

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Yet to be approved

President Jim Hennessy called the meeting to order at 9:59 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, Roger Gunderson, Travis Jepson, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary. Guests were John Mortenson, NDDA and Joe Camisa, Train ND manager, Bismarck State College, Bismarck

**Additional agenda items were:** None

Joe Camisa, BSC, visited with the board on the custom applicator program that BSC will be offering starting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Agronomy centers have asked for these programs to have a potential increase in the workforce. Various levels of training and degrees will be available. In the future, they would like to offer training more specific to equipment that are being used by weed officers. These programs extend beyond the borders of North Dakota. Rick would be willing to come to BSC to help with training on suitable equipment. He does work with BSC already. Joe asked Rick to send him an e mail, and he will visit with Lindsey Novak and Carmel Miller from BSC on this. Jim thanked Joe for coming.

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

**Financial Report:** Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, budget sheet, symposium financial and memberships paid so far. Stan had a question on who ordered the caps. Jim said that Derrill ordered them. Derrill said the group wanted them for the symposium. Stan stated that all items like this are always approved first by the board. Derrill said that it ended up being a committee decision. Bill moved to approve the financial report, Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education:** Derrill gave the education report. We had a great turnout at the symposium. Working on training manual for new weed officers. Starting to send out the information to schools for the poster contest. Hopefully we will get a lot of posters back for the conference in January to be judged.

**Audit:** Stan is in charge of it. The sponsoring area, area III. His committee will do it during the conference before the annual meeting.

**By Laws & Policy Manual:** Bill and Derrill worked on the bylaws. Bill had Merlin work on some of the changes in the bylaws. Bill read the bylaws, explaining the proposed changes. It was decided to add the words or federal under Section 5, page 4. These changes will go to the area meetings for discussion.

**Legislative:** Merlin mentioned a proposed bill that would reduce property taxes by 25%. Under this proposal, the mill levies would be under dollars, which we are already under. Joan said that

everyone's budgets are under dollars. Merlin is not sure if that would change the 3 mill requirement, or if it would roll over under dollars.

Merlin stated that his lobbyist term expires in 2022, but we need to either renew Merlin's or pick a new one. Jim asked if there are separate contracts. Merlin stated that he is not paid to be a lobbyist, just per diem. Bill said that we do it under a motion. Bill then moved to appoint Merlin as the lobbyist for the next legislative biennium, 2022 – 2024. Stan seconded the motion. Kent asked who tracks the bills and who would decide what bills to testify on and whether for or against. Merlin said it starts with the board, if time allows, sometimes the decision has to be made at the hearing. At times, the President and the executive board are in the decision. Bill said we have to put our trust in the lobbyist. Stan said that he has the opportunity, as a department head, to hear upcoming bills, which helps. Jim wants to make sure enough people are in the decision making, to help him. Jim asked Richard about the department's budget. Have they said anything about adding money to noxious weeds and to add an FTE in the department? Richard said what he knows is it gets extremely tough to add an FTE. Jim said the commissioner has concerns about counties and their lack of work. Could it be because there is hardly anybody in noxious weeds? Cliff asked if we, as an association, could talk to legislators about our concerns, to get a bill for more funds. Merlin said we have asked the commissioners this numerous times. We could do a standalone bill, but we need the department to back us. Merlin said we probably couldn't get it passed without the departments' approval. Travis said that it goes back to the counties that are not using their funds. The motion to appoint Merlin as lobbyist was voted on. **M/C**

**Awards:** Jim said we as a board need to get out and get people to nominate fellow weed folks. Merlin asked what should be given out, besides a cup. Derrill suggested possibly a clock. Merlin thought maybe a clock for the lifetime achievement award. Bill moved that the awards should be plaques, the lifetime achievement with a clock, Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

Merlin asked if we give recognition at the annual meeting for something to get more to come to the annual meeting.

Merlin will send out to the board a list of counties who are not attending the area meetings and annual meetings.

**Website:** Travis has updated the website. Would like to put the presentation from the symposium bio vs chemical on the website.

#### **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:** We're in the new 22-23 fiscal year. The new allocation letters were sent out for LAP. Still waiting for a few NOGAS to be returned. TAG remains at \$5,000 per county and \$2,000 over the biennium. There are Forest Service funds, so just let Richard. They are putting \$80,000 for technology grants. Should start this year. Weed board visits, tough to get out. Some new infestations with Palmer, Kidder, Trail and Hettinger Counties. Out of pocket guides. Asked whether they combined the large book and the pocket guide. Would probably be twice the size of the pocket guides. No real opposition to doing it.

**Weed free forage** – feels it has picked up this year. Ventenata field trip to Wyoming. Very invasive. John and Richard went. A shocking experience. The spread of it in one year is unbelievable. It is probably dormant now. In July it was reaching late maturity. Would be nice to do another trip with more people. It is spreading into Montana and South Dakota. We probably have it in the state, just don't know it. There will be a lot of discussion at the January conference as well.

**Biocontrol:** John gave a presentation on biocontrol. Carol Randle and Charlie Seymour were in the state looking at bio sites in Ward and Golden Valley County. Plan to bring in some more bugs next year. Give John a call if you need anything. Rick asked what the Hawkmoth does for damage to Leafy Spurge. This year they seemed to explode. Will there be large numbers next year? John wasn't sure, but will get back to Rick after doing further research.

**Recess for lunch:**

**Industry Report:** Given by Bill Walker

Again, I'll start by saying there has not been much 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 expect to see a new round of pricing this fall when manufacturers start to announce their programs for 2023, some have already said to expect increases.

**\*\*\*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 20% to 40% ranges overall, while we hope to not see these again in 2023, we still will see some increases as rumored by the manufacturers.**

With supply still short 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 early to insure your own supply as well.

**\*\*\*NICHINO America**

**Venue Herbicide - As we talked about earlier**

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.

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.

**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 not yet announced product supply and costs for the coming year, they did take price increases in July on all of their tricolpyr products (Vastlan, Garlon 4 Ultra, Garlon 3A, Element 3A, Element 4 and others), it is rumored that we will see price increases across the board on most all of their products for 2023, these when announced normally take place starting in October (2022) and we should have more information by the area meetings.

**HighNoon Herbicide** has been launched by CORTEVA, **\*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, 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 right-a-way labeling needed as well as all labeling that DuraCor Herbicide has, so if looking at any right-a-way usages than consider the HighNoon Herbicide for these uses.

**Clair Volk** – has resigned from CORTEVA and her replacement has been announced he is.

**Mike Otto** – is the new Territory Manager for CORTEVA in Western North Dakota, his phone number is – 1-210-517-7491, I do not have his email contacts yet, he will be covering the areas in North Dakota that Clair covered. (Here is Mike's e mail. I receive it since the meeting. [mike.otto@corteva.com](mailto:mike.otto@corteva.com) )

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

**\*\*\*Bayer** – As a reminder – has sold its specialty division to 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.

Their new name will be **Envu** – meaning “environment and vision”, this is to take effect sometime in October 2022.

They are still working on the **TruRange** 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.

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

### **\*\*\*NuFarm**

Has come out with some new pricing and we are seeing some slight decrease in their glyphosate, Dicamba and 2,4-D products, many of their other products have remained stable at this time but again, expect price increase announcements in October or November from NuFarm.

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.

Surfactant costs have risen across the year as well, they have taken between 15% and up as much as 30% on some products, the oil base or petroleum-based products have taken the highest increases.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Washburn Symposium:** Derrill – went well. Bill said not sure if we should do it every year. Jim has the dates locked in for next year in case we want to have it.

**Other? None**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Budget for 2023:** Merlin went over the proposed budget line by line allowing the board their input for each line. Rick approved to tentatively approve the budget for 2023. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Vision West:** Jim told the board what Vision West is, who makes up the board, what they do. After good discussion on who we should be members of, Bill moved that we pay \$200.00 for the annual membership. Derrill seconded the motion. **M/C**

**2023 Conference:** Jim turned the meeting over to Cliff who then asked everyone for a report. Booths: Roger said he sent out 20 letters with a few more to send. Speakers – nearly set. Have Jane Mangold coming. Will share with the NDDA. May need a room and other expenses. Will work it out. Everything else is on schedule. Merlin asked the boards wishes on giving out ink pens with the registration packet at the conference. Rick moved that Merlin should order 200 pens. Stan seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Area Meetings:** Directors terms up for reelection this year, Area I – Roger, Area – IV – Rick and Area V – Joan. Second vice president – nominations can be from Areas I, III & IV. October 24 Valley City, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Devils Lake, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Minot, October 27<sup>th</sup> - , October 28<sup>th</sup> Mandan, and October 29<sup>th</sup> – Amidon. We will start at 9:00 local time. Merlin will check with area directors the week prior for input on agendas.

**Other?** Derrill asked about purchasing a computer and projector for the education committee. After some discussion, Bill moved to have Derrill check into prices and report back to the board at our next board meeting, on Monday evening. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**  
Merlin asked what price we should sell the newly purchased caps for. Rick moved that we sell them for \$20.00. Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

Being no further business, Bill moved to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded the motion.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm  
Speaker and food committees met following adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary