that the areas that we released the Yellow toadflax insects have shown to have fewer plants but still hard to collect insects.

Did not collect and Leafy spurge beetles this year. Whenever we would do any sweeping, we could find the beetles, but not enough to collect and hand out but seems to be more than previous years.

We cost shared Tordon, Milestone and Plateau to 123 landowners with the county picking up 75% of the cost.

Will have a booth at the Heartland Ag. Show coming up here in December

### **Bottineau: submitted by Terry Volk**

2017 was a good year for weed control. There was some dry weather and windy days, but the spraying season has extended well into October; very unusual near the Canadian line. ROW Leafy spurge is continuing to decrease. Canada thistle is a problem we have been gaining on. A good part of our fall spraying is for Canada thistle. The Overdrive/Tordon mix does a great job up until late July. After the plants are mature and closed down from hot dry conditions we switch to a Tordon/Freelexx. This combination seems to get the job done.

There was a problem with accusations of drift damage from Banvil (Overdrive). We received two complaints for damaged soybeans in separate locations. Soybeans were found with cupping damage 30 to 50 ft out from the edge of the road. This was continuous from ¼ mile to over 1 mile. The damage pattern did not fit with our typical operations, size of our equipment or the population of weeds in the area. We seldom spray steady for such a long distance anymore, we don't have 50ft booms and there were few if any affected noxious weeds in the ROW. Besides, our sprayers have become a little paranoid about spraying even small spots by soybeans. They would not have flipped the boom on alongside a soybean fields without thinking that might be a problem. However, just because our crew drove by, we were assumed guilty.

Samples had to be collected and tested to prove our innocence. A set of samples from one field showed no trace of Dicamba or Picloram at all. The other, in another township, showed dicamba traces, but no Picloram. If our spraying was the cause, there should have been Picloram also as it was part of the spray mix.

What was the cause? We've speculated drought conditions, soil compaction along the edge of the field and offsite movement of herbicides applied by another farmer, or one of the neighbors could also be a contributing factor. We'll never know for certain.

Canada thistle is our biggest issue now. Effective herbicides are available: but, it's necessary to spray nearly every road. This year with hay in short supply, mowing set back spraying operations. ROW mowed in September was too short to find the weeds. However, ROW mowed first in July produces thistle and spurge regrowth that was just right for fall treatment.

The Plateau demonstrations are paying good dividends. Area landowners are seeing and believing the results in their neighbor's pastures.

We were fortunate to have a full crew this year; six plus two subs. At least five should be back next year. Spray crews are always in flux; young people move on to full time jobs and older employees retire. The only thing to depend on is that a new crop of noxious weeds will emerge each new year.

**Government Report: Submitted by David Hirsch, Government Director, read by Terry Volk**

### **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.

**Industry:** Karissa Floerchinger – Dow AgroSciences.

Karissa recently moved from Fargo to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The merger of Dow with Dupont will be a merger benefiting everyone. Now, they will be a total agriculture. There will be a shift in personal, but none of these shifts should affect the way they do business with the counties in North Dakota.

Select your herbicide to what suits your program the best.

Dow has Vastlan, Freelexx and Graslan as new formulations. Freelexx is the new Coline based 2-4D. It is higher priced than generic Amine's, but it is odorless and less volatility, and can be easily tank-mixed.

For your Bareground needs, Cleantraxx is a new Bareground chemical. Has no Kochia control, but can be tank mixed with Vista for Kochia control. Cleantraxx can be mixed with Milestone, Opensight and other DAS IVM products.

Opensight, Tordon and Milestone are still excellent chemicals, and we appreciate your business.

**Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & CPS Timberland Division**

DOW: Prices should be stable going forward. In August they said that Milestone and Opensight were having a price increase of 3% by October 1. But now, they have not increased, and Dow has not given a reason for the change.

Monsanto: They have already raised prices ever so slightly for Glyphosate. Last year they did the same thing, and then they stabilized by April, and the increases never materialized. 2-4D's are showing light price increases as well.

Bayer: Perspective and Streamline prices could increase by 4% come January 1. Mute point. They are not being manufactured anymore. Just warehouse inventories are left to be sold. Method however should have stable prices.

Bayer has been working on a label for Method. There is a supplemental label now for Method. There are more areas where it can be sprayed, but still not a FULL label. Read the supplemental label before deciding where to use it. It is looking better towards getting that full label.

Dicamba: In 2018, Dicamba will be a restricted use product. This is due to the use of Dicamba drift issues. At this time, not sure how it will affect Overdrive and other chemicals with Dicamba in them. Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas have banned Dicamba use in their states.

As far as CPS Timberland: Thank you for the business this past season. Jesse is leaving, but John will still be at the warehouse and will train in a new person. We want to earn your trust and business. If you have questions, we strive to make sure we get an answer for you. We try to get the product to you quickly as possible, so you can avoid down time.

**Break**

**NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist.**

Chelsey's contact number: 701-226-4321 – Noxious weeds, federal & state funding, enforcement issues

Lane's: 701-328-2250 - Biocontrol, Weed Seed Free Forage

Jim's: 701-425-8454 – Mapping, dataloggers, NDDA online maps

Increased movement of hay = increased movement of weeds – scouting for new and spreading infestation of noxious and invasive weeds is essential

2018 Agriculture Commissioner's Noxious Weed Forum – January 9, 2018 at the Ramada in Bismarck

GPS and Mapping – submit GPS data to Jim – Jim will be at the conference – bring your laptops/dataloggers

Outreach materials are available – let Chelsey know

Annual weed board survey is due February 1, 2018 – See Chelsey for your access code

Funding: 3 open federal grants

2015-2017 summary of spending – TAG 9% remaining and LAP 5% remaining

2017-2019 Allocations: TAG - \$5,000/county, and \$2,000/city

LAP – 43 eligible weed boards

LAP Formula Example

| Eligibility  | USDA-NASS Statistics of acres of<br>Non-Cropland in Farms | Annual Noxious Weed Survey-<br>Total Infested Acres |
|--|---|---|
| \$400,000  | \$400,000   | \$200,000   |
| Percentage   | Percentage  | Percentage  |
| if 40 WB eligible, then each<br>would get \$10,000   | <u>WB acres</u>   | <u>WB acres</u>                                     |
| If 43 WB eligible, then each<br>would get \$9,302.33 | Total acres X \$400,000                                   | Total acres X \$200,000                             |

Return NOGAs ASAP

Ideas for using TAG:

Spray equipment

Biocontrol

Training

Scouting, monitoring and control

GPS Equipment

Outreach and education

Pesticide spill kits

Computer hardware or software

PPE

## **New Business:**

**Website:** Terry and Merlin mentioned that the association is planning a new website. If anyone has ideas, or someone who can build one at reasonable rate, contact Merlin or any board member.

**Gravel Pits:** Terry read the letter submitted by Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer.

The question was brought up last January at the conference and at subsequent association board meetings if weed boards had the legal authority to charge fees for inspecting gravel pits and provide a letter of compliance stating that noxious weeds are under control.

A state's attorney investigation of the noxious weed law showed that prior to 2009 weed boards were able to charge for inspections. The weed law changed in the 2009 legislative session which removed that provision. This was confirmed by an Assistant Attorney General's research.

The question before the NDWCA members is do we want the ability to charge for inspecting gravel pits and providing a letter of noxious weed control compliance to the gravel pit operation.

Background: Many federal, state and county highway departments are requiring mined gravel and other aggregate products to be sourced from pit operations that were inspected and documented to have noxious and troublesome weeds controlled, i.e. no live plants on the land surrounding and within the mining operation. The pit operator must provide the compliance letter as a requirement in their bid submission. The pit operations voluntary calls the local weed officer to have the mining operation inspected. If weeds are found, control measures are undertaken before the compliance letter is issued.

The Weed Seed Free Forage program is managed by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and provides hay producers a certificate stating that the hay is free of noxious weed seed. The hay is a value added product and is sold at a premium price. Various state and federal parks require certified hay when feeding trail animals within the parks. The NDDA is able to charge for time, mileage and acres inspected for the service.

I feel that inspecting gravel pits and providing the compliance letter is asking for a service above and beyond the normal duties done by a weed officer. This work is similar to inspecting hay lands for WSFF. Though the inspection cannot certify that the gravel is weed seed free, the mining area has been deemed to be free of live noxious weeds. I feel that weed officers/weed boards should be able to charge for their time for the inspection service. In order to accomplish that a bill will need to be presented to the legislature.

After discussion, Chuck moved to pursue this as a bill in the next legislative session. George Lemar seconded the motion. M/C

**LAP Funding:** Merlin raised the issue that he has heard for some time. LAP funding. Merlin, on behalf of the board is planning to put together figures to see if we as an association should pursue raising the funding for LAP. We get our funds out of the EARP fund. Looking at those figures, the projected funds

remaining in EARP after the biennium would not be enough for us to get LAP funding raised. We would possibly need to increase EARP. We need from the counties, how much more, if any, dollars could they use in their LAP allocations. Get them to Merlin as soon as possible.

**Houndstongue:** Last year the association passed a resolution to ask the ag commissioner and NDSU to put Houndstongue on the state noxious weed list. This did not happen. Again this year, there is a push out of the southwest to again ask for this. We are asking each area for their thoughts on this. Area V will most likely be having a resolution on this. Chuck said that we need proof of livestock losses before they (NDDA & NDSU) will decide to act on it. Consensus of the group was positive.

**Elections:** Terry Volk's term as area director is up for election. Terry will be retiring as Bottineau County Weed Officer at the end of the year, so he is not eligible to run again.

Chuck nominated Derrill Fick for area director, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Derrill. Jerome seconded the motion. Derrill was elected.

Chuck nominated Jo Ashley as 1<sup>st</sup> alternate and Dan Folske as second alternate, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Jo and Dan. George seconded the motion. Jo and Dan were elected.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice president – Nominees must be from Areas I, III or IV. No nominations.

Merlin explained that you can also nominate someone from the floor during the annual meeting.

**Poster Contest:**

Derrill Fick, 2017 Education Chairman, submitted a report that Terry read.

Derrill sent a notice to all elementary principles in the state about the poster contest. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible. We are hoping that we have a large number of posters to judge at the convention in January.

**Legislative Issues:**

Merlin asked if anyone had any other issues at this time they would like to see addresses. Let Merlin or the board know if you do, so we can start working on them.

**Resolutions:** none

Being no other business was brought forward, Terry adjourned the meeting at 11:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary