

**(To be approved)**

**NDWCA 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 3:30 pm**  
**Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND**

The NDWCA Annual Business Meeting was called to order by 2021 President Travis Jepson at 3:50 pm. Travis welcomed everyone.

**Roll of voting members:** Merlin called the roll of voting members. 30 counties and 2 industry members present, for a total of 51 in attendance.

**Additional agenda items:** none

**Minutes:**

Merlin explained that 2021 annual meeting was part of the January, 2021 board meeting, since we had no conference. Merlin then read excerpts from the minutes that pertained to the annual meeting. Joan Lorge, Slope County moved to approve the minutes as read. Terry Weisz, Dickey County seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Presidents Report**

President Jepson thanked everyone for the opportunity for serving as your president. Thanks to our previous president, Cody Schnabel, for leading our organization through a tough year in 2020. Also, best wishes for our incoming president, Jim Hennessy for 2022, and Stan Wolf, our president in 2023. Thank you.

**Financial Report**

Merlin presented the financial report. He highlighted various line items. Financially, we have grown again this year.

**Audit Report**

Ron Manson gave the Audit Committee report. Rick Schmidt and Kent Luttschwager were also on the audit committee. Ron stated that the books are in order and accurate. Katie Dillman, Billings County moved to accept the auditor's report and approve the financial report. Kevin Schmidt, Morton County, seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Budget**

Merlin presented the budget for 2022. Cliff Ferebee, Dunn County moved to accept the budget as presented. Dan Dew, Renville County, seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Education Report**

Derrill Fick, chairman, gave the education report. This past year, we did the poster contest. The winner was from McVile. Stan and Derrill presented the plaque to the winner, and t shirts, virtually. We have the new posters on a table in the vendor room. Please vote for your favorite one. We had a booth in Bismarck for Earth Day in April. Held sprayer schools in May at Carrington, Minot and Dickinson. We had over 121 people attend the three days, our best ever. Bill Walker with Nutrien gives sprayer calibrations, NDDA gives updates, and NDSU does right of way training. Thank you to Nutrien, Corteva and Bayer for sponsoring the schools. We are

developing training for later this summer for weed officers, board members and county commissioners. Also working on a new training manual. Looking at having more booths at various trade shows.

### **Legislative Report**

Merlin gave the lobbyist report. A real quiet session. Due to Covid protocol, all of the hearings were on line, which made it easier to watch. Also, subcommittee hearings were on line, which saved a lot on trips to the capital. The department's budget, for noxious weeds passed, plus we also received an additional \$50,000 for LAP.

### **Industry Report**

Presented by Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Director.

As we leave 2021 and now move into 2022 the supply issues and product price increases have not yet stabled off, we are still seeing product shortages in our industry (as well as most all other industries) continue and all of these are expected to last right through 2022.

**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 start of the 2021 year have risen between 65% to as much as 80% on some products and are expected to take another large increase in mid-January 2022.

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 into 2022 with pricing on generic glyphosates following the same pattern as the branded products.

**Glyphosate Lawsuit Update** – Bayer has announced a 5-point plan in May of 2021 which they hope will provide a clear path to closure of the U.S. glyphosate litigation.

1. Seek positive ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court
2. Active claims program to manage future cases
3. Continue to manage current cases
4. Introduce new U.S. Lawn and Garden formulations
5. Promote new safety study webpage

Email link to look at Bayer's plan and additional information

<https://www.bayer.com/en/roundup-litigation-five-point-plan>

**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 have just recently taken another increase, we are looking at 2,4-D amine getting too or exceeding the \$22.00 to \$24.00 plus per gallon cost and esters have taken even greater cost increases with costs in the low \$30.00's to almost \$40.00 per gallon 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** 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 rising prices.

**China** is under a 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).

China is not expected to ramp up production until after the Olympics and even then, 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 are already seeing price increases on other products not mentioned above, many manufacturers took unprecedented mid-season price increases due to many different issues as well, these all vary from COVID 19 issues (yet) to the recent hurricane event in Louisiana damaging needed plants, slowing barging, rising raw materials costs, shipping and trucking, packaging materials (lids, containers, boxes), etc., etc., etc.

**Bayer** has announced that its Luling, LA plant (it makes one of the major components for glyphosate) is back up and running (October 15, 2021) but it will still take about 4 to 8 weeks to get materials produced and then get to other locations for finish production another 8 to 12 weeks or so.

**\*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.

**\*\*\*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.

There would be no grazing restrictions on this as well in those sites.

**\*\*\*It would “NOT” be for use on any “Hayed” sites or Range, Pasture or Grass sites that might be hayed, it would only be for non-hayed sites.**

**Update on the 24C Label – North Dakota Departments of Agriculture has approved the request for a 24 C label on Method 240 SL Herbicide, this is the State approval, they have submitted to EPA for their approval, in about 90 days North Dakota should have an answer from EPA on the final. (Thank you all for your help on this one and a special thanks goes out to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for their help to improve Noxious Weed Control in ND and see the value in this product to help with that).**

**One Special Note:** North Dakota Department of Agriculture did request this use of Method 240 SL Herbicide as a “Restricted Use Product” for this application, this should not be a major problem, many of your landowners/Producers are already using Tordon 22K which is Restricted Use as well so really no difference.

**Copies of this 24C Method 240 SL label are now available and can be picked up at this meeting, this is the North Dakota Approval, and label is in effect unless EPA denies the final.**

**Bayer** - glyphosates (the Roundup Brands), have all taken regular price increases with the largest taken in September 2021 and was 28% to 35% depending upon glyphosate product, these are on products we would use, ag market has already taken substantial increases earlier in September and will be taking another substantial price increase in mid-January 2022.

**CORTEVA** - Did announce price increases in late September 2021, those price increases ranged from about 2% to 9% on many products, we have seen spot outages from CORTEVA this year on 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 until sometime in 2022.

CORTEVA has also announced that we will see additional price increases in early 2022 on their Range and Pasture products and Ag products as well, these are expected to be from 4% to 7% at this time, how much on each product has not been determined to this date.

**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.

**Freelexx Herbicide**- November 2021 pricing now \$25.50 per gallon (\$20.50) (\$21.50 October 2021)

**Milestone Herbicide** - \$270.00 per gallon (\$265.00) and \$67.50 per quart (\$66.25) (government pricing program)

**Opensight Herbicide** - \$89.40 per pound (\$84.00)

**Vastlan Herbicide** - \$92.00 per gallon (\$89.60)

**TerraVue Herbicide** - \$94.00 per pound (\$92.00)

**DuraCor Herbicide** - \$85.50 per gallon (\$83.00) and is now supposed to be available in 2.5-gallon containers

**Tordon 22K Herbicide** - did take approximately a 7% price increase early in October and is expected to possibly take another price increase in early 2022.

**Transline Herbicide** – is up 8.8%

All CORTEVA price increases have taken effect October 1, 2021, purchases now will be at the new pricing on all manufacturer price set products and many of the non-priced set products as well, **if new price increases in 2022 affect any of these than “NEW” pricing will have to be followed as well.**

**NuFarm** – has already been raising prices on 2,4-D products and we are expecting possibly another raise by the end of the year (and this has already come) on their amines and esters, large price increases on these.

**NuFarm** had exited marketing AquaNeat Herbicide (aquatic glyphosate) market but now have re-entered this market with AquaNeat Herbicide again, but supply is short and spotty and pricing is following the rest of the glyphosate market.

**E-2 Herbicide** has taken a drastic price increase and new pricing is in effect (product is price set by NuFarm) E-2 Herbicide \$52.40 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers (was \$43.50 per gallon) a 16% increase.

Aqua Sweep Herbicide also increased 11% to \$54.50 per gallon.

**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.**

**Other manufacturers, SEPRO** (many aquatic products), **UPL** (many aquatic products), **Alligare** (many alternative/generic products) have all taken mid-season price increases and, all have stated, we may well see increases as we move through 2022 (and we are seeing these already on some products).

**Bids** – Many of you may have questions on these, in almost all cases now, distributors will bid on your requested products at that time, none are offering any season long bids on many products, in many cases it is what they have in their warehouses or on the floor at the time of your bids and you will need to take once awarded, **most are not honoring prices much beyond 2 to 4 weeks now.**

If you are looking at not needing products until April or May, you might consider doing your bid requests at that time, if you do them too early, pricing on some products may have increased by then and most distributors are going to charge you the new price because they are being charged a new price by the manufacturers because, they (the distributors) have possibly already sold what you bid on and have now had to replace the products with higher cost products.

**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 as 2022 progresses.**

Very good discussion on the bidding process for 2022 and what counties can and cannot do for 2022.

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** – Kent Luttschwager, Government Director

Most government agencies have switched to prescriptive grazing on their lands. Still a need for residual cover for certain species, like song birds, etc. Most government agencies had idled their lands too long, which degraded wildlife habitat. This ramped up prescriptive grazing. This has resulted in much better habitat.

Saltcedar continues to be a problem. Being we are downstream from Montana, and that there is a lot of Saltcedar coming down the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. A huge sandbar closed a boat ramp cutting off 30 miles of river access. A new ramp is being constructed which will ramp up Saltcedar efforts again this year.

ND Game and Fish plant several thousand acres into food plots. They also work with landowners to have planted many more acres. Game and fish have eliminated the use of Neonicotinoids in their seeding, and will eventually do the same in all management areas.

The cost of chemicals now and in the future will be a concern to the agencies as well.

**NDDA** – Richard Weisz, noxious weed specialist

Annual survey requests are sent out and due back March 1<sup>st</sup>. They are now a required portion to receive funding. Some counties have not returned their NOGAS. These need to be in before LAP or TAG are paid. LAP NOGAS are good for one year, TAG NOGAS are good for two years. TAG grants are \$5,000 for counties, and \$June 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for year one on LAP. There are US Forest Service Grants available.

Palmer Amaranth was found in 4 counties in 2021, they were Ward, Cass, Grant and Sioux. 9 counties still report having it. 14 counties have had Palmer reported.

**NDDA** – Chelsey Penuel, Bio and Weed Free Forage

**Weed Free Forage** - For the 2021 season, almost 5,700 acres inspected in 10 counties. Final bale count is 7,313 of alfalfa, grass and wheat and barley straw.

For twine, the NAISMA Weed Free Products (WFP) committee has worked with PolyExcel, LLC to have orange and blue twine in 3 knot strengths but they encourage all to use up the current supply of purple and yellow twine. NDDA will continue using its stocked supply of purple and yellow twine.

As of now, the NDDA still has a healthy stock of the purple and yellow twine available in 2 different knot strengths available to producers at cost (9,600 feet/170 – pound knot strength or 4,000 feet/440 – pound knot strength).

### **Biocontrol – 2021 Summary**

Assisted with 5 Leafy spurge flea beetle collection field days in Billings, Benson and Grant Counties.

Monitored and attempted collections of yellow toadflax stem mining weevils in Ward County.

Made 1<sup>st</sup> release of stem galling weevils in Billings County.

Monitored some of the Canada thistle rust fungus 2019/2020 release sites but did not find establishment. Made few releases due to drought.

Released purple loosestrife agents in Barnes and Morton Counties.

Monitored 2013 release site of spotted knapweed weevils in Golden Valley County. Found flower weevils but not root weevils.

Helped some organic farmers obtain some releases of field bindweed mites.

### **2022 Plans:**

Available to help with Leafy spurge flea beetle collection days.

Continue monitoring yellow toadflax weevils in Ward and Billings Counties. Possibly getting additional insects, so let Chelsey know if you are interested in trying biocontrol.

Continue releasing Canada thistle rust fungus at research sites only (no new sites until EPA and APHIS figure out who is the regulatory agency).

Continue monitoring spotted knapweed flower weevil site in Golden Valley County, and we are hoping to get a release root weevils.

## **Old Business:**

### **Recognition of Board Members and Weed Officers: (Present at the annual meeting)**

Newest serving board member – Corey Paryzek – received a NDWCA Hat

Longest serving board member – Melvin Schlender – Mercer County – received a NDWCA Mug

Newest serving weed officer – Gus Murato, Golden Valley County – received a NDWCA Hat

Longest serving weed officer – Joan Lorge, Slope County – received a NDWCA Mug

## **New Business:**

**Resolutions:** None

## **Elections:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Election:** Eligible areas are I, IV, V. There was only one nomination from the area meetings. Cliff Ferebee, Dunn County, was nominated from Area V. Derrill Fick nominated Joan Lorge, Slope County. Cody Schnabel nominated Jim Bahm, Morton County. Cliff and Joan gave campaign speeches. Cody spoke on behalf of Jim, who could not be in attendance. Voting by ballot. **M/C**

## **President's Transition**

President Travis turned the gavel over to the 2022 President Jim Hennessy.

President Jim said that we have a lot of things to get done this year. We need to make sure that the weed officers have the training available to make their jobs run smoother.

**Newsletter:** Jim had Merlin explain the situation with the newsletter. Merlin explained that on Tuesday evening, the board voted to discontinue the paper edition of the newsletter after the November, 2022 letter. The cost of having the print edition has been getting costlier. Under half of the members still receive the paper edition. We have been asking for several years to get everyone into the e mail version. Please, get us your e mail as soon as possible. If you do not have one, make arrangements with possibly your extension office to receive it there. Weed officers, check with your board, you may have to print the newsletter for them come 2023.

Votes have been tallied. Congratulations to Cliff Ferebee, your new 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president.

**National Travel Fund:** Bill explained the history of the travel fund, and its uses. The board would like to have a fund for activities in North Dakota, whether it be booths education materials, etc. This fund would be called the NoDak Fund. The National Travel fund would be capped at \$12,000, with the funds normally going into that fund, would go to the new fund. Merlin Leithold, our executive secretary and financial officer, would be in charge of this fund as well. If funds were used from the National Travel fund, it would be replenished to \$12,000. \$25 from membership dues, goes to the National Travel fund, and would now also go to the NoDak fund.

Jamen Windish, Barnes County moved to change the fund and add the new fund. Terry Weisz, Dickey County seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Next year's conference will be held January 2-5, 2023 here at the Ramkota.**

Jim invited everyone next door to the beer and brat social which begins now.

Katie Dillman moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Ginsbach, Richland County seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin Leithold  
Executive Secretary