

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

June 28th, 2022

Yet to be approved

President Jim Hennessy called the meeting to order at 9:57 am. Introductions of members and guests. Members present were, Jim Hennessy, Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Stan Wolf, Joan Lorge, Kent Luttschwager, Cliff Ferebee, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Travis Jepson, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary. Guests were NDDA Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, Tom Bodine.

Additional agenda items were: None

Joan moved to approve the agenda as presented, Stan seconded the motion. **M/C**

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

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, budget sheet, memberships paid so far. Derrill moved to approve the financial report, Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. We had a great turnout at our sprayer schools this year. I want to thank everyone who attended. All totaled we had 128 people attend. This is our greatest attendance since we started the sprayer schools! The people attending are from weed boards and state and federal agencies that are tasked with noxious weed control. We are very happy that we have a continued interest in people wanting to learn about noxious weeds and the safe and correct way to identify and control them.

These sprayer schools could not be possible without the speakers and presenters so I need to thank all of them for their expertise and willingness to speak at these schools. The locations where these sprayer schools were held were: the Carrington Research Center in Carrington, in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office and in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office. Been good locations to hold them.

We had a booth at the Earth Day festival in Bismarck on April 26th. This booth lets us interact with local students and the general public to inform them of the importance of noxious weed control.

Sprayer symposium in Washburn is being worked on. Will discuss later in the agenda.

Kent asked how many government employees attended these schools. Derrill figured nearly half were government employees. Discussion on why so few counties attend. No real answer.

By Laws & Policy Manual: Bill and Derrill worked on the bylaws. It was asked that the 2nd vice president must have served one term as a director before being eligible to serve as a 2nd vice president. By doing this, you run into the term limits of 6 years. This could cause problems getting a person elected. To make it work, could cause a major bylaws change. Different scenarios were discussed, with none being a good alternative.

Jim asked if we have a nominating committee. We do not. Will figure out who to be on the nominating committee by the September meeting.

Policy Manual insert in the bylaws. Still deciding where to put it in the bylaws. Kent asked about the government rep. in the bylaws. It is in the bylaws, but may be defined better. Will bring back to the September meeting.

Awards: 1st or 2nd alternate directors are the committee. The 5 area directors will look for people to be given an award, send them to Merlin, Merlin will send them to the 1st alternate to pick a winner.

Website: Travis said that the website went down one day, and Consolidated had it up and going that day.

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent gave a report. Making sure people are attending sprayer schools. As far as weed control, unbelievable amount of spurge this year. We are full blown spraying. Excellent discussion on how ND Trust Lands control their noxious weeds, and what control over them county weed officers have. Merlin did an informal invitation to them to come to this meeting, did not hear back. Possibly have a representative from ND Trust Lands make it to another board meeting. Excellent discussion on ND NOT roadside spraying

NDDA: Richard gave the NDDA report.

LAP and TAG Update: The current fiscal year closes June 30, 2022. Reimbursement dates: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Vouchers are due to me by July 8, 2022 for reimbursement.

LAP allocations for the new 2022-2023 fiscal year have taken place. The eligible counties should receive the new funds between end of July and August.

TAG funding remains the same at \$5,000/county and \$2,000/city over the biennium.

Reallocation for TAG will not be taking place this biennium.

Keep an eye out for invasive weeds: With the drought last year and all the out of state hay brought in to supplement, we could find many undesirable weeds. Especially with the amount of moisture we are getting this spring and summer.

Also, many noxious weeds are flourishing this year. Leafy Spurge being one of them. If anyone needs help dealing with phone calls, complaints, or enforcement procedures. Don't hesitate to call me.

USFS Funding: If anyone has proposals they would like to submit, please let me know.

County Weed Board Visits: Still ongoing and we've visited about half the state counties so far. These visits will always be ongoing. They help me understand the dynamics between counties and how each other operate.

Invasive and Troublesome Weed Guidebooks/Pocket guides:

Both books and pocket guides are available for the Invasive and Troublesome Weeds in ND. If you would like more, please let myself know.

Law Books:

The North Dakota Noxious Weed Law & Regulations law book have been updated and are available. If you are interested and want some, please contact me.

Weed Seed Free Forage (WSFF):

If you have any questions about this program and would like to participate, please contact myself for more information. Inspections are taking place already this year and we're hoping for more inspections/acres compared to last year.

Jim asked if the forage inspector areas could be changed back to allow larger areas for inspectors to cover. Will look into it.

Biocontrol: Spurge beetle collection days are starting up. Today and July 8th at Billings County and July 7th at Grant County. High demand for biocontrol of spurge this year. We are working hard to secure beetles from outside of the state; but we would also like to utilize some of our existing in-state sites to collect beetles.

If you are contemplating hosting a public collection day this year, please let me know. Our department can aid with staff, equipment, and advertising for public days. If you would prefer to host a more private collection, we can provide staff and equipment to help with collections.

If you know of any sites with landowners who are willing to allow our staff to collect beetles, we would love to get in contact with them.

Merlin asked if Richard knew where to get bug nets from, since the place that they purchased from in the past is no longer in business. Rick stated that John told him that they will have bug nets available at field days, to allow to be borrowed with the attention that the net will not return.

Deputy Commissioner Tom Bodine mentioned that the department has been getting a lot of calls from people complaining about noxious weeds and the lack of control.

The department is in the 2023-25 budget work. Wondering the board's thoughts about buying bugs from out of state to hand out. Rick asked if there are new species of bugs out there. Some have been put out in McHenry County, but not seeming to work. Good discussion on both pros and cons about bringing in new beetles.

More on the budget, Richard said that as of today, \$300,000 is leftover in LAP. Should the deadline be changed? Good discussion.

Should the mapping systems be updated by a grant to the counties? Will there be training? What will the maps be used for on a statewide program?

Granting program per county. State would not purchase these, or they would have to tag them. Some counties cannot afford the programs. Getting everyone to send in their maps is a problem. Possibly the NDDA paying the yearly fees as well, as a way to force counties to send in their data.

Industry Report: Given by Bill Walker

I'll start by saying there has not been much change from our last industry report, products continue to be tight and short supply on many items, pricing is still unstable on some products but, we have not seen any drastic price increases as of late, some minor increases, expect to see some mid-season price increases on your products bid and quoted, manufacturers have been raising pricing to distributors and they will just simply have to follow increases as well and, prepare early for your possible fall product/cost share needs, with supply still short we ask that you give your suppliers extra time to make sure they will have your requested products and amounts.

One new/old product to talk about in this report is:

Venue Herbicide by NICHINO America, Venue is being introduced for use on Leafy Spurge, use rates are from 3.5 ounces per acre rates on pasture and rangelands to 4 ounces per acre rates in non-crop sites, it

needs to be coupled with a 2, 4-D amine, ester or Freelexx at 1 quart per acre and MSO Surfactant at 1% by volume or 1 gallon per 100 gallons water.

Studies are showing Leafy Spurge can be controlled after 3 consecutive yearly applications, can be used to water's edge, no grazing restrictions once spray has dried, minimal impact to grasses and trees, also works well on Field Bindweed, Russian Thistle, Kochia, and some others.

Late spring/early summer applications (yellow bract stages are best), very quick to show symptoms on the Leafy Spurge after applications.

Alex Truskowski – Strategic Account Manager will be our representative for NICHINO America in North Dakota, contact is 1-252-862-5083 cell number or atruszkowski@nichino.net

CORTEVA – Still has many products under allocation, Graslan L Herbicide is out of production until further notice, Tordon 22K Herbicide is still allocated to distribution, Freelexx Herbicide is still allocated to distribution, Milestone Herbicide seems to be somewhat available at this time, DuraCor Herbicide is allocated as well to distribution, and many other products are either allocated or spot production.

Tanner Smith – is the new Territory Manager for CORTEVA in eastern ND, his contact information is tanner.smith@corteva.com or 1-608-408-3133 cell phone number, he has replaced Matt Morton who has moved back to CORTEVA's seed division and back closer to home in Nebraska.

Clair Volk – will still cover the western half of North Dakota, her contact information has remained the same, phone number -1-307-439-9095

Bayer – has sold its specialty division CINVIN (Investment firm in London) as previously reported, the sale includes the Professional Business segments Vector Control, Professional Pest Management, Vegetation Management including Range and Pasture, Forestry, Turf and Ornamental and Specialty actives, they are going into a 40 day or so blackout stage starting end of June, after this they should have their new name.

Product supply from Bayer/? Has been fairly good up to this point, during the blackout there will be no orders allowed, distributors have tried to allow for this by ordering ahead.

Bayer has announced a new representative for Western ND, his name is **Jarrold Hossfeld**, Western Area Sales Manager, phone number 1-406-298-0955, email – jarrod.hossfeld@bayer.com , Jarrod lives in Billings, MT and is replacing Scott Ohnoutka in western ND, Scott will still have eastern ND, Please welcome Jarrod on board in western ND.

Glyphosate products, 2, 4-D products and others are still in short supply and supply is not expected to catch up until sometime in 2023 now.

Recess for lunch:

OLD BUSINESS:

Washburn Symposium: Bill: A group from committee sprayed the site, as part of the deal. Bill sent in a \$500 deposit, and Jim needs to sign a contract. May have an extra drone demonstration as well. Question on liability insurance, whether we are covered. Merlin will check with our insurance agent to find out and will let the board know. The facility can handle 103 people. Ron says that the number should be lower, as no one will be on the top bunk.

Joan asked if it is set up for daily rates. Some don't have the time to attend the entire event. Good discussion on the entire event.

Merlin asked his duties and duties of others. Jim said that sales at the beginning and at the end. Bill said that otherwise to be there as the executive secretary. Merlin asked if he had to pay, the answer was yes. Merlin's county will not pay his way so it will be out of the pocket for him. That's why he asked.

Derrill mentioned that the inventory we have is not real high. Jim read the inventory list. Derrill said it is hard to order a head of time.

The committee asked Merlin to put it out on list serve every couple of weeks. Jim went over the menu list for the symposium. Jamen Windish, Barnes County Weed Officer is the head cook.

Jim was reviewing the various presentations, and the schedule. The only activity in the evening that you can drink and play will be corn hole.

Other? Cliff talked to the ND Stockmen's. We can speak at their conference which is July 22-24, in Bismarck. Rick could do a short presentation. Jim expressed interest to go with Rick.

NEW BUSINESS:

State conference - 2023: January 2-5th. Cliff asked Merlin about booths, since Roger is not here. Merlin sent out an email to all the vendors we had over the past several years, first of all letting them know when the upcoming conference will be held and where. Then Merlin explained to them that Roger would be the contact person for the upcoming conference. Merlin cc'd this to Roger, Cliff, Jim and Stan. Jim mentioned that he and Roger came up with an additional 18 possible vendors.

Cliff then asked about what price they would have to pay. Merlin has no price from the hotel yet. With new ownership, comes new menus, and with inflation going rampant, we may not have a price until this fall. This keeps the food committee on hold as well. Each vendor receives one full registration with their booth.

Cliff then asked about speakers. Merlin handed out spread sheets from last year's conference, giving the committee a guide to go by.

Stan had an idea for a speaking slot, giving counties recognition for work they do, what they do that is different from other counties. New and innovative ideas. Others also contributed to this idea. Other speaker ideas were also discussed, including having Ron Manson do a part 2 on weed officer/board training.

IT Committee: Richard said that he plans on staying up front to keep everything going.

Other? National Range Judging: Rick thanked the board for the \$500 donation from the association for the range judging team. It really came in handy. Some on the group could speak at the symposium as well.

Being no further business, Bill moved to adjourn the meeting, Stan seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary