

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

April 25th, 2023

Yet to be approved

President Stan Wolf called the meeting to order at 10.07 am. Introductions of members and guests. Members present were Stan Wolf, Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Jim Bahm, Joan Lorge, Kent Luttschwager, Cliff Ferebee, Derrill Fick, Jim Hennessy, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Additional agenda items were: None.

Derrill Fick informed the board that Chuck Weiser, former Area III director and Ward County Weed Board member passed away.

Jim Bahm moved to approve the agenda as presented, Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

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

Merlin asked the board about the process of presenting the minutes. He emails the minutes to the board when he has them finished for review. This last time he sent them again to the board with the tentative agenda. He was wondering if he made a couple of copies for the meeting if that would be sufficient. Would save on paper and ink. Joan moved that Merlin go ahead and email the minutes to the board like he did and have a couple of hard copies present at the meeting. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Merlin will continue with printed copies for the area meetings and the annual meeting.

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, budget sheet, conference financial report and memberships paid so far.

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

Conference Survey Results: Merlin and the board reviewed the surveys. Good discussion. By utilizing the courtyard, it should alleviate some of the concerns of the meeting rooms being too far from the sleeping rooms.

Newsletter: Stan said that the new version of the newsletter looks very good. He asked the board for discussion, concerns, etc. Merlin said that his daughter, Kalyssa was the primary person who designed the newsletter. Good comments on it. Stan thanked the directors for their reports and gave them encouraging comments for future reports. Merlin told Cliff and Jim B. that they are welcome to submit reports if they so choose, but not required. Stan again thanked everyone for their articles, and he also thanked Merlin and Kalyssa for their part as well.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. The winning poster winner was Easton Rehak from Tioga. Tom Leo from Williams County also helped with the presentation. Gave a good presentation to the entire elementary classes.

We had a booth at the Earth Day festival coming up in Bismarck. Jamen and Ron and some of their crew set up and watched the booth. It was a little slow, but a good day.

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

May 30th -- in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control shop

May 31st --in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

June 1st – in Carrington at the Research Center

Each school will have registration starting at 8 am local time. 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.

We are members of Vision West. So have been attending some meetings since we are part of the natural resources side, gravel pits, etc.

Northern Plains Symposium starting work on that. Have not had a meeting yet. The committee consists of Cheryl Stutz, Towner County Weed Control

Jamen Windish, Barnes County Weed Control

Jim Hennessey, Mountrail County Weed Control

Katie Dillman, Billings County Weed Control

Leon Pederson, Burleigh County Weed Control

Lindy Berg, Towner County Extension office

Rick Schmidt, Oliver County Extension office

Tom Leo, Williams County Weed Control

Travis Jepson, Stark County Weed Control

Cody Schnabel, Morton County Weed Control

Derrill Fick Ward County Weed Control

And the Board of Directors

Would like to have a face-to-face meeting in the next couple of weeks.

The symposium is planned for August 22-24 in Washburn. Need to see if we need to do weed control again. Need ideas for activities and speakers. Jamen will cater the event. Prices will be higher than last year. Need to decide registration fees as well. Western Short course costs \$850 per person, for 4 days.

Kent asked if this symposium will be annually. The site is locked in for 2023. Stan asked Derrill if a budget will be provided to the board for approval, as in order for Merlin to write checks, he needs board approval.

By Laws & Policy Manual: Bill said that the membership portion for individuals may need to be worked on. He is getting copies of other states by laws to see what they are doing, to give us an idea of what we can and cannot do, if we want to allow individual members the opportunity to vote. Stan is worried that if we're not careful, certain interest groups could become members and change the direction of the association. Possibly have a bylaws committee meeting in June, in September for sure.

Legislative: Merlin gave the legislative report. Merlin thanked the board for allowing him to be their lobbyist. Was a quiet session. SB 2009, the department budget is still in committee. Changes to the bill have not affected our portion of funding. The department's budget bill is usually decided towards the end of the session. HB 1099, originally dealt with weed free forage inspector payments, and that portion was moved to SB 2042, the OMB bill. 1099 was left with the part that the Ag commissioner now must forward all complaints to the proper weed authority, in the past, only signed complaints were forwarded on. This has been passed. Asking Richard, he stated that the number of complaints are high, but a number of them he usually can handle without forwarding them on. HB 1151 dealt with baiting. The baiting law was originally put into law with the help of the association. This time we stayed on the sideline waiting to see if Game & Fish wanted us to help. Most commodity groups were in favor of changing the law. This bill failed. Otherwise, it was a quiet session. Watched several hearings and committee meetings online. This helped to save the association mileage as well.

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent gave the report. Land management issues. A lot of programs out there are available for landowners to enroll in and make extra money. With that comes weed problems and who is supposed to control those weeds. Another issue is some landowners are not allowing hunters on their land because of cuffs on pants or dogs having weeds stuck to them and bringing those seeds to their land. Game and Fish would like to work with the association to bring awareness on this topic. They have an excellent campaign on aquatic nuisance species, to bring awareness. What could be done to bring this type of campaign to stop the spread of weeds? A lot of good ideas were discussed.

Break For Lunch

NDDA: Richard gave the NDDA report.

Mapping Technology Grant

- This funding is available for all county/city weed boards to update their existing noxious weed mapping equipment.
- Currently, there are 21 counties who've been approved for the grant. Totaling \$222,855.
- The April 15th deadline will be pushed back for counties who may still be interested and didn't participate originally.
- This biennium's funding ends June 30, 2023. Additional funding for the next biennium will continue for the Tech Grant.

LAP & TAG Update:

- LAP allocations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year were sent out in August.
- There are 43 eligible weed boards.
 - There are 11 eligible counties who have not returned their LAP NOGAs. Please sign and send it back to me when you are able if you have not done so.
- LAP reallocation will likely not occur this biennium.
- 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.

- Also note, the 2022-2023 fiscal year deadline for LAP and TAG is June 30, 2023. Vouchers for reimbursement with purchases after June 30, 2023, cannot be reimbursed.

USFS Funding:

- If anyone has proposals they would like to submit, please let me know.

County Weed Board Visits:

- Still ongoing and currently working on future summer visits.

Invasive and Troublesome Weed Guidebooks/Pocket guides:

- Currently working on the new 5x8 books. These will replace both the big books and pocket guides. Should be available in the next month. I will let everyone know when they are available.

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.

If you have any questions on noxious weeds/WSFF, please contact Richard Weisz at raweisz@nd.gov or 701-328-2250.

Biological Control:

It is a great time to start thinking about biocontrol releases. NDDA has implemented a new process for requesting biocontrol agents. The Biological Control Request form is available on the department's website. If you or people you know are going to be looking for biocontrol agents this summer please submit the form to our office. The purpose behind the form is to build a database of potential release sites. By knowing sooner than later which agent's people are looking for will allow our department time to work with partner agencies to procure agents. It will also allow for those times when we get agents without notice to have release sites lined up for agents. Now is also a great time to check biocontrol equipment, you never know where a mouse can decide to spend the winter. And lastly let our department know of any planned biocontrol collection days as we can assist with press, staff and equipment.

As always, if you have any questions regarding biocontrol, feel free to contact John Mortenson at 701-226-8804 or jmortenson@nd.gov

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report.

There has been very little activity on pricing and product supply since the last report, we still have a few products on allocation but that seems to be loosening up as the year progresses, pricing has been stable on most all products after the manufacturers October 2022, January 2023 and February 1, 2023, increases.

CORTEVA – pricing on their products has remained stable since their October 1, 2022, increases, some products are still under allocations but that seems to be getting better as well.

Aminopyralid product labeling for sales of the hay after being treated with Aminopyralid products (Milestone Herbicide, DuraCor Herbicide, GrazonNext HL Herbicide, Chaparral Herbicide) has been updated on these products, the allowance for the sales of grass harvested for Hay off the farm is now in the current labels of these products as of April 4, 2023, new updated labels can be gotten off from www.cdms.net, we suggest that you go to the site and get the updated labels for your information and records as well.

Information is listed as supplemental labeling at the end of each label, now the supplemental label has become part of the regular label.

CORTEVA has discontinued the Graslan L Herbicide name, it is now called Grazon PD3 as reported at the annual meeting and with the new came price increases as well on that product, cost increases are in the \$10.00 per gallon plus range.

ENVU (formally Bayer) – ENVU did take some price increases February 1, 2023, on many of their products including Method 240 SL Herbicide, Plainview SC Herbicide, Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide, Rejuvra Herbicide and a few others, reasons stated were the normal, packaging costs, shipping costs, raw material costs, labor costs and others.

ENVU's work on registration of the **TruRange Herbicide** product – The tentative PRIA date is estimated currently at the 3rd quarter of 2023 and so far, they have not been informed of any changes to that date.

ENVU submitted a supplemental information packet to EPA for TruRange at the end of March 2023 and it appears what was submitted met EPA's need for follow up information.

The formal EPA review has not happened, but it is common for them to do the formal review shortly before the PRIA date, so they do not see that as a loss of momentum.

Feedback from experts in ENVU's regulatory division is favorable for a successful registration of TruRange, but as you know, in this space there can always be delays or last-minute disruptions, ENVU's current position is that they will receive a label in 2023.

BASF – Did take some substantial price increases after January 15, 2023, these included Plateau at about 18%, Arsenal and Imazapyr products at a about 15%, Overdrive Herbicide 10% and many of their other products as well, there has been some shortage and allocation on the Imazapyr products to date.

NuFarm – Is still working on the E-2 labeling issues with EPA, they have not given any time frame as to when this would be solved, as of now there is no E-2 Herbicide being manufactured and availability is whatever can be found in the distribution system and most all of that has been exhausted.

NuFarm has had drastic reductions in price on their glyphosate products and as stated in earlier reports, NuFarm has resumed its AquaNeat Herbicide (Aquatic Glyphosate) production and business, they had for a short time discontinued the production of AquaNeat Herbicide.

NICHINO America

Venue Herbicide - Just a reminder, 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)

Glyphosate products - have seen drastic price reductions from 2022 going into 2023, while still not at the all-time lows we are seeing pricing \$10.00, \$15.00 and in some cases \$20.00 gallon or more in price decreases, this trend has seemed to level off for now and should remain through the cropping season.

2, 4-D Products – we have seen some slight price decreases in all types of 2, 4-D amine and ester products, amines have taken the larger decreases \$4.00 or so ranges and esters have taken minimal decreases in comparison with 6 lb. esters still remaining at almost 2022 prices.

As we move into the 2023 spraying season it seems that many of the problems, we faced in 2020, 2021 and 2022 have somewhat subsided, products supply, drastic and unannounced price increases, multiple monthly price increases, extreme shortages and others have started to move behind us but,

You will still want to make sure to let your distributors of your products, equipment, supplies and anything else, know in advance of your possible needs so they can be prepared as well to make sure they have what you might need when needed.

Merlin asked about Venue herbicide, concerning having it mixed in a tank for longer than a day. Bill says that the label calls for a buffer to alleviate the problem. Good discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website Update – Google Drive: Travis asked Merlin to suggest to the board that the association invest with Google drive. It would make sending articles and pictures to Travis much simpler. It would cost us \$12/month. Question was whether it was worth the cost for the amount of use we would have. Consensus was to table it.

Vendor Show Updates: Bismarck – Cody, Leon and I watched the booth. Attendance was up from last year. The NDSU Weed Control Guides went fast. A lot of questions. Definitely a good show. Second day we had candy, brought people to the table. Derrill – KMOT Ag Show in Minot. McHenry County also helps with it. Wasn't real bad for attendance. The show is so big, so many buildings. The weed costumes should be redone.

ND Winter Show, Valley City – Stan attended one day. Traffic was down due to the weather. Had the Palmer plant that was made with 3D plastic. That brought attention. Stan also had a booth at the open house for an aerial applicator on behalf of Cass County. Had the Palmer plants there. Went well. Jim – Reclamation conference in Dickinson -A good turnout. Gave out a lot of weed id books, would recommend doing it again. Bad weather had people leave early but still it was worth it.

Credit Cards: Merlin checked with First International Bank, the bank we have our checking and savings with. They have a card receiving system called KotaPay. The charges would be \$11/month for use of the card reader, plus \$100 to purchase the reader. Also, there would be a setup fee, a one-time charge of \$50, plus \$50 a year. Also, a 20 cents per transaction, plus 1.99% per transaction on all cards except American Express which would be 2.79%. An e mail would be sent to the card user after the transaction. If we go with the card reader for \$800, we would have a printer, but is it worth it to have a printer. Bill questioned all the different charges. Merlin said that to cover our costs, we could raise our prices enough to cover the costs. Merlin suggested \$5 for conference registrations to cover. If half use a card and half pay by check, we would come out at the end of the year. Rick moved that we go ahead with the \$100 reader and charge 3% to card users to use the machine. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

NEW BUSINESS:

WOTUS: (Waters of the US) Richard talked to Dutch Bialke, Dept. of Ag attorney. He said that as of today, it is business as usual. All depends on what the US Supreme Court rules the end of June in a decision on another case before them concerning WOTUS. There could be litigation on this remains on hold pending the court's decision. Stan said it would be nice to include something to this in the next newsletter. Richard is willing to do so. Kent asked what this is all about. Stan talked about buffer zones near water. Also, how far from water do we have to be? Merlin stated that WOTUS also any water, drainage, etc. would fall under this. Bill said even if it rained and there was a wet rut, it would be off limits. All waters, which would be a disaster to the Ag economy.

Palmer Update: Stan had asked what Ag Commissioner Goehring's response for funding for Palmer. Right now, there is no funding just for Palmer. Harrison Weber met with the commissioner. Discussion on a tiered system for Palmer. Commissioner opposes this. But the commissioner feels that if groups want funding, they should get together and come up with a proposal for the legislature. According to Harrison, Commissioner Goehring did say that weed boards need to request or be in support of some sort of funding for the commissioner to support. Stan said that we, ourselves have tried numerous times for more funding, but have not succeeded.

Bill asked about using checkoff dollars for funding Palmer control. Merlin asked Jim B. about how checkoff dollars really work. Jim stated that in order to raise checkoff dollars that has to come from the state legislature, and for some, even the national associations. Currently, most commodity groups are heavily involved in funding weed scientists from NDSU on their endeavors. All have listening sessions for these scientists. They present their priorities to the groups and then hope for funding. Raising checkoff dollars is very hard to do. Farmers can also request to get back some dollars of what they paid in.

A lot of discussion on Palmer. Jim B. asked if the association should spearhead this. The consensus would be to have the association involved at the table, but not spearhead it. Stan stated that we can't get the commissioner to see things our way by ourselves, we need other groups to help us. The executive committee should represent us on a committee. Maybe we should look at an invasive weed program, not just about Palmer. With Vetanata coming from the southwest, we could be in trouble in all parts of the state. Joan has a Kochia problem in her area. Jim B. feels that if commodity groups would get together, write a letter to the Ag Coalition to sell it to them. Then they could take that to SBARE. If SBARE agrees, and they put it into their

top five priority list, then go to the legislature for the funding. The legislature will then listen to the request.

Cliff asked about the large meeting from last spring about Palmer. Bill said it was a great meeting, but no follow-up meetings occurred.

A lot more discussion took place.

Bill moved that the executive board of the association to meet with the soybean council and other commodity groups to see their thoughts on Palmer funding and move forward from there. Jim B. seconded the motion. **M/C**

National Range Judging: Rick said that he is taking a team to the national range judging contest in Oklahoma. Derrill moved to give them \$750. Jim B. seconded the motion. **M/C** The money will come from the NoDak fund.

Question was asked if they could come to the conference and give a short presentation. Rick said that could be done.

Other – Rick wrote an article on Vetanata for the ND Stockmen's magazine. Cliff said it was an excellent article, the exact place for that type of an article, keep putting articles in the magazines.

Bill and Jarod Hossfeld, from Envu, plan on driving western North Dakota in July looking for Vetanata. They will be contacting each local weed officer to go with them, plus giving them access to property if spotted.

Stan mentioned that Joe Ikley mentioned that the genotyping lab will be looking for Palmer amaranth samples if it is found during the wheat quality tour this late summer.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 27th, here at the Bismarck Hotel.

Conference planning committee and the executive committee will be meeting immediately after this meeting.

Being no further business, Bill moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim B. seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary