

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

January 12th, 2021

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, Travis Jepson, Bill Walker, Katie Dillman, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Jim Hennessey, Roger Gunderson, Joan Lorge, Jamen Windish, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests: ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer, Dylan Ripplinger, Burleigh County Weed Officer, Burleigh County Weed Board members, Jim Heisler, Raymond Skogland, Cory Palm, Dave Nehring, and Monte Dralle.

Additional agenda items were: None

Minutes for September and November were reviewed. Katie moved to approve the minutes as presented, Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Annual Meeting Minutes: Unanimous approval by mail in ballot

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register.

Audit Committee Report: Cody stated that he and Travis audited the books and found them in good order with all monies accounted for.

Travis moved to accept the audit report and approve the financial report. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the report. 2020 was a quiet year. We did have McVillage School submitted posters. Derrill invited everyone to look at the posters and vote for their favorite poster.

Legislative: Merlin stated that the Ag. Department's budget, HB 1009, has a hearing scheduled for Friday, January 15, in the House Appropriations Committee. Merlin invited to have everyone listen on line. Merlin mentioned several bills that may be of interest to some members, none that would impact weed control in any way. These may interest some to follow, not for lobbying by us. Early, as session is just underway. Merlin will inform board if any bills come up needing the board's help.

Policy Manual: Nothing to report

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent submitted the following report as he could not attend.

Attached is our Saltcedar Report for the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers for 2020 conducted by the ND Game and Fish Dept.

Very low water year in the Yellowstone and the boat ramp was unusable, so we had to divert to a private ramp.

Good news – not much was found.

2020 Addendum to the NDGF Salt Cedar Report Todd Buckley Williston District Field Office

The following 2020 Addendum to the North Dakota Game and Fish is in reference to the final report submitted in 2017. No significant changes to the Introduction and Methods compared to 2019 should be noted. **SURVEY AREA** The primary salt cedar survey area referenced in this report is located along the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers in Williams and McKenzie Counties in North Dakota. The Yellowstone River survey area spanned from the Confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers to upstream (South) approximately 4 river miles. The Missouri River survey area encompasses approximately 25 river miles from the Confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers downstream (East) to the Highway 85 Bridge at Williston, North Dakota. **PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT** Survey and treatment operations in 2020 were conducted by the following North Dakota Game and Fish Department personnel: Todd Buckley, Matt Sostarich, and Clayton Edstrom. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department provided all of the necessary equipment including: one truck and trailer, one boat with motor, fuel, life jackets, GPS units, hand shears, chemical, and various capacity hand pump sprayers. **RESULTS** Survey and treatment efforts by boat began on October 6, 2020 with the shorelines and islands of the Missouri River from the Highway 85 Bridge at Williston to the west end of Erickson Island (Trenton WMA) (Table 1). On October 9, 2020, the shorelines and islands of the remaining river miles on the Missouri River were surveyed to the Confluence. Additionally, the Yellowstone River from the Confluence to upstream (South) approximately 4 river miles were surveyed and treated by boat (Table 1). The total man-hours spent searching and treating salt cedar in 2020 decreased by 30 hours when compared to 2019 control efforts given the small crew available and low water levels on the Yellowstone River. Personnel located and treated no large salt cedar plants in 2020, which was a decrease of 20 large plants from 2019 (Table 2). No concentrations of small plants treated were located on the shoreline of either river system. **DISCUSSION** Low water levels on the Yellowstone River this fall did not allow personnel to survey most of the river system typically covered. The Confluence Boat Ramp and Sundheim Boat Ramp were unusable in 2020. A private river launch site was used as an alternative due to condition of the public boat ramps. Treatment efforts of large adult plants appears to be somewhat effective since no adult plants were located in 2020. Additionally, no seedling lines were observed on either river system which bodes well for future years of few, if any, plants being located. If drought conditions persist in the coming years, surveys may not be possible on the Yellowstone River from boat. Abbreviated ground surveys of the WMAs located at the Confluence may be the only viable option.

NDDA: Richard LAP & TAG – 38% spent so far. Deadline is March. Weed board surveys are sent out ready to fill out. They need to be in before the March deadline. Still 6 LAP NOGA’S need to come back. Forest Service Grants – waiting to see if there will be some. None at this time.

Industry: Merlin read the following letter he and Bill just received from Karissa Floerchinger with Corteva.

January 12th, 2020

Dear North Dakota Weed & Pest Board Members & Association, I wanted to let you all know that my last day with Corteva AgriSciences will be this Friday, January 15th. I have decided to pursue my deep heart felt desires and return home to be closer to friends, family, and Bobcat Football. Yes, I leave with a greater appreciation for “Bizon” Football too, thanks to you all! While this decision is deeply personal, it is also a great professional opportunity to learn about the distribution side of the business and develop managerial perspective as a Product Manager for Helena Agri-Enterprises. I did not come to this decision easily. It is truly the people relationships that made this decision tough. You all left a positive and extremely memorable mark on my career here with Corteva over the last five years. I am so thankful for our conversations, solution seeking endeavors and occasional hunting talk. The comradery this group shares is truly special. Know that I am thankful for your support of me and my purpose

with Corteva. You all are the 'Best of the West' amongst Weed & Pest Supervisors and folks recognize this group across Wisconsin and Minnesota as such! This is something to be proud of and means by which to continue doing good work, because if there is anything I know, it is that our job is never done. You can look forward to Corteva AgriSciences naming a replacement within the coming months. In the interim if you need anything please reach out to Claire Volk at (307)439-9095. I will have quite a scenic route covering Western Montana (West of Billings) into Northern Wyoming, so if you are ever adventuring west, please reach out, I would enjoy buying you a coffee. My phone number is staying the same and personal email is karissa.floerchinger@gmail.com. Sincerely, Karissa Floerchinger

Bill also spoke on what he knew. Her last day was Friday.

Industry: Bill Walker gave the industry report.

There have been a few happenings since last fall's report.

CORTEVA –

Pricing on CORTEVA products have changed somewhat, set priced products for 2021 are as follows

Milestone Herbicide pricing has remained the same for government agencies, \$265.00 per gallon on 2.5-gallon containers and \$66.15 per quart on the quart containers, this is the lowest pricing that can be offered, and normal Milestone Herbicide pricing is \$300.00 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers and \$75.00 per quart.

Freelex Herbicide did take a .50 cents per gallon increase from 2020, now is price set at \$20.50 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers and 250-gallon totes.

Vastlan Herbicide price increase to \$89.60 per gallon, **Opensight Herbicide** price increase to \$86.00 per pound, **Cleantraxx Herbicide** price increase to \$128.00 per gallon and again all of these prices are the lowest that these products can be sold at, price is set by CORTEVA.

TerraVue Herbicide was introduced in 2020, is a pre-mix of Milestone Herbicide and Rinskor, is a dry product like the Opensight, very low use rates and add about 40 more weeds than if using Milestone Herbicide alone, TerraVue did take a slight price increase as well for 2021, is now priced at \$94.00 per pound in all sizes, 1.1 lb., 4.4 lb. and 10 lb. containers.

DuraCor Herbicide was also introduced in 2020 by CORTEVA, is again a pre-mix of Milestone Herbicide and Rinskor, it is a liquid product, use rates are 16 to 20 ounces per acre, again will add about 40 more weeds controlled to the label than just Milestone Herbicide alone, it does have a supplemental label that does allow for some right-a-way spraying.

DuraCor Herbicide did actually take a slight price decrease for 2021, price is now \$83.00 per gallon, currently available in 1 gallon, 30-gallon drums and 250-gallon totes, and CORTEVA is possibly adding 2.5-gallon containers in the near future.

Tordon 22K Herbicide and Graslan L Herbicide pricing so far has remained stable or very slight price increases.

CORTEVA has made some changes to its staff and the territories they do cover, their plan now is to split North Dakota and South Dakota into two different company representatives with one covering the east and one covering the west, looks like the Missouri river or thereof might be the dividing line for this split.

The western side will be covered by Clair Volk from Helena, Montana, the east side was to be covered by Karissa Floerchinger but that now has changed as well, Karissa has resigned from CORTEVA and at this time CORTEVA has not made any announcement as to how this are will be covered.

Is there a generic “MILESTONE HERBICIDE”?

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 on established perennial grasses, helps to increase pollinator habitat, wildlife habitat, forage production, helps to target the seed bank of annual 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 \$38.85 per acre for the chemical at the 5 ounce rate per acre not including application, is packaged in 2.5 gallon containers only at this time, 2.5 gallons will treat approximately 64 acres at the 5 ounce per acre rate, costs is \$994.56 per gallon or \$7.77 per ounce.

Bayer product pricing has had some changes.

Esplanade 200 SL Herbicide pricing is now \$1,218.56 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers and \$335.36 per quart in 1-quart containers.

Method 240 SL Herbicide pricing has remained the same \$322.56 per gallon and Bayer still has no plans on packaging back into quart containers.

Plainview SC Herbicide pricing is \$248.32 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers, is a pre-mix of Esplanade 200SC, Method 240 SL and Imazapyr (Arsenal Herbicide) for bareground sites, use rates are 2 to 4 pints per acre rates.

Telar XP Herbicide, Escort XP Herbicide, Oust XP Herbicide, Esplanade EZ Herbicide and others from Bayer have taken slight price increases or remained stable.

BASF –

Has now released some new pricing information on some of the products.

Overdrive Herbicide has taken a price increase for 2021, about 7.5% over last year’s pricing.

Plateau Herbicide will see about a 1.5% price increase over last year.

Arsenal Herbicide (and Imazapyr products) will see about a 7.5% increase as well, increases are due to some technical product supply issues at this time.

Frequency Herbicide (for bareground) pricing is set by BASF at \$605.00 per gallon, use rates are 10 to 12 ounces per acre coupled with Arsenal Herbicide and Plateau Herbicide.

Detail Herbicide (added burndown and added control in some broadleaf weed control programs) is price set by BASF at \$655.00 per gallon, use rates are 1.5 to 4 ounces per acre rates, added to Plateau Herbicide or others.

NuFarm:

In talking with NuFarm they think pricing structure will stay fairly stable, at this time they think phenoxy products like the 2, 4-D products look stable, as reported earlier in the year, NuFarm has exited some of its glyphosate business in the Vegetation Management markets, AquaNeat, Razor PRO and other VM glyphosates are no longer available and the supply chains have pretty much been exhausted of these.

NuFarm has taken over the **Payload Herbicide** and **Piper Herbicide** marketing for Valent, 2 products that can be used in some soft bareground programs or some selective weeding with **Payload Herbicide** on Puncturevine and Sandbur in right-a-ways.

E-2 Herbicide pricing is again \$42.00 per gallon in 2.5 gallon containers and \$41.50 per gallon in 250 gallon totes, this price is set by NuFarm, E-2 is a mixture of 2, 4-D Amine, Dicamba and Fluroxypyr (Vista), use rates are 2 to 5 pints per acre rates, good for Kochia and looks decent on Leafy Spurge and Canada Thistle in tree belts and inner-city sites, use higher rates for these.

Alligare –

The question of generic Milestone has come up in the past few months, “is there a generic Milestone Herbicide coming”, the answer to this question is yes.

Alligare will be introducing a product called **Whetstone Herbicide** (generic Milestone), current availability and when it will be available is still unknown, pricing is still unknown but rumored to be at about Milestone Pricing, package sizes at this time according to Alligare’s information is quart containers and 2.5 gallon containers, as we get further information on this I will let you know.

Surfactants and Additives:

From what we see so far these are taking a very nominal increase in pricing, 2% to 3% at this time, oil/petroleum pricing does have some effect on these when petroleum based and, with the current petroleum pricing, upticks in pricing on surfactants that use petroleum have been almost zero, also, most of these products are made in the USA so the problems faced with many pesticide products and technical material coming from offshore countries are not faced with the manufacturing of these products.

I would also caution you on your additives (surfactants, water conditioners, drift control agents and others), these are not all made the same, there are very good quality products and there are very cheap products trying to be passed off as just as good as the quality products, this is a buyer beware market when it comes to these, these products are “NOT” regulated by the EPA so anything goes when manufacturing and representing these.

When looking at products and when somebody says ours is just as good as theirs please take a hard look before you believe that, a 90% non-ionic surfactant is “NOT” the same as a 100% non-ionic surfactant, when somebody tells you the 90% is the same as the 100% they are not telling you the truth.

Surfactant ingredients are not the same as well, while quality surfactants will use quality products that will make them cost more and work as they say, some of the lower cost surfactant that some will tell you are as good as, “NOT”, lower price normally will mean lower quality ingredients, lower priced surfactants in many cases will be made with light alcohol type products, this does cheapen up the production costs and cost to the market but, can create problems for you as well, light alcohol type surfactant will dry quicker, have less penetration, have flammability issues for storage and can create additional drift able fines.

Surfactants and Adjuvants have started playing in bigger roles in weed control in the past decades:

Choosing the right Surfactant, Water Conditioner, Drift Control Agent or other type of adjuvant can really make your pesticides work better

Low cost, cheap high isopropyl or butyl alcohol loaded surfactants bring “NOTHING” to the table as far as helping the herbicides you have chosen to use work better.

In many cases the cheap light alcohol products will again, give you more drift problems, evaporation problems and not breakdown the waxy layers on leaves like they should.

You have purchased expensive high-quality herbicides to control your weed problems, don't hamper their activity by coupling them with bad adjuvants and or the wrong adjuvants.

If the label calls for an MSO (Methylated Seed Oil) than use an MSO – not a non-ionic surfactant or a blended product and don't let anybody talk you into anything else.

If the label calls for a water conditioning agent such as most glyphosates do and many 2, 4-D or phenoxy products do then add the conditioner.

If the weather conditions call for drift control agent than add a drift control agent to keep your products and sprays on target to get the most out of them.

If the spraying conditions are less than ideal - cool/damp – hot/dry – adverse weather conditions - than you might have to change surfactants and go to a penetrating surfactant, these will help with getting the products into the plants in these conditions.

Dicamba is still highlighted and we should continue to watch where we are using this product 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, Dicamba products are still on the market and being sold, it is just the "NEW" Dicamba products that were being marketed for the Dicamba resistant beans and other crops that have been pulled from sales for now, some states (like South Dakota) have also made all the straight type Dicamba products still for sale a "Restricted Use Product" thus requiring licensing to buy and apply, the pre-mixed products that are Dicamba 2,4-D and others are still non-restricted use.

Agency and Stewardship Pricing on Products Explanation:

This is a quick explanation on how this pricing works.

Agency Priced Products such as Esplanade 200 SSC Herbicide, Method 240 SL Herbicide and others have to be sold at the stated price set by the product Manufacturer, they cannot be sold under or over that price, and agreements have been made from the Manufacturers with the Distributors to act as agents to sell these products for them.

Stewardship Priced Products such as Milestone Herbicide, DuraCor Herbicide, TerraVue Herbicide, E-2 Herbicide, Plainview SC Herbicide and many others will have a floor price set by the Manufacturer as not to sell below that floor price, a distributor of these products cannot sell below that floor price but, can if they choose, sell above that floor price set by the Manufacturer.

In conclusion:

2020 was a tough year, the industry faced many product shortages for various reasons, almost all meetings that are normally helpful to new and old applicators, directors, agencies and private operators were cancelled, a wealth of information that is normally shared, was not, hopefully we will be able to reengage in 2021 and catch up all on what is new and going on.

At this time, Cody welcomed ND AG Commissioner Doug Goehring to the meeting.

Commissioner Goehring passed out the department's budget. He also touched briefly on various bills that the department is following. HB 1009 is the department budget, hearing I sat 8:30 am this Friday. HB1026 deals with grain processing, 1045 relating to industrial hemp, 1046 relating to certification, 1115 relating to moving the dept. of quality to the Ag. Dept. 1145 creates more districts in the soybean council. 1158 deals with mitigation, 1172 deals with mediation, 1197 deals with licensing and labeling of specialty fertilizers. SB2171 would move the trade office from the Dept. of Commerce to the Ag Dept.

Commissioner Goehring explained to the board the budget process they are going through. The department budget calls for \$50,000 more for noxious weeds.

Commissioner Goehring also mentioned that he has been approached to be on the state land department board. He is in favor, but it would have to be a legislature passed bill, and then voted by the public in a statewide election. There are issues that he would like to help and try to change some things the land department currently does.

Cody asked the Commissioner Goehring if he has extra time to stick around, as the Burleigh County Weed Board is here to discuss some issues they are having with their county dealing with the employment of their weed officer. The commissioner agreed to stay and hear the issues.

At this time, Cody asked Burleigh County to let the board know the issues they are having.

Jim Heisler began the discussion with their issues. According to the ND Century Code, the weed board employs the weed officer, and sets and provides for the salary and duties for the weed officer. In Burleigh County, they have changes Dillon's status, from weed officer to highway department employee. He takes orders from the highway department, not the weed board. The board has been told that this is how it needs to be done, for benefits, etc. The board fears that if this continues, the entire board budget could be taken over by the highway department, eliminating the need for a weed board.

Some excellent discussion took place. Each board member from Burleigh County spoke on the matter, and what has taken place. Several on the association board shared their relationships with their highway departments.

There was an attorney general's opinion on the employment of a weed officer.

Commissioner Goehring stated that he would like to meet with them and the county commissioner that holds the portfolio for the weed department, and if need be, the entire county commission. He wants Burleigh County to get ahold of him, and set up a time, to have a meeting.

Cody thanked Commissioner Goehring for coming today.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website Renewal: Cody had asked to put that on the agenda to discuss before we pay Up & Running the \$540 for this year's maintenance agreement.

They are supposed to provide monthly reports. The reports came in January and February, no reports until November and December. Why no reports? Merlin will also ask about you tube link for the website.

Jim asked that when Merlin contacts them, he should ask for the reports that we didn't receive. Bill moved that we get the monthly reports, Jim seconded the motion.

Jamen wanted to know who would put items on the site, now that he is getting off the board. Cody suggested that Merlin is included in the training for the website, along with the current president and the vice presidents. Jim asked what the maintenance agreement is for if we put

items on the site. Jamen explained that it is for maintenance, software updates and other things.

Travis also likes Cody's plan on who uploads on the website. Travis would like everyone to go on the website and see what they would like changed and let the committee know. Good discussion. Jamen will send the training videos to Travis, Jim, Stan and Merlin. The executive committee will be the website committee.

Original motion from Bill was voted on. **M/C**

Presidents Report: Cody thanked everyone for the opportunity to be able to lead the organization. He has learned a lot and it has been a pleasure doing so as well. Been one heck of a different year, not like he anticipated. Canceling meetings and the convention was real tough decisions. Looking into the future, the weed association's role looks good. With the new administration coming in on the federal level, things could be different. Remembering the waters of the US rule, could come back.

Again, thank you for everything.

Election Results: The canvassing board consisting of Cody and Travis met yesterday and counted the ballots. Cody announced that the results of the election:

2nd Vice President: Stan Wolf

Industry: Bill Walker

At this time, Cody handed the meeting over to Travis.

Travis thanked Cody, Katie and Brent for their dedicated service to the NDWCA board.

Welcome to Roger, Joan and Stan to the board.

Awards: Travis presented the awards

Gavel Award – Cody Schnabel

Retiring director: Katie Dillman

Merlin read an e mail from Brent Nelson

Retiring director: Brent Nelson – Roger took his plaque to present to him

Weed Warrior - Richard Weisz – He thanked everyone for his award

Lifetime Achievement Award – Jim McAllister – Merlin talked to Jim on speaker phone. Jim was board president 2 times. He is the retired weed officer in Barnes County.

Ron and Jamen will present the award to Jim

BREAK for lunch:

Travis reconvened the meeting at 12:29 pm.

Door Prize was awarded with the winner going to Monte Dralle.

NEW BUSINESS:

Name Tags: Bill handed out the name tags for everyone to wear at meetings, etc.

Executive Secretary Contract: Merlin left the room to allow the board to discuss his contract freely. Ron moved to add editing website to the duties of the executive secretary. Stan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Bill moved to hire Merlin for 2021 for \$8,100. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

Cass County Legislative Meeting: Stan sent a letter to the meeting that his county has with their legislators before the session begins. In the letter he spoke of the lack of funding to combat the new noxious weeds in the state, mainly Palmer Amaranth. Stan went on in his letter to describe the large infestations that occurred this past summer in both Barnes and Stutsman Counties. He mentioned that our money comes from the EARP fund as well. He described the financial burden that could occur to counties if they are required to cost share controlling a weed such as Palmer Amaranth.

Stan stated that he has gotten the attention of one legislator who plans on forwarding his letter to the chair of the Senate Ag Committee.

Excellent discussion on what we should do if this letter gets “legs” under it. Bill calculated what the potential cost could be for controlling Palmer Amaranth. Bottom line, we could not afford it, no matter where the funding would come from.

Topic of having Palmer Amaranth removed from the noxious weed list came up. Derrill and Jim could talk to Brian Jenks to see his views on having Palmer Amaranth on the noxious weed list. Stan will talk to Dr. Joe Ikley.

Being that there have been some recent large infestations of Palmer in the state, Stan moved that the ND Weed Control Association officially oppose having Palmer Amaranth on the state noxious weed list. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Travis stated that if it is removed from the state list, counties can add it to the county noxious weed list.

List Serve: Merlin added it to the agenda to raise awareness that it is not being utilized to its fullest potential. Good discussion. Richard will look at using it more, and advertising for the use of it as well.

Educational Videos: Ron would like to have education videos. Bill did do some several years ago. He will see if he can get them, and put them on the website. Stan thought about a format on some like with the virtual conferences. Good discussion. Could use you tube. Merlin will ask Mike.

Committees: Travis set up committees for 2021.

Education: Derrill, Bill, Ron

Policy/Bylaws Committee: Bill, Derrill

Executive Committee: Travis, Jim, Stan, Merlin

Legislative Committee: The Executive Committee

Website Committee: The Executive Committee

Annual Meeting/Auction Committee: 2nd VP – chair – Stan, Area 2 – host area - Ron, Bill, Merlin, Derrill and Richard

Audit Committee: Ron and Jim

Awards Committee: Area I – Joel Anderson, Area II – Al Ulmer, Area III – Dan Folsky, Area IV – LaVerne Laib, Area V – Josh Hetland

Board Meetings for 2021: March 30, June 29, September 28, starting at 10:00 am at the Ramkota, Bismarck - Governor's room. January 4th, starting at 5:00pm.

Sprayer Schools: May 25, 26 and 27. Locations to be announced, but most likely Carrington, Minot and Dickinson in that order.

Area Meetings: October 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Places Area II - Valley City, Area I - Devils Lake, Area III - Minot, Area IV - Mandan and Area V - Amidon or Dickinson. Depending whether the Ag. Dept. has their 2021 weed forum at the area meetings or one day in Valley City, space may be a factor at some locations.

Any Other New Business: Stan gave an update to the board on Dr. Quincy Law coming to NDSU.

Being no further business, Jim moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary

Next year's conference – January 4-7, 2022 at the Ramkota in Bismarck