

**NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck**  
**January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Yet to be Board Approved**

President Jim Hennessy called the meeting to order at 4:55 pm. Introductions. Members present were: Jim Hennessy, Stan Wolf, Cliff Ferebee, Roger Gunderson, Rick Schmidt, Richard Weisz, NDDA, Bill Walker, Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, Joan Lorge, Kent Luttschwager, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present: John Mortenson, NDDA, Eric Delzer, Tom Leo, Williams County, and Jim Bahm, Morton County.

**Additional agenda items were:** None

**Minutes:** The September meeting were reviewed. Stan asked for a correction on the minutes. Page 3, under NDDA report. End of line 2, forgot the word city. Roger moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Financial Report:** Merlin gave the financial report. Bill moved to accept the financial report. Stan seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Budget:** The 2023 budget passed in September was reviewed. Discussion. Joan moved to approve the budget as is and send it to the annual meeting for final approval. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Resolutions:** None brought up at the area meetings

**Committee Reports:**

**Education Committee Report:** Derrill Fick, chairman. Poster Contest. Derrill has posters from 2 schools, Milnor and Tioga. Will put all of them on the table for folks to vote for them. Otherwise, nothing has changed since the last board meeting.

**Convention Report:** Cliff asked each committee if they were ready for the conference. Bill mentioned that they had one opening on the speaker slot, but should be able to fill it in. Auction – Rick said he will do the auction. He asked Merlin if he would clerk it again, and if he needed numbers or anything. Merlin said it is all taken care of. Merlin said that registration was up from last year. 16 vendors and sponsorships were very good. All breaks are covered, including endless refreshments. Richard said that the department's computer and projector will be able to be used throughout the conference.

**Legislative:** Merlin said that there are two bills he has seen so far. The department's budget, SB2009 and HB1099. HB1099 does deal with the century code for noxious weeds concerning complaints directly to the department and also weed free forage procurements. This bill is a so called house cleaning bill, minor changes. Merlin referred the actual explanation of the bill to Richard.

**Agency Reports:**

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

**Mapping Technology Grant**

This will be funding that is available for all county/city weed boards to update their existing noxious weed mapping equipment.

How much money to be available is still to be determined.

It will be available as soon as the bidding process is finalized. Hoping by February.

Plan to start this biennium but will continue into next biennium as counties are ready.

We cannot say which companies will be used due to the first bidding process being canceled.

We are expecting 2 options.

Up to 2 units per county/city weed board starting out.

NDDA will reevaluate funding ability after the first round of granting.

**HB1099**

The ND Dept. of Ag has HB1099 going to legislation.

Changes include:

Removing procurement to individual weed seed free forage inspector

Removing the language 'signed' from the Agriculture Commissioner's Authority in regards to complaints.

**LAP Update:**

LAP allocations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year were sent out in August.

There are 43 eligible weed boards.

Out of those 43 weed boards, 11 have not turned in their LAP NOGA's to accept their new 2022- 2023 allocations.

Which leaves \$124,800 unclaimed.

Please sign and send back to me when you are able if you have not done so.

LAP reallocation will likely not occur this biennium.

**TAG Update:**

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.

There are 7 counties/cities who haven't signed their TAG NOGA's: Which leaves \$17,000 unclaimed.

**2022 Annual Survey Report:**

Deadline is March 1, 2023.

Was sent out via email on the listserv.

Also available on the Dept. of Ag's website.

Your data and input are valuable to determine funding needs and to keep contact's current.

Lend us your thoughts and ideas on improving the survey moving forward in the comment section.

**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, how each other operate, and the needs desired.

**Invasive and Troublesome Weed Guidebooks/Pocket guides:**

Only books 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 books 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.

Richard requested that the association move the department's weed forum to Friday because of the New Year's holiday. Merlin will check with the hotel on their schedule to see if we can move the entire conference to a week later.

**Biocontrol:** John Mortenson gave a short report.

Developed a new form to request biocontrol. It has landowners name, land description, etc. Rick asked whether the weed board will be in the loop who requested and received the bugs. John said one question asks if the department can have access to the site after they are released. Merlin asked if they do not check yes, will that disqualify them. John said not at this time, but if they have 5 requests for bio, and have 4 releases, that could factor into whether they receive a release or not.

**Government:** Given by Kent Luttschwager, government representative

**Summary of 2022 Noxious Weed Control efforts on US Fish & Wildlife Lands.****National Wildlife refuges and Wetland Management Districts in ND**

Acres treated by control method:

Biological – 7,780 acres (flea beetles, etc.)

Herbicide – 7,744 acres

Mechanical – 8,609 acres (clipping/mowing)

Grazing – 37,040 acres (grazing that targeted specific weed/invasive species concerns)

**USFWS lands surveyed and mapped using GPS/GIS:**

25,836 acres surveyed with a total of 4,083 acres of weeds mapped

**Budget expenditures:**

\$779k (herbicide, equipment, salaries, training, PPE, contract spraying, etc.)

**Summary of 2022 Noxious Weed Control efforts on ND Game & Fish Department Lands:**

Chemically treated 3,844 acres and mowed another 44 acres.

In addition, grazed several thousand acres addressing weed and invasive species concerns.

Also collected and moved bio control flea beetles for Leafy spurge at numerous sites.

Treated Leafy spurge, Canada thistle, Yellow toadflax, Absinth wormwood, Houndstongue, and Saltcedar.

New boat ramp completed at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, allowing crews to resume Saltcedar detection and treatments. Had not been able to access river by boat for the last 2 years.

Budget for noxious weed control includes permanent staff salary, seasonal staff, and contractors and operating expenses, is \$725,000 for noxious weed control for 2021-23 biennium.

Cost and expenses for treatments thus far to Jan 1 is \$495,000 (biennium ends June 30, 2023).

### **US Army Corps of Engineers**

Treated noxious weeds with 4 summer hire and permanent staff. Will be adding 2 additional summer seasonals in 2023.

Budget will remain stable for 2023.

Highlight is Corps of Engineers staff will be attending drone pilot school and the Corps is planning on obtaining drones and using them for chemical applications. This should be extremely helpful for dealing with rugged topography and hard to reach places.

All Federal Agencies have concerns on making payments for the conference by check. The association needs to accept credit cards.

Jim Hennessy, as president of our association, received, acknowledged, and filed a copy of the letter that Corteva sent EPA in regards to the ND Department of Agriculture's request for a 24C label for Method.

**Industry:** Bill Walker, Industry representative gave the report.

I'll start by saying there has again been a flurry of change from our last industry report.

Some products continue to be tight and short supply.

Pricing on some products have at least stabled off for now, we have seen a new round of price increases from almost all manufacturers (October 1 and beyond)

These increases are common at this time of year as the manufacturers try to set themselves for the coming year, many of the manufacturers are also trying to set pricing so as "NOT" to have as many in season price increases in 2023

### **Some Recap of 2022:**

**In 2022 we did see unprecedented price increases from 20% on the low to as much as 160% or more on the high**

**Glyphosates and 2,4-D products did take the highest jumps, but many products were in the 15% to 40% ranges overall**

**While we hope to not see these huge increases again in 2023, we still will see some increases as already shown by the manufacturers with their current increases on most all products**

With supply still short on many items, we ask that you give your suppliers extra time, to make sure they will have your requested products and amounts on hand when needed or

Order and floor early to ensure your own supply as well.

### **If or When Bidding:**

Please understand that due to unannounced manufacturer price increases during the year, your distributor/supplier may not be able to honor some bid prices later in the season, this is not the fault of the distributor/supplier

New products ordered may be higher than what they had on hand at the time causing them to have to raise pricing so as not to lose money (2022 was an extreme year for this)

You may have to be flexible on some pricing on bids as the year progresses

Also, when bidding make sure that the distributor/supplier has the products you requested and can deliver before you award

In 2022 there were some suppliers bidding on products they knew they “**could not deliver**” just to get other products on a bid (this puts you at a disadvantage with other suppliers when you must switch)

### **And Finally:**

If you want to chew on somebody about pricing, un-announced price increases, in-season price increases, just ask your distributor/supplier who to contact

We will gladly give you the manufacturer reps. Phone numbers so they can explain the reasons why

You never know (it might just be another ship stuck in the Suez Canal)

### **\*NICHINO America**

#### **Venue Herbicide**

Several of the counties in ND have put some plots out with Venue Herbicide and we are looking at results from these.

