

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Yet to be Board Approved

President Cody Schnabel called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Introductions. Cody welcomed guests.

Members present were, Cody Schnabel, Bill Walker, Brent Nelson, Katie Dillman, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Rick Schmidt, Jim Hennessey, Jamen Windish, Merlin Leithold, executive secretary. By conference call, Travis Jepson and Richard Weisz, NDDA.

Guests: ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, ND Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Tom Bodine, Samantha Bruner, NDDA Plant Sciences Director, Nancy Johnson, ND Soybean Growers and Phil Murphy, ND Soybean Growers.

Cody turned to Merlin for breaking news.

Merlin announced that pending his passing all classes, NDSU will be hiring Dr. Quincy Law as the new noxious weed specialist, part of which was held by retired Dr. Rod Lym.

Cody turned over the discussion on Palmer Amaranth to our guests.

Nancy Johnson began the discussion concerning Palmer Amaranth. The Soybean Growers are willing to help with education, publicity, etc. They would like to reach out to the cattle industry, educating them to the seriousness of Palmer.

The Soybean Growers are concerned because the majority of soybean sales go to Asia. Weed seeds if found in these shipments can severely impact the prices that are received.

Commissioner Goehring stated that soybean growers are concerned because it shows up in their crops first, because of the height, whereas in corn and sunflowers, they are a taller crop, not as readily seen. Also, the weed seeds are tougher to clean out of soybeans compared to corn and sunflowers. The commissioner feels that dialog with the cattle industry needs to take place. Manure management is a major issue that needs to be addressed. Not just because of Palmer Amaranth, but many other weeds. This problem is not new, a problem that has been ongoing for numerous weeds. Rare that a rancher has a weed management plan in place for manure.

The sunflower industry has possibly the largest problem, due to the fact that sunflowers are being brought in from Nebraska, South Dakota, and other states, to be processed in the area plants. Sunflower screenings contain a heavy infestation of noxious weeds. These screenings are being fed by the cattle industry. The NDDA is working with these plants to have these screenings incinerated.

Our screenings law states that there can only have 4 noxious weed seeds per pound, but for instance, Minnesota allows 90 seeds per pound.

Rick Schmidt mentioned that bird seed is a serious problem as well. Bill Walker asked if there is some talk about cultivation.

Weed seeds do not break down in manure very well. The temperature needs to get to 250 degrees to kill them. Silage does not get there either.

Jim Hennessy asked how widespread the current screening problem is. Commissioner Goehring that it is more localized.

Bill asked about the chemicals used for soybeans. Nancy stated that it's getting tougher to find soybean seed compatible with chemicals being available to use. New herbicides for soybeans are not coming either.

Commissioner Goehring stated that the biggest problem with Palmer, once the plant reached 6 inches tall or taller, it becomes very difficult to control, to nearly impossible.

Jamen asked if there is a way NDSU Extension and county weed officers could find out where the screenings were taken. Commissioner Goehring said that there will be soon.

Very good discussion, with numerous statements and questions.

Commissioner Goehring said that there are issues for county weed officers out in the field. Weed officers need to stay aggressive and vigilant when looking for weeds.

Bill asked what the soybean growers want from us. We deal mainly with pasture and rangeland weeds, not cropland.

Nancy that they want us to help get the word out, education efforts about Palmer. They are willing to help change the regulatory side if it is needed. Bill asked about quarantine of a field?

Nancy stated that it has not been addressed at this time, but if the time comes, it would be something that they would be willing to work with us on.

Commissioner Goehring stated that LAP & TAG are for non-cropland acres only. Federal and State Law does not change on what type of land it is.

Cody asked what would happen if Palmer would infest a major of the acres in ND. Is Palmer on the state noxious weed list to stay? Commissioner Goehring stated that he has no future plans to remove Palmer Amaranth from the state noxious weed list.

Rick asked about controlling weeds, like Palmer in cropland. What happens if the farmer sprays his fields, but does not kill Palmer? Is it a means of control? Commissioner Goehring feels that it would depend on the court. He feels that the farmer would have to show what he sprayed and when. If that chemical was supposed to kill Palmer, and it didn't, then yes it would be a means of control. If it was not a chemical for Palmer, then it could be a gray area.

Nancy thanked the board for being allowed to come. Cody thanked them for coming.

Commissioner Goehring brought up the Palmer issue in rangeland. Bill feels that it would be a non-issue for controlling it in rangeland. The commissioner said that in draws and waterways is a good place look as well.

Commissioner Goehring asked if there was anything else to address before he leaves. He was asked about the commissioner's forum in 2021. He is not real concerned with going forward, but ultimately is up to us. We need to recognize that social distancing needs to take place, and other safeguards as well. He also feels that by then, we should all know where we are at, one way or the other.

Cody thanked Commissioner Goehring, Deputy Bodine, and Samantha Bruner for coming.

**BREAK**

**Additional agenda items were:** None

**Minutes were reviewed.** Jim moved to approve the minutes as presented, with a letter missing on booth in education committee report. Brent seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Financial Report:** Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register. Merlin mentioned that Kevin Sedivic did have the range camp, we did give the \$500. But he did not do the scholarships this year because of the Covid and the hurry up approach this year.

Rick talked about the students that he is taking to a national rangeland judging contest in April. After some discussion, it was decided to support them this year. Brent moved to give them \$750 from the education fund towards this. If the travel money is available, we transfer that amount to the education fund. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Rick will let Merlin know when he needs the money.

Jim asked if Rick could get 4 kids to give a presentation at the annual conference. Rick will work on it. Great idea.

Katie moved to accept the financial reports as presented, Derrill seconded the motion, **M/C**

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Education:** Derrill gave the report. Still stagnate due to the pandemic. He will get going on the poster contest. Jim asked if we could add banners for manure managements. The Ag Dept., will be in the process of making pamphlets. Richard will stay on top of it. He also stated that we could receive cost share for banners.

**Legislative:** Merlin stated that it has been quiet in the interim. Legislature is looking at various methods for the upcoming session, including a hybrid session. Will have to wait and see.

Richard asked about gravel charges for inspections. Richard will ask Chelsey.

**Policy Manual:** Brent asked about developing language in the policy manual, how voting can happen, when a situation like this year arises. The committee will keep that in mind when working on the manual.

#### **Agency Reports:**

**Government: No report.**

**NDDA:** Richard spoke from his basement. LAP vouchers have been sent out. There is some Forest Service Grants available, which would work for banners.

**Industry:** Bill Walker gave the industry report.

As we face a year of trials and uncertainty (so far) the pesticide industry has held up fairly well through it all, we have seen some products get tight and even some out of production until this next year and even then, no guarantees how well production will resume.

Dicamba is still highlighted and now researchers are seeing more and more tolerance to Dicamba from certain weed types, the pigweeds are showing more tolerance which in turn will have an effect on Palmer Amaranth control in some areas.

Glyphosate issues are still on going, everything is still in the courts and basically new on this issue at this time.

Bayer has recently introduced a new product called Rejuvra Herbicide. It is labeled for annual grass control in range, pasture and wildlife areas, use up to 5 ounces per acre with no grazing

restrictions, can use up to 7 ounces per acre rates but will have grazing restrictions on rates over 5 ounces, can be used to established perennial grasses, seeing multi-year control (up to 3 years or so) with a single application, Cheatgrass, Foxtails, Downy Brome, Medusahead and Ventenata are just a few on the label, cost will be around \$42.75 per acre plus for the chemical not including application, is packaged in 2.5 gallon containers only at this time.

We have not seen what Bayer plans to do as far as pricing for 2021. They have not released any information on this. Normally Bayer will do all price increase announcements in October and all new pricing normally will take place January 1 of the next year.

Corteva has announced that we will see some price increases on some products. Freelexx will take a slight increase, Opensight, TerraVue, Vastlan, VistaXRT among others will see some slight increases.

Milestone Herbicide will remain stable from what they have said so far, government program in the western states is still in effect and pricing is the same.

Tordon 22K Herbicide is stable at this time, but Corteva is looking at it.

Corteva is looking at launching another product called HighNoon Herbicide. This product is targeted at the western rangeland market, as well as the right-of-way market. Intended use sites are grazed rangelands, land management sites as well as right-a-ways (roadside and other) this will be the same as DuraCor, expected sometime in 2021, by the time all labeling gets approved. DuraCor will move over to the Ag side of the market, leaving HighNoon on the range side.

BASF has not come forward with any possible price increases so far, they will normally put these out sometime in November.

Other products at this time are somewhat stable, but we will make no predictions on what might happen, we have to remember, much of our technical material or even the finished products are/were made in China. With the current world situation, I believe nobody can really tell what might happen for 2021.

It's still early and the next couple of months will really tell.

Rom asked when Milestone comes off patent. Bill stated that it goes off later in 2021, but then it usually takes 6 to 8 months for generics to hit the market.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist Position:** Merlin read the note sent by Stan Wolf, adding to the breaking news announcement made earlier. Cody, Travis, Merlin, Jamen, Ron and Richard met with Dr. Law in Valley City on August 18. Stan was kind enough to bring over for a quick meet and greet. Several of those in attendance at that meet and greet, spoke highly of him. If everything goes according to plan, he should be moving to Fargo, late December, or early January. Ron talked about how his studies involve turf, but he is ready for a change. Knows Dr. Joe Ikley. Cody presented him with a NDWCA mug that day. Merlin will check with him at that time if he is available for a meet and greet at our conference.

**Other Old Business: None**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2021 Conference:** All directors were asked by Cody to check with their counties their feelings whether they would come to the conference if it were held. The consensus from the members, older members are hesitant about coming. Better from the western counties. Some thought we should do something virtual. Katie said that she called each county, and they appreciated that she called. Overall, 3 to 1 in favor of coming. Merlin mentioned that he also sent a survey out to the vendors from last year. And two said no, one said if attendance was there, it would be a yes, did not here from 2 vendors. So, we would have about 10 vendors, which would include 1 new vendor.

If we have a conference, we would basically only use the Heritage Ballroom for meals. Vendors would possibly have to be split between the two rooms. Hard to say at this time. Breaks would have to be in the hallway.

Discussion on cutting Thursday morning completely. After much discussion, it was decided to eliminate the Thursday breakfast, and go ahead with Thursday morning as usual.

We have a deadline at the hotel of December 1. After much discussion on deadlines, it was decided to leave as it currently is.

Have the conference planning committee meet around November 15, by conference call. The board left the committee to make the final decision whether to proceed with the conference or not. That will be the decision of the committee.

Merlin has hired the Little Blue Stems for the entertainment, for \$300.

More speaker ideas: Rick will try to get 4 kids to speak on range management for ½ hour.

Manure Management – Mary Keena – Carrington

Soybean Growers – Palmer in soybeans – Nancy Johnson

Possibly do some by virtual, depending on Covid, etc.

Area Meetings: Bill suggested that we do the area meetings this year by e mail. The area directors send out packets to the counties, with all the industry, NDDA, convention reports.

Have directors receive nominations in those areas where directors are up. Then send out the e mail for voting. Keep Merlin in the loop on all e mails as well. Have counties send their county reports to the directors and or to Merlin. Merlin will then compile all correspondence into the minutes and send them out when they are completed. 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president nominations can also be done this way.

Katie moved to do the area meetings this year, due to current circumstances, by electronic means. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

This will begin on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget for 2021:** The board worked on the budget for 2021. Katie approved the budget for 2021, and to send it to the January board meeting for final approval before sending it to the annual meeting for membership approval. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

**2023 Conference Site and Dates:** After much discussion, Katie moved that we go back to a Monday evening board meeting, January 2 start date, finishing Thursday morning, January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ramkota Conference Center in Bismarck. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

(2022 conference is Tuesday January 4 – 7 at the Ramkota) Monday was not available.

Merlin will get in touch of Ramkota.

**Other New Business?** Bill brought up that the entire board should have permanent name tags to wear at different functions. It looks professional, plus people recognize who you are. It also promotes our organization. Ron moved to have Merlin get name tags for the board. Merlin asked if he could list the executive committee as President and the year they are President instead of first or second vice. Bill said that would work. Rick seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Any Other New Business: None**

Being no further business, Katie moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary