

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Yet to be Board Approved

President Travis Jepson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Members present were, Travis Jepson, Bill Walker, Kent Luttschwager, Stan Wolf, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Rick Schmidt, Jim Hennessey, Joan Lorge, Roger Gunderson, Cody Schnabel, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests: Matt Morten, Eastern ND Corteva Rep.

**Additional agenda items were:** None

**Minutes were reviewed.** Jim moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill seconded the motion. M/C

**Financial Report:** Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, memberships paid so far. Merlin said that 6 counties have not paid their memberships for 2021. Rick moved to accept the financial reports as presented, Jim seconded the motion, M/C

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education:** Derrill gave the education report. We had a booth at the Earth Day festival in Bismarck on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This booth lets us interact with local students and the general public to inform them of noxious weed control.

We had a great turnout at our sprayer schools this year. I want to thank everyone for attending. All totaled we had 121 people attend. This is our greatest attendance since we started the sprayer schools! The people attending were from weed boards and state and federal agencies that are tasked with noxious weed control. With the worst threat of the virus hopefully behind us, I am happy we can finally get together face to face and get back to our normal spraying activities and trainings. Of course, the sprayer schools could not be possible without the speakers and presenters so I need to thank all of them for their expertise and willingness to speak at these schools. At these schools we had local paramedics give us a short basic first aid training on how to respond to an accident until the paramedics show up. We had from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds, the Pesticide and Fertilizer Division had their Agriculture Program Inspectors give updates and what is needed during a use inspection. There was also a Right-of-Way recertification training administered by the Pesticide Training Program of NDSU. We had a weed ID section put on by the NDSU Research Centers and a sprayer equipment calibration session provided by Bill Walker of Nutrien Solutions. The locations where these sprayer schools were held were: the Carrington Research Center in Carrington, in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office and in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office.

**Legislative:** Merlin stated that as we all know, the department budget was passed. Quiet session for us. It was an interesting session with Covid protocols etc. Being able to watch all hearings on line was very nice, but hard to get used to. Watching sub committees was very helpful, as that is where the main action takes place. The way the legislature has set up their live video meetings, in the future the entire board will be able to watch a hearing. It will also be a money saver for the association, less trips to the capital, as was evident this session. Merlin thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as the association lobbyist for another session.

Stan said that he watched a number of these on line this year as well. A good way to learn how to testify in front of a committee, if the time should come that you are called to do so.

## **Agency Reports:**

**Government:** Kent Luttschwager gave the government report. Everybody at the Game & Fish is very busy this time of the year. Remember that just because it's not a noxious weed, does not mean it needs to be sprayed, as it may not be a weed, but a plant that is beneficial for certain wildlife species. Saltcedar is usually worked on in the fall. The Saltcedar program has been very successful over the years. Good discussion on the control methods of Saltcedar.

Travis mentioned that the Saltcedar program is a success in North Dakota thanks to folks throughout North Dakota.

**NDDA:** Given by Richard Weisz. LAP/TAG Utilization: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

LAP total spent - \$348,239 or 60%, TAG total spent - \$177,062 or 63%.

LAP/TAG Deadline: the biennium and fiscal year closes June 30, 2021. Reimbursement dates: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Vouchers are due to me by July 9, 2021 for reimbursement.

County Weed Board Visits: Have visited roughly 20 counties since last year. Jim Hansen has been coming along to learn GIS/GPS usage in each county. The visits help me understand the dynamics between counties and how each county operates. It allows me to meet and talk to the weed officers in that county to ask about struggles or ways the NDDA can assist.

Weed Officer Protocol for Newcomers: It's been mentioned at previous meetings and I ask about this on my visits. I think it would be highly beneficial to create a document for new weed officers to aid the transitional period.

The new law books are in and free for the taking. The old ones would still work as well.

From Chelsey's side of things:

Biological Control/Forage: Leafy Spurge bio days are going on. Were able to be in Grant County at Merlin's field day last week, Billings County has one going on today north of Fryburg, on July 1 north of Medora, and Benson County has one also on July 2, east of the Pleasant Lake rest area. South side of Hwy 2.

Purple loosestrife biocontrol work being done in Barnes and Morton County.

Attempted to collect Yellow toadflax weevils in Ward County. Reason being that the land is being sold, plus it was a good experience on how to collect them. Found that traditional ways don't always work. Sometimes you need to think outside the box, and sometimes the collecting will come to you.

Scouting Spotted knapweed out west for biocontrol agents that were placed a while back.

Nothing new for weed free forage. If you have any questions on any of this, feel free to contact Chelsey.

Very good discussion on new weed officer training, the roles of county commissioners, weed board members and weed officers when it comes to the function of a weed board. A subcommittee was formed off of the education committee. On the new weed officer education committee, chaired by Derrill, are Travis, Jim, Bill and Richard.

**Industry:** Matt Morten from Corteva gave a brief report. He introduced himself. He covers eastern ND for Corteva. He is here to listen and learn about what the association does.

Bill Walker gave the industry report.

Not much has changed from the report given March, we are still seeing spot outages on many products and in some cases extreme outages on some products.

**CORTEVA** has still been the worst in product outages, Milestone Herbicide, Tordon 22K Herbicide and now Freelexx Herbicide have been the worst so far, Tordon 22K has finally started to get supplied to the

distributors in allocated amounts, Milestone Herbicide has been out and is not expected to be supplied until sometime after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, other products could be as late as August.

2, 4-D products have not loosened up much and are about the same as in March for availability, the ester formulations still seem to be the hardest to secure.

Glyphosates products are still at extreme backorder, many of the glyphosate products are again allocated including the Bayer branded products, this relates more so to the agricultural use products and no so much to the non-crop products but still some spot outages on the non-crop products as well, this is not expected to even start to get better until possibly next year, 2022.

**Alligare** does have a generic Milestone product called **Whetstone Herbicide**, this is in 2.5 gallon containers and costs \$260.00 per gallon, this could be a replacement for Milestone Herbicide if needed, has all same labeling, use sites, use rates and active ingredients, this product is available at this time.

**Bayer** would like to pursue a possible emergency use label for Method 240 SL Herbicide for use on grazed range and permanent pastures sites for Leafy Spurge control, this would not include any hayed grounds, they would like to look at this in North Dakota only at this time.

This would take a grass roots effort from government agencies, counties and large ranchers and other land operators and the North Dakota Department of Ag in North Dakota to sign on and possibly help in getting this done, this was done in Texas with another Bayer product (Invora) for Huisache and Mesquite control.

This would possibly broaden the current supplemental label that allows for applications to rights-a-ways that transect grazed areas without any grazing restrictions and allow for better Leafy Spurge control in these areas.

Finally, we could see product shortages in our industry right into this next year, container packing shortages, labor shortages, trucking shortages, technical material shortages are all playing into this, please keep this in mind when planning for the next year (2022).

A lot of discussion on the emergency use label for Method. Bill will keep everyone informed. Travis asked whether prices of chemicals will go up next year due to shortages this year and possibly next year. Possibly due to trucking costs, but otherwise nothing has been said.

Matt reiterated that product shortages have been a nightmare. Tordon is slowly becoming back on line. Hopefully other products from Corteva will be available soon.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Palmer Protocol:** Stan said that everyone received a copy that has been approved by everyone involved. Bill moved to accept the final version. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**  
(A copy will be attached at the end of these minutes)

**EPA Picloram Update:** Stan has been in contact with his state's attorney to discuss the language from EPA on what is public/private land. Notifying landowners in a county by a postcard could be expensive. Electronic means, posting it in the county paper, may be okay. It was decided to not respond to it, and see what comes out. Bill feels that the EPA will put a pictogram on the label like milestone has. We'll wait and see.

**Dr. Quincy Law Update:** Stan said that Quincy is fully on board. He has been busy getting to know what needs to be done. He has some equipment issues, but is able to lend form others. A backpack sprayer is of great need, which sells for around \$1,000.

He is looking for weed sites of all noxious weeds, large areas, not just small spots. He was at the Grant County bug day. First experience in biocontrol. Merlin stated how friendly both him and his fiancé were, helping where he could.

Stan was wondering if the association could provide some funding to his program for equipment. Jim said that maybe we could tap into the national travel fund.

Merlin will report back in September what the travel fund can be used for, and if so, how it can be changed.

Quincy would like to rank areas for research areas. He is asking the board for a ranking from our point of view.

**Other?** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Palmer Amaranth Update in Barnes & Stutsman Counties & More:** Ron said that in Stutsman County, there are pigweed plants but not many Palmer plants. He feels that the lack of rain has slowed the growth.

Bill said that they are finding some in Barnes County. Working with Jamen and landowners on various chemical mixes to use.

Subject: Palmer Amaranth Control Products on Non-Crop Areas

The following products have Palmer Amaranth on the label for control:

Overdrive Herbicide	Suggested 8 ounces per acre rates
** *Distinct Herbicide is the crop lands equivalent to Overdrive Herbicide	
DuraCor Herbicide	Should use the 20 ounce per acre rate
TerraVue Herbicide	Should use the 2.85 ounce per acre rate
Detail Herbicide	2 to 4 ounces per acre rate, 6 ounce per acre rate (maximum) for residual control.

\*\* \*Sharpen Herbicide is the crop lands equivalent to Detail Herbicide

The following products have Pigweeds on the label but do not specifically state Palmer Amaranth on the label.

E-2 Herbicide	Suggested 3 to 4 pints per acre rates
Plateau Herbicide	Suggested 6 to 8 ounces per acre rates
Could possibly help in giving some extended control	
Freelexx Herbicide	Suggested 2 to 3 quarts per acre rates

The Following Products have Palmer Amaranth on the label or Pigweeds on the Label and could when added with one of the above products could give extended control as well.

Payload or Promenade Herbicide Use 8 ounces per acre rates along with one of the burndown products listed above.

Fierce Herbicide would be the crop lands equivalent to Payload or Promenade

Sureguard Herbicide would be the ornamental and non-crop equivalent to Payload or Promenade Herbicides

Rejuvra Herbicide

Use 5 to 7 ounces per acre rates

While Rejuvra Herbicide has Pigweeds on the label it does not specifically state Palmer Amaranth, it has shown to control annual broadleaf weeds when sprayed for invasive weed grasses in rangelands and permanent grass pastures.

Possibly to do a tour in Barnes and Stutsman Counties later this summer.

Discussion on how Palmer ended up in Barnes and Stutsman Counties. Merlin knows of ranchers in his area that bought screenings from Red River. Ron says this could just be the beginning on what is found. Jim said that equipment is another very good source for bringing Palmer into the state. Rick said how about the hay that will be brought in this fall and winter.

Richard said that if you look at where it has been found, with the control methods, very little regrowth. Barnes County is an exception. But the farmer sat on the problem doing nothing for several years. It's unfortunate. Richard was asked if the department has list of who received a load of screenings from Red River. He said they do and he has contacted the farmers concerning the situation, and 80% do not want anyone to come and take a look. Richard was then asked if it is not the weed officers' job to do the initial meeting. Richard stated that we are all in it together. In his phone conversation he states that the department, extension and the weed officer as a group, would be willing to check the site. Richard has contacted the weed officers in those counties after the fact and told them the names of who he contacted. Travis asked about providing this list to the board. Richard said this is an ongoing investigation. Red River is not selling these screenings anymore. Richard feels the article was a good push to get things in the right direction.

Stan brought up the hay issue. Does the word need to get out about the possibility of Palmer in the hay?

Stan feels the sooner the better. The board asked that Richard ask the commissioner to get a public service announcement out on weed issues with incoming hay.

### **Break**

**Invasive Species Working Group invite:** Stan received a letter from an environmental group asking us to join their meetings. After some discussion, it was decided that they would not be the right fit for us. No motion was needed as the consensus was to discard it.

**Other New Business:** Discussion on the noxious weed short course that was held in Montana and Colorado. Should we start one in North Dakota? Used to have the Washburn School for new weed officers. Should start the school again. The subcommittee will work on it for next year. Jim will work on trying to have an overnight meeting there this year, possibly mid-August with our board and some agency folks.

Being no further business, Ron moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary

## Minutes from 2022 Conference Planning Meeting

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

2022 Conference Chairman, Stan Wolf conducted the informal meeting. In attendance were Stan, Joan, Roger, Ron, Bill, Richard, Derrill, Jim and Merlin.

Becky from the Ramkota gave the group a short tour of the facility. It was decided to not use the courtyard for a vendor room, but use the Grand Pacific instead, due to the fact that we could get larger items into the room via a garage door. The Patterson room would be for the meals, banquet, etc., and the meetings would be held in the Lamborn room. Outside, in the hall way, the cloak room would be near the registration table. The cloak room would be used for auction items/storage during the conference. Merlin would have a key for the duration of the conference.

We will use what was decided last year to move forward with the planning.

Merlin has the entertainment lined up, the Little Blue Stems from Elgin.

Noon luncheon: Merlin will talk to Julie Ellingson as a possibly speaker.

Department will have their commissioners forum on Tuesday, with our annual meeting following.

Beer & Brat Social and auction Tuesday evening in the Patterson room.

Speaker topics: ATV/UTV Safety

- Concerns for bee hives and pollinators

- Have Rick give a presentation with his trunk and digital calibration

- Spray safety with farm safety

- A skit on how to deal about a complaint

- Bill will give a 1 hour presentation on using adjuvants

- Invite, Quincy Law, Joe Ikley and Kevin Sedivic to speak as well

- Have presentations on dataloggers

- Possibly a panel for new weed officer training

- Have a presentation from Bayer on Method labeling

- Presentations from Matt and Claire from Corteva

Stan adjourned the informal meeting around 2:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary

**Extension Agents and County/City Weed Officers  
Palmer Amaranth Protocol 2021**

1. Landowner contacts the county weed officer or county Extension agent (the Extension agent or weed officer will contact the other to be sure both the weed officer and Extension agent are involved).
2. The weed officer and/or Extension agent will:
  - a. Gather images and mark the GPS Coordinates where plant was found. Plant(s) should remain in the field rather than being pulled. The weed officer and Extension agent will work together to provide information to an NDSU specialist(s) for plant identification.
  - b. Contact an area or state Extension specialist closest to them to help with identification. Images should first be sent to a specialist to help identify the plant in question. If necessary, the specialist may visit the field.
  - c. Notify NDDA prior to submitting a sample to the lab for genetic testing. NDDA requires a genetic test to confirm the plant is Palmer. Once Palmer has been confirmed in your county, NDDA does not require lab confirmation for other suspect plants. NDDA will pay for shipping and testing for the first confirmed ID but will not pay for additional tests. (See reverse for genetic testing information),
  - d. E-mail the lab report to NDDA whether positive or negative. If the plant is confirmed to be Palmer, also e-mail the GPS coordinates to NDDA (**coordinates and landowners and/or producers shall remain confidential and should not be shared outside of this group**).
  - e. Inform landowner if the suspect weed is or is not Palmer.
  - f. Notify Brian Jenks or Joe Ikley so they can keep track of where Palmer has been identified in the state.
3. NDDA notifies the State Seed Department if contaminated seed is the likely source of Palmer.
4. NDDA will make the official announcement via press release, social media, and pertinent listserv. Suspect cases should not be shared with public or press. Confirmed cases should not be shared with public or press until the NDDA press release has been published.
5. The county weed officer is the local regulator, and if necessary, shall investigate to determine how widespread the infestation is, probable pathway, whether it has spread, etc. The NDDA shall assist the county weed officer, where possible, in the investigation.
6. NDSU specialist(s), NDSU Extension Agent, county weed officer, and NDDA will work with the landowner to develop an action plan based upon 'Best Management Practices'. The NDSU specialist will take the lead role in action plan development. It is up the landowner to follow action plan. If no control action is undertaken, then county weed officer/county weed board to decide upon enforcement action.
7. NDSU Extension and the county weed officer will follow up with the landowner as warranted, but at a minimum on a yearly basis.
8. The county weed officer should keep records and maps to continue follow up with the landowner and survey the field for a period of 3-5 years after the initial finding to verify no additional Palmer is found. If more plants are found, follow ups should continue. NDDA will serve as a repository for the records and maps. The infestation site can be considered an

ongoing investigation, whereby landowner and site location information are confidential and may not be shared with the public until investigation is considered closed.

**NDSU specialists for ID and action plans include:**

Brian Jenks, Minot  
[Brian.jenks@ndsu.edu](mailto:Brian.jenks@ndsu.edu)  
(701) 857-7677

Joe Ikley, Fargo  
[Joseph.ikley@ndsu.edu](mailto:Joseph.ikley@ndsu.edu)  
(701) 238-6065

**Acronym Guide**

NDSU: North Dakota State University  
NDDA: North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
Palmer: Palmer amaranth

**Contact Links:**

- County Extension agents: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/Extension/directory/counties>
- County weed officers: [http://www.ndweeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Weed-Board-Directorypublic\\_5-7-19.pdf](http://www.ndweeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Weed-Board-Directorypublic_5-7-19.pdf)
- North Dakota Department of Agriculture: [www.nd.gov/ndda/pa](http://www.nd.gov/ndda/pa) (Richard Weisz, 701-328-2250, [raweisz@nd.gov](mailto:raweisz@nd.gov)) or (Charles Elhard, 701-220-0485, [celhard@nd.gov](mailto:celhard@nd.gov))

**Genetic Testing**

- Plants should first be identified in the field and/or with pictures to reduce the unnecessary spread of Palmer plants and/or seed. NDDA requires genetic testing if Palmer has not been identified in your county previously.
- The NDDA will pay for the lab fees and shipping expense for the first positive ID in a county. Contact the NDDA for a shipping label before sending suspect sample. Once Palmer has been identified in a county, the NDDA will not pay for additional testing. County weed boards may use their targeted assistance grant to pay for any lab results if funding is available.
- Costs for subsequent samples from counties where Palmer is confirmed will be paid by the county or landowner. TAG funds may be used for Palmer samples going to the lab.
- National Agricultural Genotyping Center (Fargo, ND):

<https://www.genotypingcenter.com/services/testing/>

- See complete instructions for Palmer sampling and shipment:  
<https://www.genotypingcenter.com/palmer-amaranth-testing/> ○ For large plants, place 2-3 leaves from a single plant into an envelope or paper bag.
  - For small plants or seedlings (less than 3 inches), send the entire plant, removing soil and moisture prior to placing it in the bag.
  - If the sample cannot be sent the same day, it should be kept at room temperature. Samples should be stored for no more than 1 to 2 days and PREFERABLY SHIPPED OVERNIGHT to ensure samples arrive in good condition. Degraded samples cannot be tested.
  - Label envelope or bag using the same sample specimen ID used on submission form ○ All samples must be sent with a sample submission form:



<https://www.genotypingcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Submission-Form-Generalv3.0-1.pdf>

- ✦ Ship to: National Agricultural Genotyping Center, 1605 Albrecht Blvd North, Fargo, ND 58102
- ✦ \$75 per individual plant. The goal is to return results in 7 days or less. Results will be returned and identified as waterhemp, Palmer or “monoecious” pigweed (cannot distinguish between the different monoecious pigweeds [redroot vs. Powell vs. smooth pigweed]).
  - Use paper bag for samples – not plastic. Be aware that plant juices from plants touching each other can contaminate the sample – keep plants separate if you are sending multiple samples.
- NDDA may issue a press release on the first confirmed find in a new county. County is the most specific location for any reference of Palmer that will be given.