

NDWCA Area IV Minutes

Morton County Hwy. Department, Mandan, ND

Yet to be approved

October 26th, 2017

Area Director, Gary Hartman called the meeting to order at 9:12 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Morton, Emmons, Burleigh and Grant. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Scott Hochhalter, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ, Jerry Saude, ND Department of Trust Lands and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: None

Minutes:

2016 area IV minutes were reviewed. Jim Bahm moved to approve the minutes. Woody Barth 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, & 10th 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 15th. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

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

County reports:

Burleigh: Submitted by Gary Hartman

Our spray season started May 17 and continued thru last Friday. Contractor this year was Fertilawn from Bismarck again. Milestone sales were good. 155 landowners. Had a problem with Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle. We had 80% cost share on Milestone \$15/qt. Went through 300 gallons milestone. Had some Spotted knapweed on I-94. Making good headways. Purple loosestrife – City of Bismarck and Bismarck Parks and Rec did a good job this summer. Flea beetle sweeping: just went to Grant County's field day, and thanks to them. We stopped certifying gravel pits for right now. ROW's, we sprayed 900 acres. We cost shared 1250 acres out of 2100 acres.

Grant: submitted by Merlin Leithold

We had a fairly good start on the summer spraying program. Started latter part of May I spray all the roads in the county, approximately 1600 miles of county roads, and 100 miles of NDDOT roads. June came, the rains left, and the winds came. I was lucky to get one day a week in spraying, due to the winds.

In Grant County, our cost share program consists of the following chemicals: Tordon, Plateau, Curtail, and Milestone. We cost share at 65% up front if they purchase from us. We require them to fill out a request form to receive cost share. We had 55 landowners participate, down from 2016. They may also purchase from a dealer, but we base our prices on our cost, so purchasing from us enables them to get the full 65%. If they purchase from a dealer, they are required to send in their paid receipt, along with a spray log, showing where they sprayed, date, etc. When all is said and done, this way they are lucky to receive 50% back. Only 4 participated this way.

We also sell Amine, Surfactant (Liberate), MSO, blue dye and defoamer, at cost for noxious weed control only.

We again hired Mid – Dakota Spraying Service to spray for landowners. But, when they were supposed to start in mid - July, the weather was hot, dry, and fire danger was through the roof. Seemed like I saw a fire somewhere every day during this stretch. So the board suspended the spraying before it started until after Labor Day. That was a good thing. The rains came, things greened up like spring, spurge and thistle regrew. Unfortunately, Mid – Dakota did not come as scheduled and promised, until nearly the end of September. So our landowner spraying program ended up with around one forth that we normally sprayed. Got too late for some, then it got too cold for the remainder.

We had our 21st Annual Leafy Spurge Bug Day this summer on June 22nd. 410,000 bugs were collected and handed out, slightly down from last year, but still a good day. We had 61 in attendance, mostly from out of the county. Thank you to David Hirsch, and his crew from USDA APHIS for the help, and also to Cody Schnabel, and his crew from Morton County, for helping, and also for paying for half of the refreshments. Gary Hartman from Burleigh County, John Arlein, City of Bismarck for your help, Ron Manson from Stutsman County and Lane Kozel, NDDA for your help.

I believe that if we had waited a week, the numbers would have been greater.

We did get all roads sprayed. Finished on October 10th. I am finding Canada thistle exploding. Other than spraying wormwood, if I start in May, I think that all those early roads will have to be gone over later because of the thistle. I have very few days where I did not spray Canada thistle.

Overall a decent year, despite the dry weather.

Morton: submitted by Cody Schnabel

Throughout the summer we sprayed all the Morton County roadways at least once through. These roadways include all state highways, county highways, county roads and housing developments. We also sprayed all active gravel pits for noxious weeds. We have resprayed all state highways and county highways and also many of our county roads.

We invited many Morton County landowners to the annual Grant County leafy spurge beetle sweep. The sweep was a success. Most of the landowners I called showed up and took home a couple bags of 3000 beetles. I also planted some myself and will be monitoring their progress in those spots. I will strive to keep landowners informed on how beneficial these bugs can be in keeping our spurge problem under control. We are very thankful to Grant County for doing the bug day and inviting us.

Morton County offered a Landowner Assistance Program this year. We offered 800 gallons of Tordon22K for \$10/gallon. We offered 40 gallons of Plateau for \$26/gallon. We offered 750 quarts of Milestone for \$16/quart. We offered 180 gallons of Curtail for \$10/gallon. All of these gallons seemed to sell out in rather short order.

We received fewer landowner complaints about neighbors with infestations this year. Through phone calls and letters, I think I got most of these folks steered into a management program. I did not see in any of these cases, an absolute disregard to my requests to control the problem, so I did not issue any fines.

This year there seemed to have the most Canada thistle I have seen yet. I hope this was just a year of ideal growing conditions for Canada thistle and not just the start for an advancing, ever worse infestation of this plant.

Emmons County: submitted by C J Pierce

Started spraying in early April. Spurge emerged early on roads. Wormwood was also early this year. Canada thistle was late. Found spurge in areas that we never saw before. Sprayed 250 miles of federal aid roads.

Government Report: David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ.

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.

They set up traps down by the DAPL site to look for insects in wood. A lot of wood was brought in for their campfires from other states where they have various tree disease problems. No emerald ash borer or gypsy moths have been detected so far. The Corps of Engineers did a great job disposing of the leftover wood.

Agency: by Jerry Saude, ND Trust Lands

Cost shared in 49 counties and 2500 landowners. We respond to complaints, but time gets to be an issue. Issue we see, use of Plateau without MSO. We encourage counties to stress to landowners the use of MSO with Plateau. We would like to see easier access from counties to landowners for chemical sales.

We are working with Houndstongue. Very time consuming. We see a lot of Houndstongue movement by animals.

We've used Dakota Helicopter using Milestone in July, not very good results. Talking to Bill and Karissa, they have indicated it may be because of the excessive heat.

We have a biocontrol project in Benson County by Pleasant Lake.

Industry:

Karissa Floerchinger– Dow AgroSciences.

I 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.

Break

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. NuFarm, one of the largest manufacturers of 2-4D, which makes Platoon, has not raised their prices as of now.

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.

Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply.

Thanks for opportunity to be here today. We might see slight price increases in Glyphosate, but by the time the spraying season begins for us, it may be back down again. Canada thistle: haying opened the canopy, allowing the thistle to be easily seen, and Milestone does an excellent job on Canada thistle. We have a warehouse in Pierre, SD. We can get product to you up here in 24 to 72 hours. Thanks again

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist.

Chelsey introduced her new boss in Bismarck. Scott Hochhalter is the new director of Plant Industries with the NDDA.

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 Non-Cropland in Farms | Annual Noxious Weed Survey- Total Infested Acres |
|-------------|--|--|
| . | \$400,000 | \$200,000 |
| Percentage | Percentage | Percentage |

if 40 WB eligible, then each would get \$10,000
If 43 WB eligible, then each would get \$9,302.33

WB acres
Total acres X \$400,000

WB acres
Total acres X \$200,000

Return NOGAs ASAP
Ideas for using TAG:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Spray equipment | Outreach and education |
| Biocontrol | Pesticide spill kits |
| Training | Computer hardware or software |
| Scouting, monitoring and control | PPE |
| GPS Equipment | |

New Business:

Website: Merlin brought up that the association's board is working on a new website, we would like input from all the areas as to what you would like in it. Also, if anyone knows someone, let Merlin know. We are looking for reasonable rates.

Gravel Pits: Gary read the letter from 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.

Gary said that he quit doing the inspections in Burleigh County because of this.

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: Merlin mentioned that last year the push for adding Houndstongue got hung up in the NDDA. At least that is what Bill and Merlin gathered from talking to Rod Lym. It is being brought up at the area meetings to find out what the counties think. Should we pursue the issue again. Area V will most likely be proposing a resolution to this effect.

Consensus of the group is to pursue adding it to the state list.

Elections:

Nominations for 2nd Vice President: Can only be from areas I, III, & IV

Merlin said that there is one so far. Cody Schnabel, from Morton County, was nominated at the Area II meeting in Valley City. No other nominations.

Merlin mentioned that a person can also be nominated from the floor at the annual business meeting.

Poster Contest:

Merlin mentioned that Derrill Fick, education chairman, said that the information should be out to the schools in November. He is requesting that the posters be returned to him in December. Any questions can be also directed to Derrill.

Legislative Issues:

Merlin asked if there were any other issues to be brought forward at this time. There were none.

Resolutions: Merlin mentioned the resolution from Area II on gravel pits.

Grant Johnson moved that Area IV adopt a resolution to encourage biocontrol field days in all counties. Gary asked for a second to the motion three times. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

There were no other resolutions proposed.

KFYR Agri-International – Feb 6th and 7th

Karissa Floerchinger informed Merlin that DOW would be willing to sponsor the booth again this year.

Everyone was in agreement to have a booth again this coming year.

Gary thanked Karissa for sponsoring the booth.

Traveling Award: Karissa awarded the traveling which is sponsored by DOW to Morton County.

Other Business: Jim asked if some other county would like to host the area meeting next year. Seems to be in Morton County every year. Gary said that they had it one year at the 4-H building in Burleigh County, but insurance and costs prohibit it. Consensus is to have it at the same location next year, providing Morton County is willing to allow us to use the room.

Being no other business, Gary asked for a motion to adjourn.

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting, Cody seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 12.56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary