

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

June 27th, 2023

Yet to be approved

President Stan Wolf called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Introductions of members and guests. Members present were Stan Wolf, Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Jim Bahm, Joan Lorge, Roger Gunderson, Cliff Ferebee, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, Richard Weisz, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests: Samantha Bruner, NDDA. ND Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring joined the meeting after lunch.

Additional agenda items were: None. Jim Bahm moved to approve the agenda as presented, Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

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

Stan mentioned that he had instructed Derrill to sign a sympathy card for the Chuck Weiser family, and send it to them. Derrill mentioned that he also included the associations name with the flowers his board gave. Thank you to Derrill.

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, budget sheet, and memberships paid so far. Merlin said that as of today, two counties have not paid their dues, Griggs and Burleigh. He said that according to our bylaws, members of the weed boards from these two counties have no voting rights on committees or at any meeting of the association, until dues are paid.

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

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. We had a great turnout at our sprayer schools this year. I want to thank everyone who attended. All totaled we had 126 people attend. The people attending are from weed boards and state and federal agencies that are tasked with noxious weed control. We are very happy that we have a continued interest in people wanting to learn about noxious weeds and the safe and correct way to identify and control them.

These sprayer schools could not be possible without the speakers and presenters so I need to thank all of them for their expertise and willingness to speak at these schools.

The locations where these sprayer schools were held were:

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

On May 17, 2023 the Education committee met to discuss the upcoming events of the association.

Lindy Berg gave an overview of a new/updated way of presenting information about the poster contest to students so we might be able to have more participation. She is developing a power point presentation that could be given to students by the local weed officer or by the extension agent.

Discussion then went to the development of the Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium. It was discussed to invite Jane Mangold of the Montana Department of Agriculture to the Symposium for updates on weeds and topics that would be beneficial to our North Dakota weed control programs.

The topic of the use of Drones was discussed. Since Drones are being used more for weed control it was decided to ask Drone spraying companies to attend the Symposium for detailed demonstrations.

The topic of Surfactants was brought up. It was decided to ask representatives from the Helena chemical company to give a presentation on the different types and uses. Live plants of noxious weeds were decided to be brought in for better identification. Side by Side operation and GPS training was talked about because so many are being used by the weed boards and government agencies. Biological agent use was discussed.

It was decided to investigate more detail of this topic along with the topics of Organic farming and any areas that have restrictions on spraying because of endangered species. It was asked of the ND Agriculture Department to maybe have Dutch Bialke give updates of the legalities of spraying.

We decided to continue having weed jeopardy, trap shooting, corn hole games, etc....It was decided that the 4H Camp grounds would be sprayed for weed control this spring as part of agreement for the use of the camp.

Since that time, the committee again met, on June 13, and decided to cancel the symposium for 2023, and reschedule it for 2024, and go with the symposium every other year. The main reason for canceling it this year, is the unavailability to get speakers to schedule it in for this year.

Merlin said that Travis Jepson asked to have it mentioned that in Dickinson, it could be held as well.

Rick said that the spraying that they did looked really good.

By Laws & Policy Manual: Bill said that the membership portion for individuals may need to be worked on. He is getting copies of other organizations 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. Possibly have the bylaws committee meet by September.

Conference Planning: Jim asked about the planning part. From meals to rooms to speakers. Merlin summarized the ideas for speakers that the committee came up with. Merlin said that the weed ID is a go. Will start during the weed forum, and run the entire conference. Jim asked about the 40th anniversary. We have it later in the agenda. Derrill is beginning to look at it. The food committee will work on that shortly. Roger still has the vendor list. Will do it like last year, Merlin will send the thank you, Roger will follow up with his letter and prices.

Agency Reports:

Government: Kent did not attend the meeting. No report.

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.
- This biennium's funding ends June 30, 2023. Additional funding for next biennium will continue for the Tech Grant.

LAP & TAG Update:

- The current fiscal year closes June 30, 2023.
 - Reimbursement dates: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
 - Vouchers are due to me by July 10, 2023 for reimbursement.
 - Vouchers for reimbursement with purchases after June 30, 2023, cannot be reimbursed.
- 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.

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. If you would like me to visit, please let me know!

Invasive and Troublesome Weed Guidebooks/Pocket guides:

- The new 5 x 8 books are available! These will replace both the big books and pocket guides. If you would like a box, please get a hold of me. He has a lot of boxes with today.

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.

The technology grants will be the same this next biennium as they currently are.

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

Samantha: She asked if there were any questions on the EARP/LAP information that was requested. Stan brought the board up to date on his request for the information. Stan wanted to see what counties were not utilizing their funds and to see if there was some history behind it. Stan couldn't find a pattern to help those counties out.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report.

All has been quiet and relatively quiet in the industry since my last report, not many changes from previously reported. No mid-season price increases so far from the basic manufacturers, there are still a few supply issues but these seem to be getting straightened out as the year progress.

CORTEVA – Reminder on the Aminopyralid Products

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.

Now the supplemental label has become part of the regular label and is at the end of each label.

ENVU (formally Bayer) – Update on the TruRange Labeling

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 – After their January 2023 price increases on most of their products, pricing has been stable, Plateau Herbicide was one of the heavier hit for increases seeing about 15% increase.

NuFarm – E-2 Herbicide labeling issues **“Have Been Cleared up with EPA”**, NuFarm will be producing E-2 Herbicide within the next few weeks and product should come available in early July, they are still waiting on some State registrations to clear but that should go rather quickly.

NICHINO America – Reminder on Venue Use and Rates

Venue Herbicide - 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 Leafy Spurge after applications, to the water's edge, tree belts, CRP acres, Wildlife areas, Roadsides, 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 stage are best), very quick to show symptoms on the Leafy spurge after applications, water's edge, tree belts, CRP acres, Wildlife areas, roadsides and non-crop sites.

Venue Herbicide is packaged in 1-quart containers and is \$145 per quart.

Glyphosate products – are still seeing price reductions, only order what you need at the time as these are falling and are expected to continue on the downtrend.

2,4-D Products – we are still seeing some slight price decreases in all types of 2,4-D amine and ester products, these are not dropping as fast as glyphosate pricing, again, order what is needed just to help in following any price decreases that might happen.

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, there are still some spot shortages on certain items.

Rick said that temperature and humidity makes a difference on all products, which can cause grass damage.

Jim asked if Venue works on Absinth wormwood. Bill stated that mixed with Freelexx it will work.

Break

OLD BUSINESS:

Area IV Meeting Site: Rick said that last fall the talk at the area meeting was to move it somewhere else, to increase attendance and get some who are not attending to attend. Rick thinks we will leave it where it has been for this year. Merlin will ask Cody to reserve the room at the Morton County Hwy Dept. building in Mandan.

Range Judging Trip: Rick thanked the association for the donation for travel. Watford City team finished really high with one finishing first. Another FFA member finished 10th, which is extremely high for North Dakota. They are looking forward to speaking at the conference.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stockmen's Association Conference: We will have a booth at their conference. Cliff asked Rick to run the booth. September 28, 29 & 30 in Watford City. Merlin would be willing as well. After some discussion, Jim moved that Merlin be the one for the 3 days, and set up with others to help watch the booth. Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

BACK TO OLD BUSINESS:

Washburn Symposium: Has been changed from an annual to a biannual event. There are positive points to having it every other year.

Credit Card Update: Merlin brought the board up to date on the process. Merlin stated that it was approved at the April meeting with a 3% charge. Since then, he has been working with the bank to see if there was a way the fee could actually be charged directly to the card holder,

instead of us being charged and we charging the holder on the actual cost. That won't work because we won't be taking in charges and fees monthly. Merlin then laid out what higher costs would entail to us, per transaction as a cost of doing business.

Rick moved that the April motion be rescinded, which stated that we go ahead with the credit card \$100 reader and charge 3% to card users to use the machine, Jim seconded. **M/C**

Jim then moved to get the \$100 reader for receiving credit cards and go ahead with the cost of living increases that Merlin proposed, including raising dues to \$285, and charge 3% to all those who use a card to pay for anything associated with the association. Bill seconded the motion.

M/C

BREAK FOR LUNCH

WOTUS: (Waters of the US) The US Supreme Court put a stop to the ruling with their decision. Not a done forever deal, but buys us more time.

Commissioner Goehring joined the group at this time. Stan welcomed him to the board meeting. He talked a little on the WOTUS case. He hopes that the Biden Administration realizes to drop it, but he doubts it. ND was involved along with 24 other states and 20 national organizations in this.

Commissioner Goehring brought the board up to date on the legislature's bills that were passed on behalf of the department.

Palmer Update: The department has a grant for \$125,000 for drone mapping, to identify Palmer Amaranth, with leaf structure, in crops. Commissioner Goehring stated that having Palmer on the noxious weed list has actually hurt us, to get extra funding. Good discussion.

New & Invasive Weed Program Proposal: The executive board was invited and met with several other groups, Stockmen's, Sugarbeet and Soybean. Discussion centered on what the needs of weed boards are and develop possible programs to address those needs. A new and invasive weed emergency response program was proposed. The proposed program would provide funding to counties that need help with funding new and invasive weed control to that county. Commissioner says that the EARP fund is tapped out. Merlin said that to make this proposal work, we would have to raise the registration fees in EARP. A lot of discussion on this proposal. Merlin said that you, the commissioner, asked the groups to come up with a proposal, so we were asked to help draw up such this proposal. Vetanata will be coming in from the west and many of those weed boards already are tapped with LAP funding, a fund which has not been technically raised for a number of years. Chemical prices are significantly higher today than several years ago. Stan says this proposal is for new invasive/noxious weeds not found in an area before. This is not intended for cropland acres. Commissioner Goehring stated that if we can get the commodity groups to sign off on the proposal, to not have the funds for cropland acres, he would be in favor of this proposal.

Stan thanked the commissioner for coming and having a good discussion.

Newsletter: Stan says we are getting good responses, people are liking it. The newsletter is a good tool to communicate with our member counties. Area directors need to step up with submitting articles for the newsletter. Jim asked if every county board member gets the newsletter. Merlin says that in some counties no one on the board receives e mails. Not all weed officers receive email either.

BACK TO NEW BUSINESS:

Sampling Program for Herbicide Resistance: Stan updated that there is a program through the ND Soybean council looking to sample some weeds for chemical resistance. Some discussion on Dr. Quincy Law's funding.

Traill County Weed Update: Meeting was yesterday. Stan asked Richard, who attended the meeting to give an update. Richard looked at the field on Sunday. A lot of young pigweeds were growing. Nothing planted in the field. The meeting was actually called together by Harrison Weber, from the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers. He wanted to see where everything was at. Two commissioners, auditor, states attorney and a weed board member. There appears to be a disconnect between the landowner and the weed board. Richard said that someone needs to step up and act as a weed officer. The states attorney stated that the landowner needs to come in for a meeting. The NDSU Extension agent, Jill Murphy, has been doing some work on it. She could not attend this meeting. Traill County is not eligible for LAP because they only levy 1 ½ mills.

Stan says that the association needs to step up to help educate some of these counties in what they should be doing.

40th Anniversary Celebration: Consensus is definitely to do a portion of the conference for the anniversary. Merlin will check with Sara Vogel to see if she would be around and willing to speak at noon on Thursday. Possibly have a panel discussion for an hour to discuss the beginning of the association and the early years. Get early board members for the panel. Guy Welch is another name. He worked for the department for a number of years. Randy Melhoff, former secretary, another name tossed around. Derrill and Merlin will work on bringing the history program up to date. Merlin said that his daughter could move things around to spruce up the program.

Other:

Stan brought to the boards attention about the property tax proposal being swung around for signatures. Just wanted the board to be aware. We will not discuss this anymore, nor will we have any considerations of a stance on the proposed measure either way.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 26th, at 10:00 am here at the Bismarck Hotel.

Stan adjourned the meeting at 2.44 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary