

NDWCA Area V Minutes

Slope County Courthouse, Amidon, ND

Yet to be approved

October 22nd, 2021

Area Director, Joan Lorge called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Introductions. Counties attending were: Slope, Mercer, Bowman, Golden Valley, Stark, Dunn, and Billings. Others present: Matt Morton and Claire Volk, Corteva, Richard Weisz, NDDA, Bill Walker, Nutrien Solutions, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Minutes:

Tim Oberfoell moved to dismiss reading of the 2020 Minutes, seconded by Katie Willman. **M/C**

Old Business:

Annual Meeting Update:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 4, 5, 6 & 7th 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 15th. Forms are in the back, or on the website.

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

NDDA Report: Richard covered for both himself and Chelsey.

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 underutilized, 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: Submitted 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 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 2nd, 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

County Reports:

Billings: Given by Katie Dillman

The Billings County Weed Control Board (BCWCB) started the 2021 spray season off in the beginning of May. We began with eleven commercial applicators, six of which were returning sprayers from previous years. Equipment used for the spray season included four 6x6 Polaris Rangers, one 6x6 Can-am, five one ton pickups, four trailers, and one three quarter ton pickup.

In 2021, BCWCB treated several noxious weeds, which included Absinth wormwood, Black henbane, Canada thistle, Common burdock, Hoary cress, Leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, Saltcedar, Spotted knapweed, and Yellow toadflax. We made several passes on both I94 and Highway 85 throughout the season. We had one crew that sprayed primarily on County right of way. Our four other crews were spread out throughout the County spraying on federal allotments and for private landowners. In July, we had one crew assigned to spraying all of the County scoria and gravel pits. We also sprayed all of the cattle guards that are located on County maintained roads within Billings County.

The BCWCB hosted three public field days for the collection of Leafy spurge flea beetles. Several organizations attended field days to participate in collecting biological control agents. Organizations included the U.S. Forest Service, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Game and Fish, and the Army Corps of Engineers. County weed boards that attended collections included Billings, Williams, and Golden Valley County. Landowners from Billings, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Williams, Bottineau, McLean, Morton, and Stark County attended field days to implicate biological control methods on their privately owned land. Billings County supplied nets, sorters, and containers to anyone that attended public field days. We sorted the beetles that were swept by participants, measured them, and put them in transporting containers. Flea beetles were distributed at the end of the day and were split evenly amongst everyone that participated. In total, we collected over half a million flea beetles that were released throughout North Dakota and the National Grasslands.



Billings County continues to require zoning applications be submitted and signed prior to a landowners or operator planning any construction projects. Applications are filed with the auditor's office and require the weed officer to inspected proposed buildings, pipelines, roads, approaches, oil locations, and several other types of construction projects. The weed officer must inspect, sign off on proposed projects, and list noxious or invasive weeds present at the time of the inspection, along with stating who is responsible for controlling any noxious weeds that appear after construction is completed. We have noticed a significant improvement throughout Billings County by requiring these forms to be filed and signed off by both the weed officer and the requesting party. We will continue to require these applications to promote future weed control within Billings County.

With help from the Land Owners Assistances Program (LAP), Billings County is able to provide cost share to private landowners. Our cost share is capped at one thousand dollars in chemical value. Landowners are responsible for paying 30% and Billings County pays 70%, which is then ran through the LAP program.

The BCWCB worked with the U.S. Forest Service to control around 400 acers through aerial spraying. The two locations we chose to aerial spray in 2021 were located in remote areas where our ground crews have limited access to water. By aerial spraying these locations, we reduced costs and time. Allowing us to allocate funding to other areas within Billings County that were more accessible. In early October, we aerial sprayed 281.3 acres of Leafy Spurge and 121.8 acres of Canada thistle on the Little Missouri National Grasslands. The Leafy spurge was treated with a tank mixture of Tordon 22K, 2-4D Amine, and a non-ionic surfactant. The Canada thistle infestation was treated with Milestone and a non-ionic surfactant. In previous years, we have seen a significant improvement in the areas that were treated

with a helicopter. Though these applications are not the answer to all our weed control problems, they are a tool that we choose to use to improve the productivity in our County.

Weed board employees assist the Billings County Road and Bridge departments on road projects in the off-season. Some projects includes running a tractor and packer, tarring roads, and assisting in moving road equipment. We also assist in tracking, imputing, and monitoring county scoria and gravel pits. In doing this are able to monitor how much material is remaining at a pit and where they were transported. Our Road and Bridge departments in return assist by helping mount and bolt new sprayers to the frame of our UTV's, welding small repairs, maintaining our yard, calling in weed infestations, and pulling us out when we get stuck while spraying. We enjoy assisting other departments within out County as it helps to create good working relationships and build a more positive moral amongst all County employees.

Nature presented the BCWCB with several obstacles to overcome in the 2021 season. The spray season started with extremely high winds. This limited what we could achieve in a day and often times we resorted to backpacking draws to avoid the high winds. Heavily wooded draws were the one location we could avoid the wind and safely treat noxious weed infestations. The next obstacle that arouse was extremely high temperatures. The majority of the herbicides that we use are not labeled to be applied in temperatures over 85 degrees. There were several days in June that reached 100 degrees. This made it difficult to complete jobs and move to the next assignment. In an attempt to beat the heat we arrived at 5 a.m. to give us more spray time before temperatures put us off label. Drought was our next obstacle; we experienced very little precipitation in 2021. This caused plants to germinate later than normal, which resulted in later spray dates for species we normally treat early in the season. The drought affected native plant species as well. This made them more vulnerable to herbicides, than in years with adequate precipitation. We had to be careful what areas we treated in order to assure we did not damage any native plant species. With the combination of wind, heat, and drought the fire danger for Southwest North Dakota was high. Areas that could be accessed safely without risk of starting a fire were limited. With all

of these variables, it was a difficult spray season to complete, however we still managed to control a vast majority of the State and County listed noxious weeds throughout Billings Co



Bowman: Given by Josh Hetland

Weeds Controlled:

Canada thistle, leafy spurge, houndstongue, wormwood, spotted knapweed, black henbane, baby's breath, Musk thistle, Scotch thistle,

Cost Share Programs

Custom application by BCWB: 32 landowners' 473.5 acres

Pesticide distribution: 54 landowners 198 qt & 16 2.5 gal Milestone, 2 2.5 gal Method Herbicide, 19-8 ounce containers of Escort

In kind reimbursement:

Equipment reimbursement:

Our cost-share pesticide distribution program, where we sell Milestone herbicide for \$20 per quart or \$200 per 2.5 gallons, and Method herbicide for \$200 per 2.5 gallon jug, and escort for \$5 per 8 ounce container, continues to be the most popular way landowners utilize our programs. We do offer custom application, as requested by many absentee or less capable landowners.

This year has been a challenge, to say the least, the drought conditions and high temperatures of this summer caused many challenges. With the drought conditions, the noxious weeds took a lot longer to die, after being sprayed, than normal. I have been seeing a lot of rosettes this fall while spraying, the moisture we received in August really brought up a second flush of noxious weeds. When the weather will permit, we are still spraying noxious weeds, as we will keep doing so until the cold sets in for the year. The most problematic areas for this year, were poorly managed CRP and cropland planted with peas, flowers and other pulse crops. Since the going rate to get ground into CRP has went up this year, it worries me, because I have seen a fair amount of ground this year get put into CRP, because some people have the plant it, forget it mentality, when it comes to CRP acres, especially absentee landowners.

Dunn: Submitted by Diane Allmendinger

We had a good year despite the dry weather. Very good participation in the LAP program this year. Tordon purchases were higher than they have been in years.

We has 8 applicators (3 ranchers, 4 DSU students and a teacher). I expect 7 of them back in 2022. Three crews cover county roads and one crew does all state highways and oil well inspections. We have a mechanic that designs our spray rig units and carefully watches over all equipment. (he is a fireman in Bismarck).

We are exploring the idea of purchasing a drone for scouting rough country. All of the oil exploration is causing more infestations in hard to reach areas.

It seems to me that houndstongue reports are much higher this year, especially in the Killdeer Mountain area. We also are finding Black henbane in many areas.

We have a 60-40 cost share program.

Golden Valley: given by Gus Muruato

I started the spraying late in the season in August. Acres sprayed = 105.464 I sprayed 80% was Leafy spurge, 15% was some form of Thistle and 5% was any other noxious weed. I was not able to get anyone to work so late in the season. I used LAP this year. I did 20/80 landowners came out to be \$2,584.52 and LAP covered \$103,380.08. Equipment used a side by side with spray gun and boomless sprayer and a water tender and back pack sprayer.

Mercer: given by Brad Seifert

In Mercer County there were enough rainshowers that came through to keep the weeds in fair to good shape, allowing us to spray most days.

We ran an 80% - 20% cost share program with around 200 participants.

Chemicals available were Tordon22K, Grazon nextHL, Brosh, 2-4D, Plateau and EscortXP.

We do contract with the NDDOT for spraying the state road ROWS

We go over our county roads many times throughout the year, and spray a lot of section lines.

We spray Leafy spurge on private land for about 50 landowners per year.

Slope: given by Joan Lorge

We started out our year spraying Highway 85 from the Bowman County Line to the Stark County line. This was sprayed for leafy spurge and absinth wormwood. We also spot sprayed highway 67 for leafy spurge, Canada thistle and absinth wormwood from the Bowman County line to the junction of Highway 21. Highway 21 was not sprayed this year because of highway construction. Highway 12 was sprayed from the Bowman County line to the Montana state line for Canada thistle, absinth wormwood and spotted knapweed.

We found 2 black henbane plants again this year growing along roads. One on the main road north of Rhame and the other about 20 miles east of that location.

Marmarth was monitored and sprayed again, it takes longer to go over the area and make sure there is none than to spray it. The phragmites was sprayed again this fall the patch is smaller and thinner but we have not entirely eradicated it yet. On the plus side it did not make a seed head this year, we think because of the drought.

Houndstongue, we still have it and it continues to spread. We have more people calling and reporting possible sittings.

Our cost share was moved back to 80-20 this year after being at 70-30 for a couple of years.

We again had our fall herbicide distribution with 40 participants this year. We cost share Tordon 22K, Plateau, Milestone, GrazonNext XL and Curtail for leafy spurge and Canada thistle control. For houndstongue we cost share, 2,4-D, Escort and also surfactant.

We didn't get as much spraying done this year as we would have liked because of the drought and heat we quit spraying in July because the plants acted like they went dormant.

Stark County: given by Travis Jepson

This year Stark County had four two-man crews operating three boom trucks and a side-by-side. We experienced less than favorable weather conditions and some equipment setbacks. Those factors contributed to us only finishing spraying all state and county roads once.

We added a second side by side this year but delays in delivery until the middle of the summer and time spend building a spray system for it minimized the amount of time it was able to be used this summer.

The 2021 LAP used the same distribution as we used last summer. We had multiple distribution days throughout each week starting mid- May and ending the beginning of October. Land owners called to schedule a specific pick up time. This seemed to work well and think we will continue operating this way in the years to come. It minimized wait time and congestion at the shop. We had just over 200 landowners. The weed board kept the percentage at 70/30.

This summer we had multiple calls to check for suspected Palmer amaranth plants. Fortunately none of the cases turned out to be Palmer....yet.

The total gallons applied to state right-of-way were up a little from last year. We had a challenging spraying year and are excited to see what next year brings.

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. 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 through 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 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), 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.

The sweet 16 mix that Matt and Claire talked about will run you around @20.55/acre. Graslan is an excellent chemical and that will run around \$23/acre.

MSO used in field trials because it is a penetrator, but can give grass injury, by using Liberate, it will reduce that injury.

As far as Nutrien, the warehouse in Spearfish is as good as it gets. John and Dave try extra hard to get you product quickly as possible. They understand your needs. Nutrien has a CSL, a central storage location warehouse now in Billings. Will be able to house chemicals in there as well. Will be quicker to get them to Spearfish and to your warehouse faster.

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, 2nd 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 1st 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.

New Business:

Elections:

2nd Vice President: Merlin let everyone know that there are two who have been nominated. They are Josh Short, Cavalier County, Area I, and Dillon Ripplinger, Burleigh County, Area IV.

Cliff Ferebee, Dunn County nominated himself.

Area V 2nd alternate: (1 year term to replace Mark Golberg)

Katie nominated Gus Muruato. Tim moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Gus. Travis seconded the motion. **M/C**

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.

Merlin has temporarily given the fund a name – NoDak Fund

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

Meeting adjourned at 11.55am

Merlin Leithold
Executive Secretary