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 or \*Liberate Surfactant at 1 quart per 100 gallons water (studying at this time)

Studies are showing Leafy Spurge can be reduced/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, water's edge, tree belts, CRP acres, Wildlife areas, Roadsides, Non-crop sites

**Venue Herbicide is packaged in 1-quart containers and is \$145.00 per quart (same as 2022 pricing)**

**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](mailto:atruszkowski@nichino.net)

## **\*CORTEVA**

**CORTEVA** has announced product supply and costs for the 2023 year, they did take several price increases across the 2022 year and now have announced their pricing for 2022/2023 that started on October 1, 2022.

Some of the new pricing on your most used products is as follows (current at this time).

<b>Milestone Herbicide</b>	2.5 gal. cont.	\$280.00 gal. (was \$270.00 gal.)	3.7% increase
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(Govt. Pricing)	1 quart cont.	\$70.00 per quart	
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<b>Freelexx Herbicide</b>	2.5, 30 and 250 gal. cont.	\$30.00 gal. (was \$28.00 gal.)	7.1% increase
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Freelexx was \$21.50 gal. Oct. 1, 2021, \$25.50 gal. Late Oct. 2021, \$28.00 gal. May 2022, Oct. 1, 2022, \$30.00 gal.

<b>HighNoon/DuraCor Herbicide</b>	1 and 2.5 gal. cont.	\$92.00 gal. (was \$88.00 gal.)	4.5% increase
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	250 gal. totes	\$89.50 gal. (was \$85.50 gal.)	4.7% increase
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<b>Opensight Herbicide</b>	1.25 and 10 lb. cont.	\$96.75 lb. (was \$89.40 lb.)	8.2% increase
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**\*Tordon 22K Herbicide** has taken another 4.7% increase on top of the already 3 other increases across the 2022-year, total approximate increase on Tordon 22K this 2022/2023 year (so far) – about 19.5% overall.

Other products include – **Element 3A** (7.5%), **Element 4** (7.3%), **Garlon 3A** (6.3%), **Garlon 4 Ultra** (4.9%), **Pathfinder II** (7.6%), **Pathway** (7.5%), **TerraVue** (6.4%), **Transline** (5.8%), **Vastlan** (6.7%) **Vista XRT** (3.3%) and all these increases for 2023 are on top of all the 2022 in-season price increases they had.

### **HighNoon Herbicide**

Has been launched by CORTEVA, it became available in the fall of 2022

**HighNoon Herbicide** is a premix of Milestone Herbicide and Rinskor Herbicides for control of broadleaf weeds and certain woody plants on rangelands, permanent grass pastures (including annual and perennial grasses grown for hay, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres, and wildlife Management Areas including seasonally dry flood plains, deltas, marshes, prairie potholes, or vernal pools in these sites, **has all right-a-way labeling needed**, HighNoon has approximately 144 listed weeds and brush on the label in comparison to Milestone's 94 listed weeds and brush for control.

**HighNoon Herbicide** (same as DuraCor Herbicide) has all labeling that DuraCor Herbicide has, so if looking at any right-a-way usages than consider the HighNoon Herbicide

**CORTEVA** has also announced they will discontinue the **Graslan L herbicide** name and now have changed it to **Grazon PD3 Herbicide**, same as Graslan L, there is still some Graslan L in the supply chain, when that is gone all will go over to Grazon PD3 Herbicide.

**\*Mike Otto** – is the new Territory Manager for CORTEVA in Western North Dakota, his phone number is – 1-210-517-7491, email – [mike.otto@corteva.com](mailto:mike.otto@corteva.com)

**\*Tanner Smith** – is the Territory Manager for CORTEVA in eastern ND, his phone number is 1-608-408-3133 cell phone number, email - [tanner.smith@corteva.com](mailto:tanner.smith@corteva.com)

**SEPECIAL NOTE:** Milestone Herbicide Supplemental labels for haying and hay sales off from farm site, No word from CORTEVA on this yet, supplemental allowing this are set to expire, **supplemental label allowing these are set to expire April 7, 2023.**

**\*ENVU** – has now replaced Bayer – Bayer sold its specialty division to CINVIN (An Investment firm in London) as previously reported

The sale includes the Professional Business segments including - Vector Control, Professional Pest Management, Vegetation Management including Range and Pasture, Forestry, Turf and Ornamental and Specialty actives.

Again, they are now **Envu** – meaning “Environment and Vision”, this was completed and is in effect, there have been no changes in personal at this time, but some territories have change

They are still working on the **TruRange** product labeling, not expected until sometime late 2023 or 2024, EPA is dragging their feet on it

It would hopefully give us the labeling needed for Leafy Spurge control on permanent grazed lands (labeling like the Method 24C labeling we were looking at)

Our **ENVU** representative for Western ND is **Jarrod Hossfeld**, Western Area Sales Manager, phone number 1-406-298-0955, email – [jarrod.hossfeld@envu.com](mailto:jarrod.hossfeld@envu.com) , Jarrod lives in Billings, MT

Our **EVNU** representative for Eastern ND is **Scott Ohnoutka**, has the eastern North Dakota territory, his contact information is 1-605-408-6197 cell phone, email should be [scott.ohnoutka@envu.com](mailto:scott.ohnoutka@envu.com), Scott lives in Nebraska now.

**ENVU** has announced its price increase for 2022/2023 which have taken effect October 1, 2022, for the 2022/2023 season, we have seen price increases across the board with ENVU as well.

<b>Method 240 SL Herbicide</b>	2.5 gal. cont.	\$327.40 gal. (was \$322.56 gal.) 1.5% increase
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<b>Plainview SC Herbicide</b>	2.5 gal. cont.	\$275.20 gal. (was \$249.60 gal.) 10.5% increase
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Bareground product, pre-mix of Esplanade 200SC, Method 240 SL and Arsenal Herbicides, good for hard bareground sites, stay away from trees, tree roots and shrubs you consider valuable

<b>Esplanade 200SC Herbicide</b>	2.5 gal. cont.	\$1,369.60 gal. (Was \$1,267.20 gal.) 8% increase
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1 quart cont.	\$376.70 qt.
(Was \$348.60 qt.) 8% increase	

<b>Rejuvra Herbicide</b>	2.5 gal. cont.	\$1,014.72 gal.
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(Was \$994.56 per gal.) 2% increase
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1 quart cont.	\$304.42 qt. (was \$298.37 qt.) 2% increase
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Range and pasture product good for annual weed grass control, Cheatgrass, Medusahead or Ventenata and some annual broadleaf weeds in established perennial grass pasture and rangelands

Other products include - Escort **XP** (increased about 10%), **Telar XP** (increased about 18%)

**\*BASF** – Has announced pricing for 2023

This will affect pricing of **Plateau Herbicide, Arsenal Herbicide, Overdrive Herbicide, Frequency Herbicide, Detail Herbicide** and the **Hi Light dyes**

They have had shortages on (Imazapyr products) Arsenal Herbicide and Imazapic products (Plateau Herbicide) this year and supply may become short in 2023 as well

**Arsenal Herbicide** is up about 14.29% over last year

**Plateau Herbicide** is up about 14.02% over last year

**Overdrive Herbicide** is up about 13.91% over last year

**Hi Light Dyes** are up about 8% over last year

BASF Rep. is - Robert (Bob) York and is based in North Carolina

#### **\*NuFarm**

Has come out with some new pricing and we are seeing some slight decrease in their overall glyphosate products

**Dicamba and 2, 4-D products** have stayed at pricing earlier in 2022, price increases are rumored to happen on these types of products in 2023 again, especially 2,4-D amines and Esters, expect to see amines priced in the low to mid \$20.00 to \$25.00 per gallon ranges and Esters even higher in the mid \$30.00s on LV 4 to mid \$40.00s on LV 6 products.

NuFarm has started making **AquaNeat** again (aquatic glyphosate), pricing is lower than we have seen earlier in 2022

Many of their other products have remained somewhat stable at this time but again, expect price increase announcements as the year progresses

NuFarm did take several in-season price increases on their products in 2022 as well

**E-2 Herbicide** is currently at \$65.05 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers and \$64.45 per gallon in 250-gallon totes

**“BUT”** EPA has requested some label changes on E-2 and currently NuFarm is not producing E-2 until these are straightened out with EPA

**\*Alligare -** has also announced they will have price increases; these will affect products such as

**Whetstone Herbicide** (generic Milestone)

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Whetstone herbicide labeling on haying is somewhat different than the Milestone herbicide labeling on haying and off-site sales

The Whetstone Herbicide has the following built into the label (not a supplemental label)

**Grass Harvested for Hay Intended for Distribution or Sale off the Farm or Ranch and**



## **Grass Harvested for Silage, Haylage, Baylage, or Green Chop Intended for Use on the Farm or Ranch**

(For use only in the states of – AL, AR, AZ, CO, FL, GA, ID, KS, KY, LA, NO, MS, MT, ND, NE, NV, NM, SD, TN, TX, UT, WY)

### **Imazapyr products – Ecomazapyr (generic Arsenal)**

### **2, 4-D products (amines and Esters)**

### **Imazapic products – Panoramic 2SL (generic Plateau)**

**\*Surfactants and other adjuvants** – we seen some increases across the 2022 year on these 15% to 30%

Expect these to have between 8% to 20% increases as we move into the New Year depending upon makeup

Petroleum or oil-based products will see higher increases, we have already seen this with Bark Oils used for mixing with the tricolpyr products, and they have gone up as much as 40% plus in the past few months.

**Glyphosate products, 2,4-D products** and some others are still in short supply and supply is not expected to catch up until sometime in 2023 now, pricing although has seemed to stable off for now and we have seen some decrease in pricing on glyphosate products.

### **Again, please remember, plan ahead on your product needs for 2023 as you have done in 2022**

The sooner you can put your needed products on **your floor** OR **Let Your Supplier Know Your Needs** the better chances of securing them and, possibly at some lower costs.

We saw several in-season price increase from all manufacturers in 2022.

While they say they are trying to plan ahead of these for 2023

**I would not assume; we will not have any in-season increases, in 2023.**

### **BREAK**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Education Committee computer & projector & prices, etc.:** Derrill checked prices at Best Buy in Minot. A laptop would be around \$620 to \$900, a projector would cost around \$800. Microsoft office would be \$40 to \$150. The old one is around 16 years old. Everything would cost around \$2,000. Ron moved to purchase a laptop and projector up to \$2,000 limit. Roger second the motion. Discussion: Stan asked about virus protection. Derrill will get it on the new computer. Stan also asked about liability on virus transferred from our machine to others. Very good concerns and discussion on how to keep everything protected. **M/C**

Derrill asked how to purchase it. Merlin asked what to do with the old computer and projector. Merlin said that it would be a good auction item. Derrill will get it ready for next year.

**By laws update:** Bill quickly reviewed the changes that the board approved at the September meeting. There was no questions at the area meetings.

Bill will read the changes at the annual meeting on Tuesday.

**Voting Members:** Merlin explained that one county sent in money for each county weed board member would be a full voting member. According to the bylaws, they cannot be full members. They can be associate members. Tom Leo, Williams County, said that the association is missing the boat. Very good discussion. Jim asked that the bylaws committee work on it for next year. Merlin plans on refunding Williams County for the excess money they paid.

Merlin asked where commodity groups fall under in the bylaws. We do have a commodity group as a full voting member. Very good discussion.

**Palmer Amaranth:** Stan said that there are commodity groups that are getting involved with Palmer Amaranth control. Especially soybean and sugarbeet groups. They would like a specific program for Palmer. All in discussion phase. They are taking the lead, but are allowing us to be at the table as they move forward. From what Stan has heard, the groups have been in contact with Ag. Commissioner Goehring as well. Joan said that it is a cropland weed, and we don't deal with cropland and those weeds. Richard said that all the weeds on the noxious weed list, besides Palmer, are basically non cropland weeds.

Stan said from what he has heard, the commodity groups are basically interested in getting special funding to counties to battle Palmer. Richard disagrees with this. He feels that the commodity groups should fund Palmer control directly to counties themselves. They have large budgets, and they can afford to do so.

Richard said that you cannot prioritize one weed over another. You have to look at how many people are affected by one weed compared to another. Ron said every county operates differently. Merlin said that if the commodity groups are working on something, it is very important that we are allowed to be at the table. Bill wants to make sure when we are at the table, that they don't force us to do something we can't do.

Stan said that maybe we need to change the noxious weed list. Have maybe two lists, to allow one weed to prioritize over another. Bill was wondering if this is being pushed by NDSU. When Palmer was first talked about, everyone said, zero tolerance. No plant left behind. Bill and Stan both feel that we need someone to be at the table to make sure we are involved.

Jim Bahm asked what ever happened to the meeting from last winter concerning Palmer. He asked how many meetings they had. The answer – 1.

SBARE has Palmer in the top 5 with concerns to the legislature.

Richard said that it's not that the department doesn't want have extra funds for Palmer control, but how do you justify funding to one county compared to another.

Richard will check to see if another meeting will be scheduled.

Stan asked Richard if they find Palmer, and they put it out in a press release, if they could send the press release to Merlin to put out on our list serve as well. Merlin asked if they could put a date on it to Merlin, so he doesn't send it out before the press release.

Merlin asked Richard about a communication issue that was brought up at an area meeting. Richard said that mistakes happen, and when you are dealing with a fast timeline, people get missed.

**Other:** Stan talked about the drones, and the American Drone Security Act. The new drones are getting the new software that brings them in compliance.

Derrill asked if the members heard that they are changing the WOTUS (Waters of the US) laws back to the Obama rules.

**Being no other old business, Jim transitioned the presidency to Stan.**

Stan recessed the meeting until Thursday at around noon.

**Recessed at 7:52pm**

**Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Stan Wolf, 2023 President, called the meeting back to order at 12:26 pm.

Those present were: Bill, Joan, Roger, Jim, Cliff, Derrill, Richard, Stan, Rick, Jim Bahm and Merlin.

Guests: Tom & Kelly Leo, Williams County

Guest Comments: Tom Leo stated that the conference was very good.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Conflict of Interest Forms:** The board signed the conflict of interest forms for 2023.

**Extend Secretary's Contract:** Joan moved that the executive secretary's current contract be extended 30 days from the board meeting following the annual conference, and conclude 30 days following the next year's conference. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Executive Secretary's contract for 2023.** Merlin left the room for a time. Discussion was held. After a consensus, Merlin was invited back into the room. Roger moved to approve the secretary contract for Merlin at \$8,750 annually. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C** Contracts were signed. Merlin thanked the board for the support and the raise.

**Conference Follow up:** Stan thanked Richard for his work on keeping the computer going. Job well done.

**Auction Revenue:** Merlin said that the auction brought on slightly over \$5,000 gross. Up around \$800 from last year. Stan thanked Rick for being the auctioneer. Jim H. said that the vendors liked our auctioneer. Rick said that it is fun to be the auctioneer when there are real good things to sell. Jim H. mentioned the challenge from Billings County. Stan said that it could be mentioned in the newsletter as well.

Rick said that he heard from some that the speakers were good. Jim complimented Roger for bringing in extra vendors, and for doing a good job compiling everything.

Merlin will compile all the comments by the March meeting.

Possibly do a taco bar instead of brats. Alternate from year to year, Tacos/Brats

**2024 Conference Date: Tuesday January 2 thru Friday, January 5th**

**Committees: Annual meeting:** Jim Bahm, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice will chair.

**Speakers:** Bill, Kent, Richard, Cliff and Merlin

**Vendors/Sponsors:** Roger and Merlin

**Food:** Jim Bahm, Richard and Merlin

**Auction:** Rick and Ron

**IT:** Derrill and Rick

**Education:** Derrill (chair), others he will appoint

Stan asked that minutes be kept and submitted to the ex. secretary

**Awards:** Area alternate directors: I – Josh Short, II – Al Ulmer, III – Tom Leo

IV – Laverne Laib, V – Josh Hetland

**Legislative:** Exec. Board (Stan, Cliff, Jim B., Merlin)

**Policy and By Laws:** Bill, Derrill, Joan, Cliff

**Website:** Travis, Merlin

**Audit:** Area IV director (Rick) and two others

**Palmer Committee:** Exec. Board

**Newsletter:** Will be 100% by e mail. Merlin will have pictures of the board on the newsletter. Each area director will have a spot for a report in each newsletter. If an article comes up, a link can be provided to articles. This is just a start of how we can develop the newsletter. Merlin plans on having the vendors and sponsors from the past conference in the March and June newsletter.

Director reports and all other reports are due the last week in February, last week of May, last week of September.

**Board meetings set for 2023** – the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday again, March 28<sup>th</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, and September 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck. All three meetings will start at 10:00 am., central time. Then on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm.

**Sprayer schools for 2023:** Have 3 schools. May 30, 31 & June 1. Dickinson, the 30<sup>th</sup>, Minot the 31<sup>st</sup>, and Carrington on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Registrations to begin at 8:30 local time.

**Area Meetings for 2023:** After some discussion, dates will be October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Valley City, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Devils Lake, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Minot, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Washburn or Mandan, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Amidon. 9:00 start time.

**Summer Symposium:** Have it like last year, 2 nights, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Bill moved to have the Northern Plains Weed Symposium again in Washburn at the 4-H camp. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

The education committee is in charge, but everyone should have ideas, and forward their ideas to Derrill. The whole board and advisors are on the committee. Stan asked about liability on spraying around the camp. Good discussion. Probably covered under the counties insurance. We are covered under the general liability insurance that we have.

Derrill will inform the board on a monthly basis the progression of the agenda, etc. for the symposium, and have a report at the board meetings.

**2025 Annual Conference Site and beyond:** Due to scheduling conflicts, 2025, the earliest we can have it is Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. In 2026, Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> thru January 8<sup>th</sup>. In 2027, Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> thru January 14<sup>th</sup>. In 2028, Monday January 10 thru January 13<sup>th</sup>. All these dates are at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center. Stan said that we have tried different locations in the area, we have been at different cities as well.

Merlin said that we could use the courtyard as well. Would work for the vendor room, but would need to make sure the adjoining rooms are rented out to the vendors and the board for security reasons. Merlin will check with the hotel.

Derrill moved to lock in these dates. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Merlin said that he suggests that the board should consider locking in the date for 2029 at next year's Thursday board meeting to ensure we get a date that works well for us. If we wait, it can get dicey for dates.

**Trade Booths:** Research Partners Meeting –Fargo, Jan. 24.

KFYR Agri International – Bismarck, Feb 14 & 15

ND Winter Show – Valley City

KMOT Ag Show – Minot

Reclamation Conference – Dickinson – February 27 & 28

Bill moved to pay for the last three booths out of the NoDak Fund, and supply a written report at the March meeting in order to receive funds. Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Mileage for the booths:** No mileage will be paid according to last year's decision.

**Other: Absentee landowners:** Kent asked to have it brought it to the board. Plots land has weed issues, and being some are out of state landowners, no control methods are being done. Kent was wondering if a campaign could be done, like the aquatic nuisance species advertising. Game and Fish has potential funds to do a campaign. Will discuss at the March meeting.

**Name Tags:** Joan would like to have name tags for past presidents. Derrill, Leon, Kevin, Jamen and Katie. Joan moved to get these name tags. Jim B. seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Accepting Credit Card Payments** – Merlin said that he brought up the issue of credit cards again. It seems that using credit cards is gaining popularity. Vendors have trouble paying by check. Some have to use a personal check and then get reimbursed. Merlin would need permission to pursue this. Our current bank, First International bank does have someone in house that works with this. Bill said that they are willing to pay the extra fees just for the convenience. Derrill said that his county does not want to pay a fee if all possible. Cliff moved to have Merlin explore accepting credit card payments and report back in March. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Sell items on website:** Richard suggested that we have a spot to sell items on the website. Merlin will ask Travis about this.

Being no further business,

Derrill moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold  
Executive secretary