

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

September 28th, 2021

Yet to be Board Approved

President Travis Jepson called the meeting to order at 10:09 am.

Introductions. Travis introduced himself and we went around the room with introductions.

Members present were: Travis Jepson, Bill Walker, Roger Gunderson, Joan Lorge, Cody Schnabel, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Rick Schmidt, Jim Hennessey, Kent Luttschwager, Stan Wolf, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests: ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, ND Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Tom Bodine, Quincy Law, NDSU, Brian Jenks, NDSU, and Mike Weinhandl, Grant County rancher.

Additional agenda items were: None

Merlin stated that Eric Delzer cannot make it as he is sick. Stan will discuss the right of way issue, place under old business.

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

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register. Merlin mentioned that Kevin Sedivic did select two individuals for the range camp scholarships that we sponsored. The funds were taken out of the youth savings and the educational savings.

Ron moved to accept the financial reports as presented, Jim seconded the motion, **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the report. Over the summer, we don't usually meet. Working on meetings during the off season, training for new weed officers and board members, their duties, etc. Still trying to have a site for training. Have different educational booths, in each area. Have the costs come from the educational fund. Have them at trade shows or other events. Develop a new manual as well. Sending out for the poster contest. Ron feels that we need to be on top of it.

Question on using the travel fund for this. Bill asked Merlin to work on what the National Travel fund can actually be used for.

Agency Reports:

NDDA: Richard gave the report

LAP/TAG: The legislature gave an additional \$50,000 for LAP this fiscal year.

New LAP and TAG NOGAs have gone out for the 2021-2023 biennium

If there are questions regarding your NOGAs or allocation amount, please let me know

County Weed Board Visits: Still ongoing - goal is to visit weed officers to understand the way their

program is run. Jim Hanson has been coming along to learn GIS/GPS usage in each county in the state

Palmer Amaranth: 3 counties this year (Cass, Grant and Sioux Counties)

Found in sunflower screenings - Investigation is ongoing

USFS Funding: If anyone has proposals they'd like to submit, please let me know. This would help clinch more dollars on our next USFS grant if we can show the participation.

New Law Books in: Contact me to get some

Weed Seed Free Forage summary

Almost 5,700 acres inspected in 10 counties. Bale counts still coming in for many inspections, although numbers are trending low due to drought.

Biocontrol 2021 Field Day summary

In late May and early June, we monitored sites in Ward County for *Mecinus janthinus* (yellow toadflax stem weevil). We successfully collected some insects for release by aspirating emerged adults and moving stems with non-emerged adults. The release was made at site nearby. We also released *Rhinusa pilosa* (yellow toadflax stem gall weevil) in Billings County. Researchers in Montana hand reared the release and requested it be placed away from *Mecinus janthinus* sites.

This spring, we scouted for *Puccinia punctiformis* (Canada thistle rust fungus) at known native sites and some 2019/2020 release sites. Found evidence (only 1 plant) of the native rust at the known native site, but none of the release sites showed evidence of establishment. In late summer and early fall, we did make some 2021 releases but fewer than previous years due to the drought.

This summer, we released *Hylobius transversovittatus* (purple loosestrife weevil) in Barnes County and Galerucella beetles in Barnes and Morton Counties. We helped some organic farmers obtain some releases of *Aceria malherbaew* (field bindweed mites).

There were also 5 well attended flea beetle public collection days for *Aphthona* spp. (leafy spurge flea beetles) hosted by Billings, Benson and Grant Counties.

Industry: Bill Walker gave the industry report.

Once again, we are focused on product, product shortages, drastic price increases and all just continuing on thorough this year (2021) and well into next year as well (2022). We have seen many product shortages so far this year in our industry (as well as others) and according to manufacturers, we are not at that end yet.

Glyphosate products will continue to be a major shortage problem, this will affect the agriculture community much worse than our side but will affect us all the same, larger users especially those spraying cattails with aquatic glyphosates will see product supply issues and all will see drastic price increases when product does come available, glyphosate prices since the first of the year have so far risen between 28% to as much as 40% and are expected to

continue the rise in costs right into 2022 (sometime). Generic glyphosate products have been extremely hard to get and supply this year as well and will continue to be even well into 2022.

2,4-D products are showing larger price increases as well, amines have risen about 30% in costs from the beginning of this year and esters have taken even greater cost increases, supply of 2,4-D esters has gotten tighter as the year has gone, and again, this is expected to last well into 2022 and will affect the ag markets larger than ours but will affect ours as well.

Manufacturers have had difficulty in securing raw materials to formulate products and with many of the raw materials coming out of China we will continue to see that, China is under its carbon neutralization plan and each province in China has a target on energy consumption and carbon emissions, many of the provinces are either shut down or only running at 50 to 60% capacity for production because they have reached or exceeded the YTD targets, this again, is affecting raw materials coming from China to produce and manufacture products in this country (USA).

We are already seeing price increases on other products not mentioned above, manufacturers have been taking unprecedented mid-season price increases due to many different issues as well, these all vary from COVID issues (yet) to the most recent hurricane event in Louisiana damaging needed plants and slowing barging and raising raw materials costs, etc., etc...

BASF – has taken price increases across the board already this year, normally these are taken January 1 of the next year, increases include Plateau 1.6%, Arsenal 1%, Overdrive 4%, and we will most likely see increases again after the 1st of the year.

Bayer - has taken price increases effective October 1, 2021 (normally these are January 1, 2022), Esplanade 200 SC about 4%, Plainview SC about 1%, Method 240 SL (no change at this time) and other products from 2% to 5% plus and they cite jugs, labeling, packaging, shipping, labor rates, active ingredients of the products as reasons early and again, we may possibly see January 1 increases.

Bayer - glyphosates (the Roundup Brands), have all taken regular price increases with the next to be taken September 24, 2021 and is expected to be 28% to 35% depending upon glyphosate product, these are on products we would use, ag market has already taken substantial increases earlier in September.

Corteva - did announce price increases verbally so far and expected increases are from about 2% to 5% on many products at this time, we have seen spot outages from CORTEVA this year on Tordon 22K, Vastlan, Freelexx, GrazonNext HL and others to a lesser degree and many products now are on allocation to the distributors until sometime in 2022.

CORTEVA has also announced that they are exiting the Rodeo Herbicide (aquatic glyphosate) business, will no longer make and supply this product at this time.

NuFarm – has already been raising prices on 2,4-D products and we are expecting possibly another raise by the end of the year, amines, and esters, they had exited the AquaNeat Herbicide (aquatic glyphosate) market but now have re-entered this market with AquaNeat Herbicide again, but supply is short and spotty.

Many other manufacturers, SEPRO (many aquatic products), **UPL** (many aquatic products), **Alligare** (many alternative/generic products) have all taken mid-season price increases as well and, we may well see increases later from these manufacturers after the first of the year.

The moral of this story – be prepared in 2022 to have to spend some extra dollars on the chemicals/products needed to perform and complete your work, your cost share programs, and if farming as well. Also be prepared for possible shortages on certain products “again” and possibly even more products early on.

Our industry has not seen this for many years, if we all plan a little ahead, make some adjustments, consider some possible alternatives in our weed management programs and, have some understanding that we are all doing what we can, we can all get through this and hopefully move on to better times in the near future.

At this time ND Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring and Deputy Commissioner Tom Bodine joined the meeting.

Palmer Amaranth Discussion: Travis asked Merlin to begin the discussion. Merlin began the discussion on Palmer, and what new sights that were found in Grant and Sioux Counties. It was in sunflower screenings that were fed to livestock this past winter. Brian and Quincy were at the sites, along with Tessa, Grant County Extension, Joe Ikley from NDSU and Victor Kraft, weed officer from Sioux County. You could row it where it was fed. The farmer who has this large infestation, is also here today, Mike Weinhandl. Merlin also stated that he has a feedlot operator who is currently feeding it daily. Merlin took a sample of the pile of screenings and it came back at 5 seeds per lb., which would be too high.

Brian Jenks took over the discussion. He asked Merlin about the other farmers that were discussed that day that fed screenings. One has not found any, the other one is the one that feeds daily. Merlin will inspect the other one next week. Brian asked Merlin where it came from. Merlin said CHS Grandin and from Grace City. Brian did not know about Grace City. Commissioner Goehring said that’s the problem. There are more than 1 facility that sell screenings. There are numerous plants. This spring, the commissioner had numerous farmers in his office and on the phone upset because the department wanted to eliminate the sale of these screenings. They need them for feed. They understand that there could be a potential problem. Quincy asked how many are importing screenings. Commissioner stated that there are some. He did not say exactly how many. The department did inspect and sample screenings at CHS.

The commissioner went on to say that we are putting so much emphasis on Palmer, that is upsets him, because the real focus should be on noxious weeds in general, since many farmers are not taking care of their land when it comes to controlling noxious weeds. The commissioner wishes that everyone would put as much time on other noxious weeds as they are with Palmer. Brian stated that Palmer can be controlled in a lot of crops, but he worries about certain specialty crops grown in the western part of the state that Palmer cannot be controlled in without destroying the crop. Commissioner Goehring stated that possibly those producers would have to plant other crops until the Palmer would be eliminated in those fields.

Merlin told the commissioner the reason that so much emphasis is put on Palmer, is that before

it was in the state, we were all told that it's a game changer. Put farmers out of business if they get it, that fields would be unable to be harvested. So now we are supposed to suddenly change the focus about Palmer to oh well, just another noxious weed. Should not happen.

The commissioners stated that legislators have concerns over more funding for noxious weeds when noxious weeds are not being controlled already.

Mike Weinhandl never purchased sunflower screenings before this winter. They fed 5 loads and have now around 200 acres infested. His wife has hand pulled several pickup loads of amaranth in the feed yards. The commissioner said there is no law prohibiting the sale, but we can set a protocol for them to follow. Without a complaint, a facility is not monitored.

Deputy Tom Bodine said that they have sampled several facilities including Grace City and Grandin. Some facilities stated that they may quit the sales of screenings. He met with the feeder council at the Stockmen's Association Conference and brought this up. They want these screenings for feed and they were not happy with the department or the elevator wanting to quit selling screenings.

Mike said this plant is very aggressive. Has a tremendous root system. It's in hay fields now. What to do? Bill said that using Dicamba products should work well. Merlin said that Mike has started spraying with 1 quart Tordon/ 1 quart Amine plus Liberate. Bill talked about the controls they are seeing in Barnes County.

Bill led the discussion on resistances Palmer has and why. Mainly, due to low rates to spray instead of recommended rates. Brian said the biggest problem is spraying when weeds are too large.

Brian said we are eradicating Palmer in most cases, but the screening issues are where we are having major issues.

A lot more discussion on Palmer. The commissioner said that screenings will not be eliminated. We need to figure out how to manage Palmer once we have it.

Mike said that through the chain of events, everyone made money, from the producer to the elevator. Now it's in our lap, and it's costing us money.

Brian said that news releases have been issued about sunflower screenings, and we should do it again and again.

Travis thanked everyone for coming this morning to discuss Palmer Amaranth.

BREAK

Government Report: Kent gave a report. The NDG&F did more grazing this year, now its thistle control, then to Saltcedar inspecting. Putting boats in the water because of low water will create many challenges. By the next meeting, he will have summaries from other agencies.

OLD BUSINESS:

ND Range Camp: Merlin mentioned that the association did sponsor two youth to range camp. Still waiting for a thank you note report from one student, will have it at the conference.

Method Update: Bill brought the board up to date on the process of getting a broader label for Method. It is at the NDDA for their approval. It must be approved by EPA. Cody asked about quart containers. Bill said that they may be by spring, not sure at this point. If everything gets approved, we could have a label by spring. There will be no haying label.

Barnes County Update: Tried different chemicals and mixes in non-crop situations. DuraCor did not work. In the cattle paddock, E2 and Payload, application was clean. E2 and Rejuvra looked real good. Joe Ikley worked with the landowner on a corn field, no idea what chemical was used, but had excellent control.

Quincy said that the drought may have helped with non-emergence of Palmer as well.

Rick asked about using county dollars for cropland weeds? The general answer is that as long as you're not using state dollars you can. It is up to each county board. But LAP does not state non-cropland or cropland.

Quincy said that with all of these different Palmer species, it is difficult in identifying, and also to genotype for resistance on chemicals.

Right of way: Stan filled in for Eric Delzer on notifying landowners about spraying pesticides in road ditches. With Tordon getting relabeled, we could have issues. Would an ad in the official paper work, or on a county website, or both? Good discussion. If we have to send out a notice to each individual, it could potentially cost counties large amounts of money for postage. Merlin asked Richard to try and find what the department sent out to counties. This happened probably 10 years ago if not earlier. Richard will try to find it. It could have come from the pesticide division. Ron said it could have been 13 years ago. Ron recalled that we needed to do it three different ways. Stan said that it could be on the label to be a direct notification.

Other Old Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Equipment funding for Quincy: Stan had Quincy discuss what he could use for equipment. Quincy stated what he could use, including a small sprayer. Bill will check with various chemical companies to see if they have something to give to Quincy.

Jim moved to table this until our January meeting, and to have Quincy set up a budget on the costs for us to look at. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

SBARE: Stan received an invitation to submit a proposal to the committee. With Quincy on board, and since we pushed and lobbied to hire a person for noxious weeds, and they hired Quincy, we should not only support Quincy, but should push for funding his position. It could be for research, including building space. Ron said shoot for the moon, don't go for little stuff. It would be for the next biennium. Rick will help to approach this, so it gets done properly. Jim moved that we move forward with it, Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

Rick and Stan will report back in January how it went. Stan will keep the board informed as they move forward.

Report from Stockmen's Assoc. Conference: Stan represented the association, speaking at the conference. Stan thanked Travis for allowing him to represent the association. It was in Fargo this year. Stan spoke in front of the Environmental Committee. By doing so, they continue to

support us at the legislature and elsewhere. Talked about Palmer Amaranth. Fielded good questions concerning Palmer as well.

Budget for 2022: The board worked on the budget for 2022. Discussion on continuing the newsletter in print, or going by e mail only. Decided to discuss at area meetings, in the newsletter, and at the annual conference. Will leave it for 2022, but no guarantees after that. Hopefully we can get everyone on board the e mail list. Stan moved approved the budget for 2022, and to send it to the January board meeting for final approval before sending it to the annual meeting for membership approval. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

2022 Conference (2022 conference is Tuesday January 4 – 7 here at the Ramkota)
Merlin went through what he has on the schedule. Should have a near complete schedule by the area meetings. Asked the board for some input, names to contact, etc. Stan and Merlin will work on the menus.

Area Meeting's Agendas: October 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. Director's terms are up in Area's II and III. Both eligible for 1 more term. 2nd VP Area's I, IV and V only. New Business: Newsletter, County Palmer Programs, and SBARE proposal update.

New Weed Control Methods: Stan said that there are two new methods for weed control. First method is a laser weed blasting machine. They are self-driving as well. Second method, a weed seed destroyer that mounts inside combine. It uses a combination of heat and blue light. Remember, you saw it here first. Maybe TAG would work for this.

Other New Business? Quincy was contacted about a new chemical called Venue. Good discussion on it. Bill will do some checking. Quincy needs to see it in trials before recommending it for use on Leafy Spurge.

Any Other New Business: None

Being no further business, Ron moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**
The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary