

## **NDWCA Area I Minutes**

**Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND**

**Yet to be approved**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Area Director, Roger Gunderson, called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ramsey, Towner, Nelson, and Cavalier. Others present were Richard Weisz & Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Matt Morton & Claire Keene, Corteva Agriscience, Bill Walker, Nutrien Solutions, Tom Hedrick, Van Diest and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA executive secretary.

### **Additional agenda items: None**

Everyone read the 2020 area I minutes. Josh Short moved to approve the minutes as presented. Marvin Narum seconded the motion. **M/C**

### **Old Business:**

#### **Annual Meeting Update:**

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 4, 5, 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ramkota Inn in Bismarck. There will be a board meeting Tuesday evening at 5:00 pm. Wednesday morning and part of the afternoon will be the Ag. Commissioner's forum. Around 3:30, we will have our annual business meeting. Wednesday 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. Thursday 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 12 noon. The noon luncheon will begin at 12:00 as well. At 1:00 we will go back into general session. Thursday evening, we will have a social at 6:00 sponsored by Corteva, followed by our awards banquet and entertainment. This year's entertainment is Little Blue Stems band from Elgin. They are a family group singing bluegrass and country. Nutrien Solutions and Bill Walker is the sponsor for the entertainment. Friday 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 Friday to wrap up the activities.

Exhibitor Breaks: We would like everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$50, 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

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

## **County reports:**

### **Ramsey: Given by Roger Gunderson**

Ramsey County did not have a very good spraying year on county and township roads. Wind and heat were big issues along with other problems. A fair amount of spurge beetles were collected on collection day. Spurge, Wormwood and Canada thistle continue to be problems. Also, still finding Saltcedar along the one area on Devils Lake shoreline.

### **Cavalier: Given by Josh Short**

The 2021 spraying season was another great learning tool in my education as a weed officer! We were able to get out successfully spraying all state highways. The majority of the county roads and four of the thirty-five townships in the county. For our first real year of spraying, that was my goal, which was similar to past weed officers' yearly accomplishments.

We had very few complaints from the public regarding weed violations this year, and the few we had were rectified by the owner/operator immediately.

We were fortunate enough to have a stockpile of holdover chemical, from the past years which circumvented our need to purchase chemical that was in short supply, prior to the spraying season.

We noticed an increase in the amount of common tansy seen throughout the county and have worked with a few landowners to hopefully curb the spread of it.

All in all, I would say 2021 was a modestly successful season and look forward to the 2022 season.

### **Towner: Given by Lindy Berg**

This is our second year contracting the highways and that is going well. We are also contracting half the townships, which they have been able to complete each year. Receiving comments that the control is looking better each year. With the drought heat, temps, etc., much of our spraying was later into the fall spray season.

We have 1 full time sprayer have 1 full time sprayer and 1 part time sprayer. There was 6 townships that didn't get sprayed this year, leaving about 78% that was completed.

We continue to max out TAG and continue to use LAP.

I don't foresee hiring any new sprayers for the 2022 season, but we haven't had our last meeting for the year.

### **Nelson County: Given by Marvin Narum**

Last year we sprayed half the county at a time, and finished this year. Fixed up a sprayer to spray the entire ditch at a time, instead of spot spraying. That has worked great. 1<sup>st</sup> year with no weed complaints.

**Agency report: Roger gave the education report here for Derrill Fick**

In March the 2021 poster contest winner Devyn Fougner, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader in McVille, ND was presented, virtually, with a plaque and T-Shirt of the poster and the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students received a T-shirt with a picture on it that Devyn had made. The poster contest was created for noxious weed awareness for the students.

We had a booth at the Earth Day festival in Bismarck in April.

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. These sprayer schools were held at 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.

We are working on developing trainings during the off season (winter) for weed board members, county commissioners and weed officers along with a new weed officer training manual for new weed officers. We will continue to hold our regular sprayer schools in the spring. Also, we are developing a multiday educational leadership training hopefully to be held in the late summer.

We are also talking about having an educational booth at many different associations' annual meetings. This will give benefit to the attendees by informing them with educational and informational material about the identity of the noxious and invasive weeds that we are trying to control and why we are trying to control them.

We have started sending out to all the schools across the state the poster contest rules and information. You will be able to judge the posters at our annual meeting in January.

This is the copy of the letter Derrill sent to schools.

# **ND Weed Control Association Education Committee**

**Derrill Fick**

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**derrill.fick@wardnd.com**

September 20, 2021

**School Administrators and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Instructors**

This letter is to invite your 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes to participate with a poster contest sponsored by the North Dakota Weed Control Association. The purpose of this contest is to help educate the youth on the harmful and devastating effects that noxious and invasive weeds have on

agricultural lands, private lands, public lands as well as on wildlife. Our goal is to help the youth understand the importance of controlling and stopping the invasion of noxious weeds on these lands.

Within this poster contest, students throughout the state will have the opportunity to create a poster showing their knowledge and/or ideas on how these noxious and invasive weeds harm and affect all of us on different levels. This includes not only farmers and ranchers, but wildlife and wildlife habitats.

**Instructions:**

-Size of poster must be no larger than 12" X 18"

-Students name and grade, the Teachers name and the name and address of the school must be on the back of the poster

-Send posters to the address below

-Mail to:           Ward County Weed Control  
                          Attn: Derrill Fick  
                          P.O. Box 5005  
                          Minot, ND 58702-5005

The winning poster will be printed on a t-shirt to promote youth awareness for noxious and invasive weeds in ND. The winning student will receive a plaque award with a picture of the winning poster on it. The entire class of the winning student will receive a noxious weed prevention presentation along with a t-shirt with winning poster on it.

Our web site is: [www.ndweeds.com](http://www.ndweeds.com) . This site will have many links and information for you.

Posters will need to be received in my office by December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The judging will be held at the ND Weed Control Association's annual meeting January 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Thank you for choosing to be part of the NDWCA poster contest,

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me,

Sincerely,

Derrill Fick

NDWCA Education Committee Chairman

## **Industry Report:**

**Corteva - Matt Morton:** Thanks for using our product. Things are looking better on supply issues. There could be issues again next season. With China hosting the Olympics, they are curtailing manufacturing due to emissions, which in turn cuts into our supply chain. They are being forced to clean up their air for the Olympics. In North Dakota, we are at the end of the growing season, therefore we use chemicals later, which can mean that inventories are low by the time we start using chemicals. Heat and wind created a tough year for spraying. **Claire Keene:** She said that North Dakota is important to Corteva. She said that she and Matt want to work with the association as a unit, but each will have their designated areas.

The new mix of 16 oz Tordon/16oz Freelexx/16 oz DuraCor is fast becoming an excellent mix. They have possibly new products being labeled in 2022.

Matt said that a lot of products can be stored in cold storage, check the label to be certain.

## **Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & Nutrien Solutions**

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 as 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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), and **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.

### **Tom Hedrick, Van Diest Supply**

Appreciate the business. Our goal is to help you with equipment,, application and products. . Supplies should be better in 2022. Unfortunately, too much coming from China, but that’s something we have no control over. We formulate our own 2-4D in Webster City, Iowa. Another product, Graslan L could be a cheaper alternative then Tordon - Freelexx - DuraCor mix. Van Diest formulates Freelexx for Corteva. We work very closely with them. Agency prices with Corteva expect a 2-5% increase.

### **Government Report: Submitted by Kent Luttschwager, NDG&F, NDWCA Government representative**

#### **Roger read Kent’s Report**

Most government agencies were effective in weed control during the spring/summer of 2021. Some continue to apply fall herbicides. Covid19 presented challenges, especially for federal agencies.

Fall scouting and treatment for Saltcedar in the northwest part of the state along the Missouri River and Yellowstone River will be a challenge due to non-operational boat ramps and low river flows. The Confluence boat ramp is completely silted in and the ND Game and Fish Dept. hopes to relocate a new ramp downstream in 2022. Possible spots where Saltcedar has been located and treated on Wildlife Management Areas in the past will have to be checked and sprayed by 4 wheeler. However, access is limited due to dense willow and riparian vegetation.

Updates on acres treated by government agencies will be summarized and available for the next newsletter publication.

## **Break**

### **NDDA Update: Richard Weisz, noxious weed specialist:**

There are numerous types of outreach material available for county weed boards to aid in the education of invasive and troublesome weeds, weed seed free forage, and North Dakota's noxious weed law and regulations. We would like to know what kind of material the weed officers need or would be interested in that isn't already available.

The 2022 Agriculture Commissioner's Noxious Weed Forum will be taking place on January 5, 2022 at the Bismarck Ramkota Hotel. It will be free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided. I also asked people in attendance if they had any speaker or topic ideas for the forum. We want to make sure things being presented at the forum would be topics of interest and engaging for those participating.

US Forest Service grants are a funding pipeline that is currently available. Traditionally, these are under-utilized, and funds were significantly cut this year due to lack of spending from previous years. I mentioned if folks can continue to spend money on projects, USFS has said they may increase our grant amounts in the future. Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) had 42 eligible weed boards for this current fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). A total of \$1,050,000 was allocated for the biennium. The legislature allocated an additional \$50,000 for LAP this biennium. Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) has a total of \$281,000 being funded for all counties and city weed boards; \$5,000 per county and \$2,000 per city. New LAP and TAG notice of grant awards (NOGAs) were sent out in August. These are agreements that accept funding. The NDDA cannot reimburse LAP or TAG vouchers until these agreements are fully executed. If counties have not sent their paperwork back to me, please do so as soon as you are able.

Mapping is an important factor when it comes to weed control. If anyone has GPS data to submit, please get a hold of Jim Hansen. Call Jim if you have any mapping questions on submitting data or computer software or hardware. Also, if you have maps you want printed from data points you've acquired, Jim would more than happy to help create maps. He will be at the upcoming 2022 Weed Forum so bring your dataloggers and laptops.

With the lack of rain and drought we experienced this year movement of weeds through hay and feed is a high-risk factor. Many products come from out of state and traveled from east to west. Scouting the next few years is essential for noxious and new invasive weeds.

I discussed why county and city weed boards and weed officers are important. These entities are locally controlled, and local government tends to be more responsive than higher levels of government. Local government can more quickly react to the local population's needs. Local enforcement is key when

trying to manage and control noxious weeds. Weed officer responsibilities are outlined in the noxious weed law book.

After talking about the importance of local control, I touched on the responsibilities of a weed officer outlined in North Dakota Century Code:

- Know where the noxious weeds are within your county
- Encourage all landowner/occupants to control noxious weeds within your county
- Weed officers must meet the pesticide certification requirements
  
- Enforcement
  - Investigate all complaints received by the weed officer regarding noxious weeds
- Post or publish in the official newspaper of the county any notices the commissioner deems necessary to further noxious weed control
- Prepare reports as requested by the commissioner
- Attend meetings called by the commissioner to further noxious weed control

I also visited county weed board's websites to learn what information was displayed. He was impressed with the weed officer's objectives, mission, and services found amongst several different websites.

The weed officer's objectives included the following:

- Manage the spread of noxious weeds while developing an effective, long term integrated weed management plan that implements chemical, cultural, biological and mechanical weed control.
- Increase awareness and educate citizens about the impact of noxious weeds, the North Dakota Noxious weed law and proper weed control techniques.
- Work with NDSU County Extension Agent to develop a common message in the county.
- Build and implement programs that foster cooperative efforts between groups, agencies and individuals on noxious weed control issues.

The weed officer's mission was:

- Provide leadership and education in the long-term control of noxious weed management through cultural, biological and chemical control strategies

The weed officer's services listed were:

- Weed identification
- Assist in planning a noxious weed control strategy to landowners
- Provide biological control agents for Leafy spurge and other noxious weeds
- Provide partial reimbursement of herbicide and application costs to non-crop and non-CRP lands
- Weed Seed Free Forage inspections and certification
- Weed infestation reporting

Thank you for all you do!

#### **NDDA Update: Given by Chelsey Penuel**

##### **Weed Seed Free Forage (WSFF)**

For the 2021 season, almost 5,700 acres inspected in 10 counties. Bale counts still coming in for a few inspections, although numbers are trending low due to drought. Right now, only have a few producers have wanted their contact information posted on our website to advertise forage available for sale.



Since ND follows the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) standards for certification, the NDDA is actively following the Weed Free Products (WFP) Committee regarding various issues. One major issue has been with ordering twine from the supplier. Although the NDDA does not have an MOU with NAISMA, they have historically allowed us to purchase the purple and yellow twine through them. The supplier is no longer wanting to produce the purple and yellow twine due to production costs, also they do not want to produce as many various knot strengths. They are in early discussions to limit the available types of twine or possibly change the color to a single-color twine. As of now, the NDDA still has a healthy stock of the purple and yellow twine available in two types (9,600 feet/170-pound knot strength or 4,000 feet/440-pound knot strength) available to producers at cost.

## **Biocontrol**

### **Leafy spurge:**

The NDDA sent out weekly updates to the county and city weed board list serv regarding sunflower growing degrees days to estimate the emergence of *Aphthona* spp. (leafy spurge flea beetles) and continued this through peak collecting. NDDA participated in five well-attended flea beetle public collection days for leafy spurge flea beetles hosted by Billings, Benson, and Grant Counties.

### **Yellow toadflax:**

Joined by USFS representatives, NDDA monitored previous release sites for *Mecinus janthinus* (yellow toadflax stem weevil) in late May and early July in Ward County. The land at one of the sites was possibly being sold so while landowner permission was still a guarantee, NDDA used this as a learning opportunity for collecting the stem weevils. Insects were successfully collected by aspirating emerged adults and moving stems with non-emerged adults. The release was made at a site nearby.

There was also many *Brachypterolus pulicarius* (yellow toadflax seed head weevil), but these are widespread and show little impact. The easiest way to identify between the two insects is shape; *Brachypterolus* is more of a traditional oval, while *Mecinus* is an elongated oval or cigar-shaped.

USFS researchers in Montana hand reared a release of *Rhinusa pilosa* (yellow toadflax stem gall weevil) and delivered it to NDDA when visiting the stem weevil sites. The researchers requested it be placed away from stem weevil sites, so it was released it in Billings County. The site was visited after a few weeks and possible evidence of the galling was found; however, it may have been too soon to confirm. NDDA is planning to check the site again in the spring of 2022.

### **Canada thistle:**

This spring, NDDA scouted for *Puccinia punctiformis* (Canada thistle rust fungus) at known native sites and some 2019/2020 release sites. Found evidence (only one plant) of the rust fungus at a known native site, but none of the checked release sites showed evidence of establishment. In

late summer and early fall, NDDA did make some 2021 releases but fewer than previous years due to the drought.

Going forward on this will be interesting, as the EPA has recently decided that all pathogens of weeds used for classical biocontrol must be registered as a bioherbicide. It sounds like USDA APHIS and EPA is in discussions as to who is the regulatory agency. So, for now, APHIS removed it from all 526 permits and is in process of issuing a single research 526 permit and treating it as an unregistered pesticide product. The single researcher that will hold the research 526 permit for all participating states is Dan Bean at the Colorado Palisades Insectary. The limits now include that treatments must be under 10 acres nationally and we will be required to provide a lot more site information. They estimated the number of sites nationally that received inoculant from the Palisades Insectary, and the eight release sites in ND established in 2019 may continue to get releases.

### **Purple loosestrife:**

This summer, we released *Hylobius transversovittatus* (purple loosestrife root-feeding weevil) and *Galerucella* beetles in Barnes and Morton Counties.

The Palisades Insectary reared *Hylobius* insects in the lab because they are nocturnal, so they are not easy to catch in the field. However, they are no longer rearing them anymore; Paul Brusven at the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho is still rearing them, and, if the demand increases, the Palisades Insectary can restart again.

### **Spotted knapweed:**

NDDA monitored previous release site from 2013 in Golden Valley for *Larinus* spp. (*minutus* and *obtusus*) (flower weevils) and *Cyphocleonus achates* (knapweed root weevil). *Larinus* spp. were found but not *Cyphocleonus*. Hoping to get *Cyphocleonus* release in 2022.

### **Other:**

NDDA helped some organic farmers obtain some releases of *Aceria malherbae* (field bindweed mites).

Upcoming events:

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 - NAISMA Biocontrol Summit (agenda under development)

December 15th, 2021 - NAISMA webinar on the Misconception of Biocontrol, Dr. Urs Schaffner



Contact Chelsey Penuel with any questions on WSFF or biocontrol:

[cpenuel@nd.gov](mailto:cpenuel@nd.gov) -or- 701-226-4321

**New Business:****County Palmer Amaranth Programs:**

Merlin asked that everyone should send him what their plan of action is with Palmer, as we would like to put it into a report and post it on our website as a study guide for other counties that are unsure what to do. Merlin stated that the protocol needs to be followed as well.

**Newsletter:** Merlin stated that the newsletter print edition will be phased out by the end of 2022, due to cost of printing. The board would like to go to an all e edition. Board members in cities and counties need to get on the e mail list in order to stay involved in the association.

**SBARE: presented by Stan Wolf, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP NDWCA – read by Merlin**

The NDWCA received an invitation to appear before SBARE, the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education. SBARE invites all commodity stakeholders and individuals to present their critical needs and concerns that are impacting their members. The stakeholders are also asked to list possible solutions. The Board agreed to investigate what this would entail to help support Dr. Quincy Law's noxious weed research program. Rich Schmidt and Stan Wolf were assigned this task and report to the board.

SBARE will rank the needs and concerns of all participants. If a common theme is identified across several presentations, that theme may rank higher. For instance, if several commodity groups list Palmer amaranth as a looming problem, reducing yield or even eliminating production due to lack of good control methods, Palmer amaranth research or education will rank high. The SBARE committee then works with NDSU Research and Extension to develop various programs and budgets. These program requests are then forwarded to the Legislature for funding approval.

Several noxious weed needs and concerns have been proposed with possible solutions. These have been forwarded and to the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. We are waiting to hear back on how to proceed.

SBARE is holding in person presentations on November 2-3 at Fargo and on December 7 at Dickenson. Written testimony may also be sent in. An in-person presentation has been reserved for November 3 to ensure we have a seat at the table if we decide to move forward.

**Election:**

2<sup>nd</sup> vice president nominations from areas I, IV & V only.

Lindsey nominated Josh Short

**Resolutions:** none

**Other:**

**Travel Fund:** Bill Walker said that because we are not using the monies from the travel fund, we should cap it, and start a separate fund for in state activities, whether it be booths at trade shows or various other conferences. We will discuss this at the annual meeting in January, for you the members to vote on it.

Being no further business, Josh moved to adjourn the meeting, Lindsey seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary