

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramkota Inn & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

March 29th, 2022

Yet to be approved

President Jim Hennessy called the meeting to order at 9:58 am. Introductions of members and guests. Members present were, Jim Hennessy, Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Stan Wolf, Joan Lorge, Roger Gunderson, Kent Luttschwager, Cliff Ferebee, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Travis Jepson, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary. Guests were John Mortenson, NDDA.

Additional agenda items were: Jim asked to have a gravel discussion under new business Stan moved to approve the agenda as presented, Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

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

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, budget sheet, memberships paid so far. Merlin asked that the budget be amended to reflect the salary increase given in January. Ron moved to amend the budget from \$8,100 to \$8,400. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Rick moved to approve the financial report, Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Conference Survey Results: Merlin and the board reviewed the surveys. Good discussion. A few minor tweaks will be made, overall the new venue for the conference was very well appreciated.

Roger has been added to the IT conference committee with Richard.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. On February 28th I meet with an assembly of the kindergarten through 6th grade classes of the Mott Elementary School. Bailey Johnson from the 5th grade class was then presented with a plaque and T-Shirt and the rest of the 5th grade students received a T-shirt with a picture on it of the poster that Bailey had made. Bailey had the winning poster that was one of many judged at our annual meeting in January. This was a shorter presentation but it was a surprise for Bailey. A power point presentation was then given to the 4th through 6th grades on why the NDWCA is doing the poster contest and how it hopefully creates noxious weed awareness for the students.

Again, we will be having a booth at the Earth Day festival coming up 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.

We have set up the Sprayer Schools for this year as follows:

May 24th --at the Carrington Research Center

May 25th --in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

May 26th --in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control shop

Each school will have registration starting at 8 am local time. At these schools' we will have from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds, the Pesticide and Fertilizer Division will have their Agriculture Program Inspectors give updates and

hands-on examples of how to use the proper personal protective equipment and what is needed during a use inspection. There will also be a Right-of-Way recertification training administered by the Pesticide Training Program of NDSU. We will have a weed ID section put on by the NDSU Research Centers and sprayer equipment calibration session provided by Bill Walker of Nutrien Solutions. A complete agenda will be sent out on the list serve so please plan on attending these schools.

Been looking at the workshop that is being put on in Bozeman for ideas for our summer symposium.

By Laws & Policy Manual: Nothing on by laws but on the policy manual, the conflict of interest sheet needs to be filled out and sent to Merlin. Merlin stated that he has copies on hand, for the board to fill out, if they would like, at the meeting.

Merlin had questions on the secretary duties in the manual. June as noxious weed awareness month. Discussion: Derrill, Jim, Rick and Ron will work on a message for all the counties to put on to the media. Merlin will contact the Governor's office to have June declared noxious weed awareness month.

Merlin also had questions on the contract he signed, it was determined that the wrong form was signed, the updated form will be signed after the meeting today.

Merlin also mentioned that the policy manual needed to be added to the bylaws. Not the actual manual, but a statement referring to the board using the manual. The committee will work on the addition.

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent did not have much for a report. They did order chemical for the season so that they have supplies on hand. Also plan on sending summer staff to the sprayer workshops. Discussion on room space, especially in Minot.

NDDA: Richard gave the NDDA report. LAP & TAG. Fiscal year ends June 30. Have not heard on new Forest Service Grants. Have various weed id books available and also law books. Task Force 13 went well. Question asked whether it was a 1 meeting and done, or will it continue. Richard has no idea whether it will continue. The feeling of those from the board that were there, that it should be continued. Richard would like to go to counties to help them grow there weed programs, and help answer questions they may have.

Richard introduced John Mortenson, who will be doing the biocontrol program with the NDDA. He has been with the NDDA for 3 years. Previously worked with NRCS. His office is in the same building as Richard. If you have questions or plan a bug day, let him know.

Jim Hanson is also doing pipeline reclamation for the NDDA.

Weed Free Forage: Richard is also doing this portion of the program. The department plans on hiring someone for this in April. Jim asked about gravel pit inspection through the NDDA. Richard said the department will probably not get into gravel inspection, other than what is in the law currently. Stark and Cass Counties have plans in place.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report. I'll start with the same news as in our newsletter, this industry has seen some limited price increase letters from the manufacturers in the past 8 weeks, PBI Gordon Company has just sent our price increases starting April 1, 2022, spring planting season is coming and what affects the farmers/ranchers will also affect us on this side of the fence so we could see price increases at that time as well.

Glyphosate supplies will continue to have 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 start of the 2021 and into 2022 have risen to now about 160%, this is not expected to drop in pricing anytime soon.

Generic glyphosate products have been extremely hard to get and supply this year as well and will continue to be even harder to get as we move further into 2022 with pricing on generic glyphosates following the same pattern as the branded products.

Branded glyphosate products seem a bit easier to get at this time, but we are still seeing spot outages and short allocations on all glyphosates, get them when you can right now.

2,4-D products have been showing large price increases as well, amines have risen about 100% plus in costs from the beginning of this year and have just recently taken another increase, we are looking at 2,4-D amine getting too or exceeding the \$23.00 to \$24.00 plus per gallon cost and esters have taken even greater cost increases with costs in the low \$30.00's (4 lb. esters) to almost \$40.00 per gallon (6 lb. esters) at this time, 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 are still having difficulty in securing raw materials to formulate products and with many of the raw materials coming out of China, we will continue to see rising prices.

Now that the Olympics are wrapping up China will most likely ramp up productions but that will take time as well, do not expect to see raw materials or products coming out of China anytime soon, it will take several months to ramp up, get the products made and even more time to get what our manufacturers need for raw materials to finish products here.

We have seen price increases on other products as well, many manufacturers took unprecedented mid-season (2021) price increases and early season (2022) price increases as well due to many different issues as well, these all vary from COVID 19 issues (yet) to last year's hurricane event in Louisiana damaging needed plants, slowing barging, rising raw materials costs, shipping and trucking, packaging materials (lids, containers, boxes), etc., etc., etc.

***BASF** – Took price increases across the board in October 2021, normally these are taken January 1 of this year (2022), increases include Plateau 1.6%, Arsenal 2%, Overdrive 4%, and BASF says we may see additional price increases now that we are in 2022.

***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 has remained the**

same at \$322.56 per gallon (so far) and other Bayer products range from 2% to 8% plus and, they also cite jugs, labeling, packaging, shipping, labor rates, active ingredients of the products as reasons for early increases and again, we may possibly see 2022 increases if packaging for goods, raw materials for production, labor, and shipping keeps rising.

*****SPECIAL NOTE:** Bayer's specialty marketing division (Environmental Science Division) has been sold, they have been purchased by **Cinvin**. **Cinvin** is an international investment firm focused on building world-class global companies across a range of sectors and geographies. Headquartered in London, Cinvin has offices located across Europe and New York.

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.

It will not include the Consumer Lawn and Garden segment of Glyphosate-based products for professional uses.

*****Method 240 SL Herbicide** - labeling for a 24c Special Local Need Label was submitted to the North Dakota Department of Ag for consideration, this label is specific for Leafy Spurge control in privately owned non-hayed rangeland and non-hayed perennial grasslands.

The North Dakota Departments of Agriculture did approve the request, this request had to be approved by the EPA, **and the EPA denied the request from the ND Department of Agriculture.**

What does this mean, Method 240 SL can still be used in North Dakota according to all current labeled uses and restrictions, and it still does have the supplemental label allowing for spraying of right-a-ways that transect graded areas with no grazing restrictions, please follow all current labeled uses when using Method 240 SL Herbicide in your spraying programs.

CORTEVA - we did see price increases from CORTEVA in late September 2021, those price increases ranged from about 2% to 9% on many products, we have seen spot outages from CORTEVA on products such as Tordon 22K, Vastlan, Freelexx, GrazonNext HL, Graslan L, and others to a lesser degree, many of the range and pasture products are now on an allocation basis to the distributors in 2022.

We did see some additional price increases in early 2022 from CORTEVA on their Range and Pasture products and Ag products as well, these were from 4% to 7% at that time.

*****CORTEVA** has also placed many of their products at this time on allocations, these include but not limited to Tordon 22K Herbicide (all sizes), Freelexx Herbicide (2.5 gal. and 30 gal. containers), almost all Range and Pasture products as well as many VM and Turf products, supplies of these may be disrupted as the season progresses.

NuFarm – who is basic in 2,4-D type products has been raising prices on 2,4-D products, amines and esters and products with 2,4-Ds in them as well, pricing seems to be level at this time but again, spring planting season is coming so be prepared.

E-2 Herbicide which has been a product many have started using has taken a drastic price increase and new pricing is in effect (product is price set by NuFarm) E-2 Herbicide \$64.80 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers (was \$43.50 per gallon) about a 33% increase.

NuFarm has stated that Dicamba pricing is also now on the rise and expect any products with Dicamba in them or straight Dicamba to be much higher as 2022 progresses.

Once again, you should consider the minimal use of dicamba products with all the current issues faced with the Dicamba trait crops.

Again, and again, and again, the moral of this story is the same as in January – 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.

While we have seen pricing stable off over the last 7 to 8 weeks, we have not seen any price decreases and do not expect any anytime soon.

There is a new product by Nichino America. It is called Venue. It is the old Edict. After 2 years of spraying, they are seeing excellent control. They would like to have this product out in different areas in the state. Will get more information out on the list serve. Let Bill know if you would like to purchase some.

Also be prepared for possible “Shortages” and “Spot Outages” on certain products “again” and, possibly even more products as cropping season starts and 2022 progresses.

Again, our industry has not seen this for many years, again, 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Travis talked about the website now being with Consolidated out of Dickinson. Our site, which Up & Running said was secure, was actually not secure. Consolidated changed it, to where now it is actually secure. Shortly afterwards, we had a couple of hits from out of state, which Consolidated contacted Travis and then they removed them. Cost is only \$14.95/month. Since then, Travis has been updating the site, and will continue to change it to make it a better site. Plans on adding the poster contest winners.

Vendor Show Updates: Ron – ND Winter Show, Valley City – great turnout, good location of the booth, gave out a lot of information. Cliff – talked to the Stockmen’s group, will work with them to probably speak at their conference. Jim asked Merlin to put on June meeting agenda. Jim – Reclamation conference in Dickinson - It was different but a good turnout around 220 people. Gave out a lot of weed id books, would recommend doing it again. Merlin – KFVR Agri-International, Bismarck – Booths were down from last year, people were down, but we gave out weed control guides as well. Gave out a lot of information, numerous counties, and good show for us. Hope to do it again. Stan – Sat in on the USDA Partners meeting on January 26 on behalf of the association. Thanked the group for their support for the noxious weed specialist at

NDSU. Dave Horvath, USDA, would like Palmer Amaranth seed samples for genotyping. The Corn Soy Expo usually has a large turnout, around 800. But a blizzard happened to arrive this year, and only 12 stopped at the booth. Not a good turnout. Can't say if we should do it again. Rick – Does pesticide programs in various counties and also does a class at BSC. Derrill – KMOT Ag Show in Minot. McHenry County also helps with it. Wasn't real bad for attendance. Probable around 80 stopped by. The weather was real nice, possibility too nice.

Vendor bills to be paid. Merlin has one from Cass County for \$750. Derrill has one for \$550. Ron will submit a bill and then we will pay it. Bill moved to pay these three bills, Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

Consensus is to do them again next season. Should probably publish the dates in the newsletter or website to get more people to help with the booth.

Summer Symposium – Washburn – Jim, Bill and Derrill went to the Western 4-H camp. Met with Carla from the camp. We will get 2 cabins, the mess hall, and Butler outpost building. \$1,500 for everything, plus we will for a spring and fall spraying of noxious weeds. Derrill has been pulling up old speakers, etc. Jim's secretary will help. August 23 -25th are the dates. A lot of discussion on planning this. Will take everyone to get it done.

NEW BUSINESS:

National Travel: Jim says we should be looking at going to national conferences. NRVMA would be an excellent group to be involved in. Will report back at the June meeting. Also Derrill will report back on the Bozeman school in June as well. Richard will check with western weed society as well.

State conference - 2023: January 2-5th. Cliff reviewed the committees. Merlin asked about entertainment for the conference. Ideas: Blonde on the prairie, Jesse Veeder, Joey Schmidt, Lutheran Ladies. Dianne Eslinger. We have a \$2,000 budget.

Cliff asked about the ladies luncheon. Food has not been real good. Maybe have a ladies workshop after lunch. Consensus is to drop it for this upcoming conference, ask for comments, then go forward from there. Jim feels that there should be more nominated for awards.

National Range Judging: Rick said that he is taking a team of 5 girls to the national range judging contest in Oklahoma. Ron moved to give them \$500. Bill seconded the motion. Discussion: Rick would like them to come and present what they learned. Jim suggested that they come to the summer symposium. Stan mentioned that if they can't all make it to the summer camp, they could come to the conference and give a short presentation. After no more discussion. **M/C**

Other – More symposium discussion.

Being no further business, Stan moved to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary