

## **NDWCA Area II Minutes**

**Gladstone Inn, Jamestown, ND**

**Yet to be approved**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Area Director, Ron Manson called the meeting to order at 9:19 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Richland, and Stutsman. Others present were: Richard Weisz & Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Bill Walker, Nutrien Solutions, Tom Hedrick, Van Diest Supply, Matt Morton & Claire Keene, Corteva, and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Ron Manson, area director, welcomed everyone.

**Additional agenda items:** None

### **Minutes:**

The 2020 area II minutes were reviewed. Terry Weiss moved to accept the minutes as presented, Jamen Windish 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:**

### **Barnes County: Given by Jamen Windish**

I started off the year more fortunate than most in the state. With everything that was going on in 2020 I bought some extra chemical in the fall of 2020 for the spring of 2021. That seemed to have paid off for us. While others waited for chemical we were out spraying. Our roadside spraying went well at the beginning. We were happy with the dry conditions right away because we could spray in areas, we hadn't been able to for a few years during the wet time. That soon changed, with no rain conditions became bad around here. We had to stop spraying road ditches around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July because all the grass was drying up. We are finishing up our road ditches this fall.

Our palmer situation he has here I was pleasantly surprised at what I saw this year. Our landowner planted 1,000 acres of corn this year and the several times I had walked in there I didn't see a plant. We sprayed the feedlot and driveway to their place and had amazing results. I am beyond pleased with the progress we got this year.

We collected 30-40 releases of leafy spurge bugs this year. We gave most to one landowner in hopes to start an insectary on his place.

We had received 2 different bio control agents for purple loosestrife this year. We had placed them out in the heavily infested area. Since it was so dry, we were also able to get in there and spray with our side by sides this year. Along with the helicopter this fall. I am hopeful we will see a lot better results next year.

Our spotted knapweed was no where to be found this year. We scouted our normal pasture that has a decent population in there to find no plants. We did find one plant on interstate and 6 in a gravel pit this year that we hand pulled.

We found a decent population of musk thistle along a township road. I suspect that it came in from the county to the north off hay equipment from previous years.

During our downtime we spent a lot of time look and controlling hounds tongue. We received a USFS grant, and we have been doing over a dozen different projects this year with those funds.

### **Richland County: Given by Steve Ginsbach**

I started spraying four townships. Then took an unwanted vacation. I had a stroke, wound up in the hospital for a day and two months of rehab. My contractor sprayed 2,000 acres on the north ½ of the county, 1,000 acres on state and 1,000 acres on the south half. Now I am spraying Forest Service land.

### **Cass County: Given by Stan Wolf**

Road ditch spraying started in the north half of the county on June 24. Progress was slow due to wind and high temperatures during the summer. We used Tordon at 22 oz. with Freelexx at 16 oz. and increased the Liberate to 2 quarts/100 gallons water due to dry conditions.

Spraying in the south half started September 9. We used the above mix and some acres received Tordon at 12 oz. with Overdrive at 4 oz. since the soybeans were maturing. In total, we sprayed over 10,000 acres, a record. This is credited to the contractors being able to go down minimum maintenance roads

that were not traveled before. Major weed populations were Leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and Absinth wormwood.

Purple loosestrife was spotted and controlled in the usual drains in Fargo with a new location in central Cass, in a creek. Will need to scout the area with the drone next summer.

Spotted hemlock was found in numerous drains, road ditches, and alongside cattail sloughs. Hemlock was mostly located in the southern tier of townships either side of Highway 18 in road ditches and county drains. 20 miles of ditches were scouted, and plants spot spr20 miles of ditches were scouted, and plants spot spraed with DuraCor. Hemlock was also found in 10 cattail sloughs in north central Cass. Two private landowner areas were sprayed using DuraCor with good results. Informational newsletters were sent out to landowners in cooperation with county extension. This plant is highly poisonous and will kill livestock and people. Three releases of Poison hemlock defoliating moth pupae were released to hopefully establish biocontrol populations. The pupae were purchased from integrated weed control.

Leafy spurge beetles were collected within the county and at Grant County. A total of 27 releases were distributed to county landowners. Canada thistle stem mining weevils were purchased and released at five sites.

Palmer amaranth was found in a small town around a sunflower processing facility in late September. Plants were pulled and disposed. Subsequent inspections found additional plants. Plans are to mail an informational bulletin and work with the city residents next year.

Several water resource district properties were sprayed for noxious weeds. Method was sprayed in a diversion channel. A fall application of Tordon with Milestone (16oz/5oz rate) was sprayed for Leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and Absinth wormwood with good results. Previous applications of Tordon with Milestone have provided two years of very good control of Leafy spurge and Canada thistle.

I have been working with the F-M Diversion authority to make sure all lands in the diversion construction area are kept free of all weeds. We all need to be a good neighbor.

### **Dickey County: Given by Terry Weiss**

This year started out with no rain but plenty of wind. Had a very difficult time trying to get anything sprayed?

June 4<sup>th</sup> was the day I was able to start on the Townships. This was the latest I finished with the state and federal roads. There was no water in the right-of-ways to speak of, but the wind prevented progress.

Because of lack of rain, the right-of-ways were put up from hay early this year, as well of CRP being hayed, little was being sprayed or if it was, the use of chemical changed to 2-4D or Dicamba. Later on, some of the CRP was sprayed with Milestone after the hay was removed and not going to be taken out of CRP for a few years.

This year I used Fieldview to track what I sprayed. This gives me a track on an I- pad that tells me if I have sprayed there or not. At the end of the year will sweep up all the data files into a program that converts them into a shape file that Jim Hansen can read.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Dickey County Weed Board presented a glass desk plaque to the family of Donald G. Zimbleman, for his 29 years of service on the weed board. Don passed away of Covid-19 on November 21, 2020. He was a board member for 29 years and was a very good proponent of the Dickey County Weed Board.

Our secretary, Amy Sand wrote a very nice article for the Dickey County Leader newspaper about his years of service to the county.

The Kochia was particularly troublesome along the roadside this year. Once it rained, the Canada thistle and Leafy spurge was also prevalent in the right-of-ways.

The second week of September I started putting down Milestone in hopes of slowing the weed growth next year. Because of the drought, the weeds seem to be more difficult to control. It seems that the lack of moisture has slowed the absorption of the chemical into the plant, or that it does not transfer as well to the root.

With all the wet weather and forecast cold temperatures, I winterized the equipment and disconnected the outside water on October 12<sup>th</sup> for the winter.

### **Stutsman County: Given by Ron Manson**

Stutsman County Weed Control once again had a very busy season of spraying and may have had one of its best spraying seasons in a long time. With the dryness that persisted throughout the summer it allowed the spraying crew to get into areas that were, in the past, unable to be reached. We had all returning sprayers on staff, so the training and getting people on the same page right from the get go was convenient and made this job much simpler. We ran 5 spray trucks, a 6X6 ranger and a 4 wheeler. The crew was able to get thru all the roads in the county, the city of Jamestown, and the county parks at least 2 times this season. It seemed after the rain started in August, we had another spring spray going on. We are still out spraying and should be wrapping things up in the next 2 weeks according to the weatherman.

This season we also sprayed the southern half of the county's cattails along the county roads. We ran thru 650 gallons of Aquatic glyphosate, if the cost of this chemical continues to go up, we may not get to the Northside anytime soon. We also sprayed large tracts of land that has been turned over to the county by the Bureau of Reclamation along the Jamestown Reservoir. Stutsman County received just over 4,000 acres of land from them, to be managed by the county. After spraying a lot of the acres with Method, my future chemical budget will have to adjust accordingly.

This season we have been fortunate to be able to run all 3 data logging systems, Vince's Reds Fixit data logger, the Agterra, and this fall we are trying out the system that Ryan Walker has developed for himself. We should have a good idea of what we like, and don't like going forward when deciding on which system to use.

We found no additional Palmer amaranth in the county. I did run out to look at a lot of water hemp when landowners thought they found a Palmer plant. The previous landowner with the palmer issues in the county did a great job of keeping it contained. Of the plants we did see out there were immediately hand picked and disposed of.

The weeds that we are seeing more often is yellow toadflax and in the SW corner of the county, Babysbreath. When I did start looking more in that area, I found it all along the roadsides in both Kidder

and Logan County, and then noticed it a lot in other counties west of us. I was just wondering if it is a problem to the east of us.

### **Industry:**

**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. Jamen asked when we should order chemical, answer is early. Bill said that some products are on allocation. Claire Keene from Corteva said that the reason some products are on allocation is to keep southern markets from hoarding them. She went on to say 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. Jamen asked why the Corteva boxes all have one color. Claire said they are working on changing them.

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

Appreciate the business. Plan ahead. Supplies should be better in 2022. Dicamba use dropped off this past summer. But be aware of the volatility of it as well. Glyphosate will be extremely hard to get this coming season. Rodeo: Corteva is out of the market only distributors have it now. Generics will also be hard to get. 2-4D demand will be high. Van Diest formulates Freelexx for Corteva. We work very closely with them. Agency prices with Corteva expect a 2-5% increase.

### **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.

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.

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

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.

**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 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 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 -or- 701-226-4321

### **New Business:**

**County Palmer Amaranth Programs:** Ron asked that everyone should send Merlin 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. Ron 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: Stan presented the SBARE report**

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.

### **Elections:**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nominations:**

Can be only from I, IV or V.

Ron nominated Dillion Ripplinger, wee officer from Burleigh County, Area IV.

No other nominations

**Area Director:** 2 year term. Current director Ron Manson is eligible for one more two year term. Ron turned over the meeting to Merlin. Nominations were opened for area director. Terry nominated Ron Manson. Al moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Ron. Steve seconded the motion. **M/C**

**1<sup>st</sup> Alternate:** Nominations were opened for 1<sup>st</sup> alternate. Jamen nominated Al Ulmer. Jamen then moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Al. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate:** Nominations were opened for 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate. Ron nominated Steve Ginsbach. Ron moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Steve. Jamen seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Poster Contest:** Merlin read Derrill Fick, Education Chairman's report.

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**

701-852-1970 office

701-720-2436 cell

**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

**Resolutions:**

None were brought forward from this Area.

**Winter Show:**

Ron stated that we will do it again this year. There were no objections.

**Other Business:**

**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 other business, Jamen moved to adjourn the meeting, Terry seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary