

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck

January 2nd & 5th, 2024

Yet to be Board Approved

President Stan Wolf called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Introductions. Members present were: Jim Hennessy, Stan Wolf, Cliff Ferebee, Rick Schmidt, Richard Weisz, NDDA, Bill Walker, Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, Joan Lorge, Levi Jacobson, Josh Short, and Area I alternate, in for Roger Gunderson, Jim Bahm and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present: John Mortenson, NDDA, Tom Leo, Williams County and incoming Area III director, and Jamen Windish, Barnes County and incoming Area II director.

Additional agenda items were: Merlin asked that under New Business add – Meal for Friday

Jim moved to approve the agenda as corrected. Josh seconded the motion. **M/C**

Minutes: The September meeting minutes were reviewed. Derrill moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C**

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report. Ron moved to accept the financial report. Jim Bahm seconded the motion. **M/C**

Credit Card Update: We have had 11 people use the card. Since the last meeting, we are now accepting American Express. We charge 5% for American Express.

Budget: The 2024 budget passed in September was reviewed. Discussion. What to do with the credit card income and expenses. Merlin will remove the lines for credit card from the budget, just list them on the side. Merlin will do the same in the check register. Rick moved to approve the budget as is and send it to the annual meeting for final approval. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Resolutions: Stan stated that there was a resolution from Area II. Stan asked Merlin to read the resolution. Merlin said that this resolution was brought to the Area II meeting from Barnes County. Merlin stated that Area II passed the resolution.

Whereas: In North Dakota, numerous county weed boards are struggling to meet their expense's on a yearly basis. In most cases, those same counties are levying four mills or budgeting in excess of four mills.

Whereas: The North Dakota Century Code states that county weed boards can only levy a maximum of four mills.

Whereas: North Dakota Century Code Chapter 4.1-47-14 – County Noxious Weed Control Program – Payment of Expenses – Financial Report – Tax Levy Authorization Subsection 2a states: The county weed board may annually request from the board of county commissioners the levy of a tax, not to exceed the levy limitation in subsection 11 of section 57-15-06.7

Whereas: North Dakota Century Code Chapter 57-15-06.7 states: Additional levies – Exceptions to tax levy limitations in counties. The tax levy limitations specified in Section 57-15-06 do not apply to the following mill levies, which are expressed in mills per dollar of taxable valuation of

property in the county: Subsection 11. A county levying a tax for weed control as provided in section 4.1-47-14 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills.

Therefore be it resolved: Area II voted in favor of this resolution at the Area II meeting held on October 23rd, 2023 and asks that the North Dakota Weed Control Association be in full support of this resolution at their annual business meeting to be held on January 3rd, 2024, at the Bismarck Hotel, in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Be it further resolved: That the North Dakota Weed Control Association Board of Directors, following passage of this resolution, move forward with establishing a bill for the 69th Legislative Session to be held in 2025.

Stan asked for a motion to move this resolution forward, to open discussion. Ron moved and Bill seconded the motion. At this time Stan asked Jamen to give the reasons why they want this passed. Jamen stated that their budget this year will be at 4 mills. There are needs for equipment to update their present equipment. They could use a different building, and with the 4 mill limit it is impossible to do so. The chemical costs have gone up as well making it hard to run a successful program. Question asked – How many mills would you need. Jamen stated that even 1 mill would go a long ways. Ron said that in some counties 1 mill means nothing, as for some a mill doesn't bring in very many dollars. Very good discussion on the resolution. Stan called for a vote. **M/C**

Merlin explained the procedure for tomorrow. Ron will make the motion tomorrow, and Bill will second it. Merlin has paper ballots printed for tomorrow to make voting simplified.

Break for Dinner

Committee Reports:

Education Committee Report: Derrill Fick, chairman. Poster Contest. Derrill has posters from 6 schools. Quite a few posters. 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: Vendors are down 2 from the booklet. Dakota Helicopter and Reds Fixit had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. Sponsorships were very good again this year. All breaks are covered, including endless refreshments.

History booklets turned out pretty good. Merlin had his daughter Kalyssa do the booklet. Merlin feels that the history booklet should be a working document. As was discussed at a previous meeting, adding each year's board to the booklet can be done. It will be hard to get them all in, but we should try. Stan thanked Kalyssa for doing the work on the booklets and the newsletter.

Merlin asked what to do with the coats and vests. We need to move them. It was decided to put them on the auction and get what we get.

We are having live weed ID as well. We will fit it in. Stan brought them from Dr. Greta Gramig's greenhouse. This was on and off all year. We'll make it work. Dr. Rod Lym had numerous items in storage and were given to us. Publications and booklets. Stan referred to the new history booklet in the back, are posters that Dr. Lym had. Merlin said we will have the Cornhole tournament tomorrow evening. Cody Schnabel will run it. Vendors are in the courtyard this year. Should be a great room for the vendors.

Merlin mentioned that the association has received a \$1,000 donation from Northern Plains Connector towards the auction. They gave the money directly to the hotel.

Merlin asked if we should give a plaque to Kent Luttschwager. Stan wondered if we should send a thank you letter to Kent and Levi's boss to thank them for allowing them to attend the meeting. Bill moved to give him a plaque. Ron seconded the motion. **M/C** We will have Kent come up during the banquet for recognition. Merlin will get the plaque ordered.

Merlin let everyone know who the moderators are.

Legislative: Merlin said that nothing has changed from September, but he will have a full report at the annual meeting tomorrow.

Agency Reports:

Government: Levi Jacobson, Government representative

Summary of 2023 Noxious Weed Control efforts on US Fish and Wildlife Service Lands

No report at this time.

Summary of 2023 Noxious Weed Control efforts on ND Game and Fish Department lands

Chemically treated 3,811.2 acres and mowed another 27 acres.

Treated leafy spurge, Canada thistle, yellow toad flax, absinth wormwood, hounds tongue, Saltcedar

Collected and moved bio control flea beetles for leafy spurge on 18 different Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Many of these areas also had Hawk Moth caterpillars released also.

Worked with Department of AG and released Red Headed Leafy Spurge Borers (Oberea) on three WMAs to hopefully establish a population.

Continued efforts to monitor and treat Saltcedar along the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers in the NW corner of the state.

Budget for noxious weed control includes permanent staff salary, seasonal staff, contractors, and operating expenses is \$725,000 for noxious weed control for 2023 – 2025 biennium.

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

US Army Corps of Engineers

5500 acres of GPS weed data collected (weed density, weed species distribution)

6200 acres of treated weeds on Sakakawea

150 acres of treated weeds on Pipestem

400 acres of treated weeds on Bowman-Haley

1000 acres of treated weeds by the Aerial Spraying Contractor

NDDA: Richard Weisz, noxious weed specialist

Mapping Technology Grant

- Funding made available for all county/city weed boards to update their existing noxious weed mapping equipment.
- There were 28 counties who participated through 2 rounds of grant funding. Overall, \$286,450 has been utilized.

- Funds are still available, and we would like to know what other technology needs weeds board have

2023 Annual Survey Report

- Deadline is March 1, 2024.
- Was sent out via email on the listserv (11/28/23).
- Also available on the Department's website.
- Your data and input are valuable to determine funding needs and to keep contacts current.

LAP & TAG Update:

- The new LAP & TAG agreements for the 2023-2025 biennium are out.
- LAP agreements will now be 18 months. July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. After December 31, 2024, county weed boards spending of LAP will be reevaluated for possible reallocation.
- TAG funds have increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for counties and \$2,000 to \$2,500 for cities.

USFS Funding:

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

County Weed Board Visits:

- Still ongoing and currently working on future 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! If you would like a box, please get a hold of me.

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.

Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) Grant:

- The NDDA was awarded \$275,000 from the legislature to aid in the identification and control of Palmer amaranth in ag systems.
- There is an additional \$12,500 to assist in operating cost.
- Target areas include sugar beet and soybean fields in Traill, Richland, Barnes, and Cass or other priority sites.
- Application due date is February 2, 2024, at 12:00 P.M. CST.

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

NDDA: John Mortenson, biocontrol

Not much going on this time of year. Been working on stuff for next season. Working on new outreach material. Posters and field guides. The \$100,000 in bio money is basically set for actual biocontrol. Working to try and get some of that earmarked for other things. Looking for ideas.

Industry: Bill Walker, Industry representative gave the report.

Now as we get into 2024, the markets on pesticide products seem to be getting a bit more normal on the products, pricing, price increases and availability.

While some products are taking slight price increases which is normal this time of year, a few of the others are taking more drastic price decreases (glyphosate and 2,4-D products), we have seen these drop by as much as 50% plus on glyphosates and 40% to 50% or more on the 2,4-D pricing as well.

Also, this year seen a more stable market and fewer major product outages as in the past few years.

*****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.

What that means is that now, the supplemental label has become part of the regular label and is at the end of each label.

****CORTEVA** has announced their price increases on many of their stewardship priced products (manufacturer price set products) as well as their other products for 2023/2024, these went into effect as of October 1, 2023, and will affect most all of their stewardship products pricing as most all of these have price increases.

Milestone Herbicide	was \$280.00 gal. (Govt. pricing)	Now \$290.00 gal. (Govt. pricing)
	was \$70.00 per quart (Govt. pricing)	Now \$72.50 per quart (Govt. pricing)
Freelexx Herbicide	was \$30.00 per gal. (All sizes)	Now \$32.75 per gal. (All sizes)
HighNoon Herbicide	was \$92.00 per gal.	Now \$94.00 per gal. (1and 2.5 gal. cont.)
DuraCor Herbicide	was \$92.00 per gal.	Now \$94.00 per gal. 1 and 2.5 gal. cont.)

SPECIAL NOTE: If comparing HighNoon or DuraCor to Milestone Herbicide if you take the comparable Milestone rates per acre to the HighNoon or DuraCor herbicide rates, than your costs using HighNoon or DuraCor as compared to Milestone would be about \$1.00 per acre less and you will pick up a broader spectrum of weeds.

Opensight Herbicide	was \$96.75 per lb. (all sizes)	Now \$98.00 per lb. (all sizes)
Piper (dry formulation)	was \$82.00 per lb.	Now \$84.00 per lb.
Piper EZ Herbicide	stayed flat	\$328.00 per gallon
Vastlan Herbicide	was \$102.00 per gal.	Now \$105.00 per gal.
TerraVue Herbicide	was \$100.00 per lb.	Now \$104.00 per lb.

Capstone Herbicide and Cleantraxx Herbicide also took increases.

Tordon 22K Herbicide also increased about 2.5% as well as most all other non-Stewardship products increased from 2.5% to about 5% overall.

SPECIAL NOTE: You may hear some talk on generic picloram products in comparison to Tordon 22K, please look these “LABELS” over carefully as the generic (Triumph 22K Herbicide) has a higher signal word (makes them more hazardous to use) and requires more PPE when using, don’t just take a salespersons word just trying to sell you something and saying that, “They are the Same” (Please Remember – THE LABEL IS THE LAW – NOT THE SDS SHEETS)

Curtail Herbicide - is has discontinued and no longer will be available, there is extremely limited to no supplies in the market now, also the companies that were making a generic Curtail product (Alligare, Albaugh) have also discontinued their products and there is none available from them as well.

Graslan L Herbicide - name is discontinued and is now called Grazon PD3 Herbicide, is exactly the same active ingredients, use sites, use rates as the old Graslan L named product.

****ENVU (formally Bayer) – Update on the TruRange Labeling for Leafy Spurge and other Invasive Weeds Control**

First, EPA contacted ENVU and said that their predate on the request for TruRange herbicide labeling has been delayed by 150 days, that date was due in August 2023.

Now they have contacted ENVU and said that the predate on TruRange Herbicide Labeling has been put on indefinite hold, no explanations or reason on this and no estimated date for review or possible labeling approval.

ENVU - is expected to increase pricing on products either January 1, 2024, or February 1, 2024, which include such products as - **Method 240 SL Herbicide, Escort XP Herbicide, Telar XP Herbicide, Plainview SC Herbicide, Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide, Rejuvra Herbicide, Oust XP Herbicide and Oust Extra Herbicide and others.**

Rejuvra Herbicide – ENVU has Rejuvra Herbicide, something you might want to look at if you get questions on cheatgrass control in range and pasture, also if any “Ventenata Grass” is found this would be the product for control of that as well.

****BASF** – Has announced some price increases for 2024, Plateau Herbicide has taken a slight increase for 2024 along with Arsenal Herbicide, Overdrive Herbicide, Frequency Herbicide and Detail Herbicide at face value.

BASF has gone to a volume-based program with its distributors so it makes it harder for us to actually pin down if we will have slight increase in pricing or possibly have slight decreased in pricing.

****NuFarm** – E-2 Herbicide labeling issues **“Have Been Cleared Up With EPA”**, NuFarm has again been producing E-2 Herbicide and it seems at this time supplies are good

E-2 Herbicide pricing has remained the same so far for 2024 (\$65.05 per gallon in 2.5 gal. containers), NuFarm has not announced any price increases on the E-2 product at this time.

NuFarm has announced price decreases on their 2,4-D products as with most all manufacturers of 2,4-D products, expect these products to be well below the current pricing as 2024 season progresses, barring any unseen natural disasters.

****NACHINO America – Venue Herbicide Updates**

Venue Herbicide - Venue was introduced for use on **Leafy Spurge** in 2023 in ND, 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 Herbicide 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 (still studying at this time).

NOW: - NICHINO America – is separating the labeling on the crop and non-crop Venue Herbicide, the new non-crop product will be called **Pimlico Herbicide** – this product will have all non-crop labeling and “NO” crop labeling, this formulation will change from a 2% formulation to a 4% formulation as well.

Pimlico Herbicide - New application rates will be from 1.7 to 1.9 ounces per acre rates with the new formulation, 2,4-D rates will remain the same as well as the MSO Surfactant.

NICHINO America will also be removing all non-crop labeling from the Venue Herbicide label and that formulation will change as well from a 2% formulation to a 4% formulation and will have a new name as well.

Studies are showing Leafy Spurge can be reduced/controlled after 3 consecutive yearly applications, can be used to water’s edge, tree belts, CRP acres, Wildlife Areas, Roadsides and Non-Crop Areas, 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.

Pimlico Herbicide - will be packaged in 1-quart containers and estimated costs of \$290.00 per quart at this time.

1 – Quart will cover approximately 16 acres at the high rates.

SPECIAL NOTE: NICHINO has been asked if they would consider putting the Pimlico Herbicide into 16-ounce containers, they are considering this request but have made no decisions as of yet.

****ALLIGARE** - Alligare has announced some of its pricing for 2023/2024, they are starting to become a little stronger in the market working with the distributors, and they are mostly a generic/alternative products manufacturer.

Whetstone Herbicide

Whetstone Herbicide is the generic product to Milestone Herbicide, has all same labeling, use rates, use sites and active ingredients, has the off-site hay sales labeling as well, this product is available from distribution, this product is manufacture price set like the Milestone Herbicide.

Whetstone Herbicide	\$265.00 per gallon in 2.5 gal. cont.
	\$67.50 per quart in 1-quart containers

Alligare has introduced 2 new products for bareground.

Mainline Herbicide – is a mixture of Flumioxazin (Payload) and Imazapic (Plateau), this is a liquid product for easier use, rates are 16 to 24 ounces per acre, makes a good base or tank mix partner with other bareground products, is also a good soft bareground choice for some more sensitive sites, 2.5-gallon containers, \$214.00 per gallon.

Ballast Herbicide – is a mixture of Flumioxazin (Payload) and Imazapyr (Arsenal), this is a liquid product for easier use, rates are 32 to 48 ounces per acre, makes a good base or tank mix partner with other bareground products, makes a better hard bareground site choice, need to watch trees and shrubs with roots into the applied sites, could kill those, 2.5-gallon containers, \$184.00 per gallon.

Diuron 80 DF and Liquid Diuron could be harder to get in 2024, if using these products, you might want to let your suppliers know ASAP to try and secure the products needed (Attributed to the War in the Middle East).

****Glyphosate** products – pricing has seemed to stable off for now, large price drops as this year progressed, pricing dropped by as much as one half in most cases and up to 2/3 in some cases from the 2022 pricing of glyphosate products, Bayer still seems to be the highest priced on their Roundup branded products.

****2,4-D Products** – we are now seeing some price decreases in all types of 2,4-D amine and ester products, these have seemed to stable off for now, decreases as much as 40% plus from last year's pricing at this time over last year.

****Adjuvants** - We are seeing some slight surfactant price increases; these have been in the 3% to 5% ranges so far with the petroleum products taking the higher increases at this time.

You will still want to make sure to let your distributors of your products, your equipment suppliers and any other supplier know in advance of your possible needs so they can be prepared to make sure, they have what you might need, when needed.

There were still some spot shortages on certain items in 2023 and shipping (trucking) seems to be taking a little longer than normal as well to get products to your distributors from the manufacturers, while manufacturers are saying 2024 looks good for supply

“Nobody can predict what might happen weather wise or worldwide to disrupt a worldwide economy that also affects us here.”

SUBJECT: Percentage of Product Cost Increases in 5 Years (Your Herbicide Products Only)

Here is the workup that was done for Jamen Windish in Barnes County, ND on what product price increases have done since 2019 just before COVID and through the past 5 years up until current, I used 12 products that are mostly purchased by North Dakota counties and much is based on Barnes County purchases as well but, what you have purchased also works into the mix.

Product Increase	2019 Year	2023 year/current	Approximate %
Tordon 22K Herbicide	\$44.60 gal.	\$54.20 gal.	18%
2, 4-D Amine	\$10.60 gal.	\$22.50 gal.	57.5%
Milestone Herbicide	\$265.00 gal.	\$290.00 gal.	8.5%
E-2 Herbicide	\$42.00 gal.	\$65.05 gal.	46%
Freelexx Herbicide	\$19.60 gal.	\$32.75 gal.	40%
DuraCor/HighNoon Herbicide	\$83.00 gal.	\$94.00 gal.	12.5%
Liberate Surfactant	\$23.00 gal.	\$28.40 gal.	19%
Plateau Herbicide	\$103.00 gal.	\$120.00 gal.	18%
Method 240 SL Herbicide	\$318.72 gal.	\$343.04 gal.	10%
Graslan L Herbicide	\$40.00 gal.	\$59.00 gal.	32.5%
now Grazon PD3 Herbicide			
Curtail Herbicide	\$39.80 gal.	\$57.40 gal.	33%

Opensight Herbicide	\$84.00 lb.	\$98.00 lb.	14.5%
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Total percentage	309.5
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Divided by 12 products for average	25.80%
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The Graslan L/Grazon PD 3 and the Curtail pricing was based on Nelson County, Ramsey County, Burke County, and Oliver County, ND.

2,4-D amine had decreased by about \$2.00 per gallon going into 2023 and decreased again by about \$8.00 per gallon, and now has decreased to an average cost of about \$14.00 gallon range, this can change the number slightly, this could change the numbers slightly down.

ENVU has not taken their price increases yet this year, they have announced that these will be taken January 1, 2024, on Method 240 SL, Escort XP, Telar XP, Rejuvra, Esplanade 200 SC, Oust XP, OustExtra XP and other products, this could change the numbers slightly up as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

SBARE: Stan gave everyone a copy of his report that he gave to SBARE. He also explained what SBARE is and does.

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

North Dakota State University

Morrill Hall 314

NDSU Dept. 7520, PO Box 6050

Fargo, ND 58108-6050

SBARE Committee Members

Stan Wolf, President of the North Dakota Weed Control Association.

The North Dakota Weed Control Association represents county weed boards, weed control officers, government agencies and entities, and others interested in controlling noxious weed in North Dakota. The primary responsibility of county weed boards is to control noxious weeds in road rights-of-way and to encourage the control of noxious weeds on all lands in our districts. Most of the noxious weed infestations are in grasslands, rangelands, pastures, and rights-of-way. Since about 25% of the state landscape falls into these categories, either as publicly- or privately-owned land, such weed control is an enormous task. Plus, since nearly all of this property is adjacent to roads, the road rights-of-way are just as important an avenue in the spread of invasive weeds. Uncontrolled weeds in the various rights-of-way facilitates the spread of weeds in our private and public lands.

To help guide our weed control programs, we heavily upon the research and recommendations from the Noxious Weed Specialist and NDSU Extension office. Past herbicide efficacy trials from NDSU have provided us with unbiased data and show the value of various tank mixes necessary for improved weed control. Lately we have not had new efficacy trials due to the turnover of the Noxious Weed Specialist, which is unfortunate as new herbicides have become available. As the new specialist worked to build up his program, current Plant Science and Extension staff have

worked to support us, but it is not like having a dedicated staff for noxious weeds for grasslands and cropland.

We have a shared research interest with the various commodity crops regarding herbicide resistant weeds, namely Palmer amaranth and Kochia. The state has defined Palmer amaranth as a noxious weed, while Kochia is on the noxious weed list in some counties. However, both weeds can infest grasslands and are resistant to many herbicides. The key to containing the spread of weeds (and preventing herbicide resistance) is the use of various herbicides in rotation, but without adequate research, we cannot identify potential new herbicides to use. Consider Leafy spurge, the longtime nemesis of landowners and weed boards, which has been sprayed primarily with Tordon for over 50 years, yet spurge keeps coming back every year. We need specialist experience and research to help combat the weeds we currently fight, and to prevent those weeds from overpowering the tools we currently have.

As we look into the future, envisioning what noxious weed control will look like in 2035, the role of the Noxious Weed Specialist and support staff will be crucial. New tools and techniques are evolving rapidly. Presently we are seeing the incorporation of drone sprayers to cover terrain that was nearly impossible with wheeled sprayers or even on foot. The efficiency of these application techniques appears to be effective; however, research trial data is not available for spray drone applications. Nozzle selection, droplet size, spray volume and other factors should be evaluated for effective control measures. Scouting drones utilizing specific wavelengths and algorithms are being developed to identify specific weeds in a landscape or cropland. These are but two examples of new techniques currently being tested and tried today. What will tomorrow bring? Artificial intelligence, autonomous sprayers, laser zapping, and individual plant identification of weeds are being researched for crop production, can some of that technology be utilized in grasslands? A research program is needed to glean through new technologies, test effectiveness, and develop weed control protocols for noxious and troublesome weeds in both grassland and cropland. Also, as we look into the future new troublesome weeds are encroaching onto North Dakota. This past summer several weed officers and herbicide suppliers have scouted for Ventenata, a highly invasive early season grass that has no grazing qualities. Colorado and Montana have reported extensive infestations. This grass can render a pasture unusable for livestock. Noxious weed specialists would be an important teaching resource for weed officers, landowners, and agency land managers to develop appropriate control measures.

In summary, our needs are as follows:

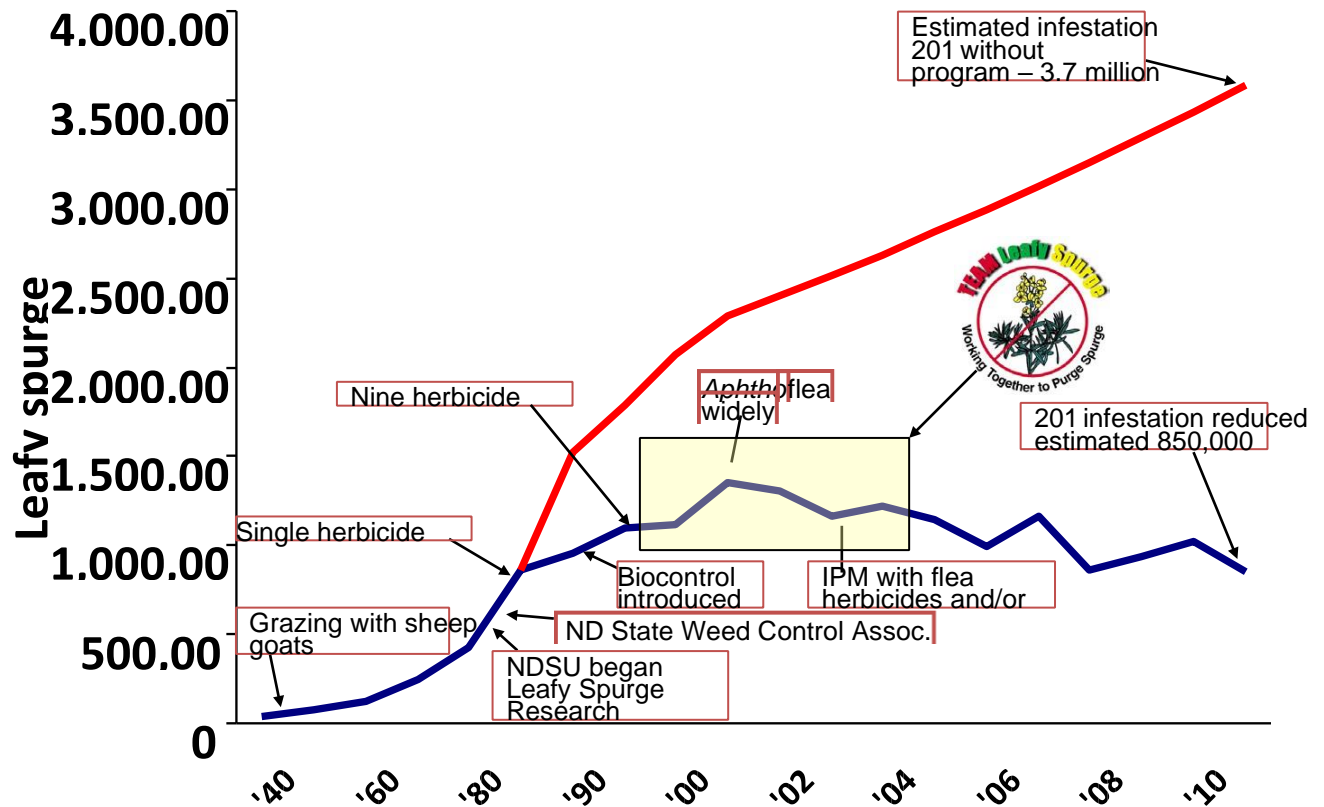
1. Noxious Weed Specialist and research staff to conduct research trials and provide information for the control of noxious and invasive weeds.
2. Herbicide efficacy trials for best herbicide and adjuvant recommendations.
3. Shared research interest in resistant noxious and invasive weeds in cropland and grassland, especially Palmer amaranth, Kochia, and Leafy spurge.
4. Weed identification for landowners, weed officers and weed control staff.
5. Integration of novel weed control practices for noxious and invasive weeds.

Stan Wolf, President

North Dakota Weed Control Association

Stan felt that it was well perceived. Julie Ellingson, Stockmen's Association followed Stan and Julie lead her testimony referring to Stan's presentation as well. Stan recommends that we need to keep up the work.

Bill asked several questions about SBARE. Is it ongoing funding? Jim Bahm answered his question that yes it is continued funding. The position we are asking to fill, may only be 100% extension, without teaching. Jim said several more groups testified in favor of filling the position.



EPA Letter: Stan has a good number of signatures, as has Merlin. Several groups have signed on and a number of counties has as well. Commissioner Goehring said we should follow through with the letter. But he won't sign it, as he is pursuing other avenues to get a label approved. Stan will be talking to the congressional delegation to carry it to EPA. Bill said that from what he has heard, there is time, as even if they would approve it, it won't be available for use until 2025.

Friday's meeting with Commissioner Goehring: The executive board and Merlin met with Commissioner Goehring and Deputy Commissioner Bodine on December 29th. We talked to them about raising LAP and start an invasive weed program, along with the EPA letter. Stan asked Merlin to explain the two proposals to the board.

(Draft) Proposal for funding from EARP

New Invasive Weed Program (A continuing program)

Raise the registration fees in EARP \$25/registrant@14,676 registrants = \$366,900

Have counties and cities sign NOGA's

Available money per county - \$ 6,500 based on 53 counties

Available money per city - \$ 3,000 based on 6 cities

Available July 1, 2025 thru June 30th, 2027

100% cost reimbursed for controlling invasive weeds previously not reported in county/city

December 31st, 2026. Each county/city must resubmit proposal by March 1st, 2027 if unspent allocation will be utilized by June 30th, 2027. On March 15, 2027, any money not spent or requested to be used, will be distributed to the LAP program and allocated according to LAP formula being used.

On July 1st, 2027, the EARPO fund will reallocate registration fees to this program.

Wage Incentive Program and LAP (A continuing program)

Raise the registration fees in EARP \$25/registant@14676 registrants = \$366,900

Give each county and city weed board \$1,500 annually to increase salaries of their weed officer to help ensure they employ a weed officer. If a county or city does not employ a designated weed officer, they will receive no funds until they do so.

53 counties and 6 cities will cost \$177,000 per biennium.

The remaining funds of \$188,900 will be placed in the LAP program, to help offset the rising costs for counties/cities running a cost share program.

We would also request that the LAP program reallocate every biennium any unused funds to ensure remaining funds are spent and not returned to the EARP fund.

Keep in mind, this is just a draft. The commissioner definitely liked the part on salaries. We may have to raise EARP \$25, but both felt that half of the proposal may be done with the current fund. Some programs are coming to their life's end, and therefore there could be enough money to fund the invasive weed program.

Merlin explains that the salary partly mirrors the biocontrol salary program from years back. Stan said that we left the meeting feeling that we accomplished a lot.

Richard said that with talking with Deputy Commissioner Bodine, he said that the association, should bring the good ideas to the department, and the department will figure out how to fund them. Tom is also worried about the new invasive weed program, not being fully utilized. Merlin said that in the proposal, it would get rolled over to LAP.

Richard asked about having a mentor program for new weed officers. Ron said that in 2001, there was a booklet put together through a WIN grant, which was given to every weed officer.

Noxious Weed Specialist Update: Stan covered most of this earlier.

Other: Merlin said that we will not have food for the Friday meeting. We can order a buffet or order food in through DoorDash. The consensus was to have something delivered.

Stan thanked everyone for the past year, his second time around. Thank you everyone.

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

Cliff thanked Stan for his service. He looks forward to working with everyone. Don't hesitate to call him. We need to keep this a strong organization. Cliff then recessed the meeting until Friday at around noon.

Recessed at 7:40 pm

Friday, January 5th.

Cliff Ferebee, 2024 President, called the meeting back to order at 12:37 pm.

Those present were: Bill, Joan, Jim, Cliff, Jamen, Richard, Rick, Tom, Levi, and Josh by phone and Merlin.

Guests: Roxie Walker, Lorele Leithold and Derrill Fick

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Secretary's contract for 2024. Merlin and Lorele left the room for a time. Discussion was held. After a consensus, Merlin was invited back into the room. Jim moved to hire Merlin again as executive secretary. Rick seconded the motion. **M/C**

Salary was discussed. Budget is currently set at \$729/month. Tom moved to pay Merlin \$750 per month/ \$9,000 per year. Bill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Rick – yah, Jim – yah, Bill – yah, Joan – yah, Josh – yah, Jamen – yah, and Cliff – yah. **M/C**

Tom moved to give the Leithold family a \$250 certificate for all their extra help at the conference and before. Jim seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Rick – yah, Jim – yah, Bill – yah, Joan – yah, Josh – yah, Jamen – yah, and Cliff – yah. **M/C**

Merlin and Lorele were asked to come back in the room. The board then let Merlin know what they came up with. Merlin was asked to accept the new salary, which Merlin did. Merlin thanked the board not only for the opportunity to continue as their secretary, but for the raise as well. Merlin and Lorele thanked the board for the gift certificate.

Contracts were signed.

Conflict of Interest Forms: The board signed the conflict of interest forms for 2024. Merlin gave new board members Policy Manuals.

Conference Follow up: Merlin said as far as comment sheets, looked good. Merlin feels that we need to move back the time for the beer and taco social. We are not getting done with the annual meeting early enough. People wanting to get in to eat and food is brought out, and by the time we get there it is getting cold.

2025 Conference Date: Monday February 3rd thru Thursday, February 6th

Committees:

Annual meeting: Josh Short, 2nd vice will chair. Merlin, Bill, Richard, Joan

Speakers: Bill, Richard, and Merlin

Vendors/Sponsors: Roger and Merlin

Food: Josh, Richard and Merlin

Auction: Rick and area directors

IT: Derrill and Jamen

Education: Tom and Derrill (co-chair), others he will appoint

Awards: Area alternate directors: I – open, II – Terry Weiss,
III – Jim Hennessy, IV – Laverne Laib, V – Josh Hetland

Legislative: Exec. Board (Cliff. Jim, Josh, Merlin)

Policy and By Laws: Bill, Derrill, Joan, Tom

Website: Travis, Merlin, executive board

Audit: Area V director (Joan) and Josh and one other

Board meetings set for 2024 – the 4th Tuesday again, March 26th, June 25th, and September 24th, at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck. All three meetings will start at 10:00 am., central time. Then on Tuesday, February 3rd at 5:00 pm.

Area Meetings for 2024: After some discussion, dates will be October 21st, – Valley City, October 22nd – Devils Lake, October 23rd – possibly Minot, will decide before March meeting, October 24th – Mandan, October 25th – Amidon. 9:00 start time.

Summer Symposium: Have it like two years ago, 2 nights, August 20th – 22nd. Committee will be Tom, Derrill, Bill, Jamen, Richard, Jim Bahm, Levi, and Jim Hennessy. Bill moved to have the

Northern Plains Weed Symposium again in Washburn at the 4-H camp. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Jamen moved to have the Summer Symposium in Washburn in August. Tom seconded the motion. **M/C**

Trade Booths: Research Partners Meeting –Fargo, Jan. 28.

KFYR Agri International – Bismarck, Feb 14 & 15 (paid by Corteva)

ND Winter Show – Valley City

KMOT Ag Show – Minot

Reclamation Conference – Dickinson (Paid in 2023)

Stockmen’s Association – Bismarck

Association of Counties – Bismarck

ND Township Association – Bismarck

Discussion on which trade shows to attend, using the NoDak fund. Don’t want to deplete it. May want to change the bylaws to reduce the National Travel Fund and put it to the NoDak fund. Tom moved that if the NoDak fund gets to the critical level of \$2,000 or less, that \$5,000 be transferred from the Regular Savings Account to the NoDak Fund. Jamen seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rick – yah, Jim – yah, Bill – yah, Joan – yah, Josh – yah, Jamen – yah, and Cliff – yah. **M/C**

Tom moved that we pay for the booths out of the NoDak Fund for all the above booths except the Township Association, Merlin will check on the costs and bring it to the March meeting. Jim seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rick – yah, Jim – yah, Bill – yah, Joan – yah, Josh – yah, Jamen – yah, and Cliff – yah. **M/C**

Search Committee for Weed Scientist Position: Jim moved that the board appoint Stan to be on that committee. Rick seconded the motion. **M/C**

CD’S: Merlin asked whether we should put some of our savings into CD’s. Bill moved to put \$7,000 from the Youth Fund, \$30,000 from the Regular Savings, \$6,000 from the National Travel Fund. Joan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rick – yah, Jim – yah, Bill – yah, Joan – yah, Jamen – yah, and Cliff – yah. **M/C** We lost the phone connection with Josh. Cliff declared that we still have a quorum to continue business.

Other: Tom said that he is all about supporting youth. Richard said that we have the money, why aren’t we spending it more. Rick said that he is working with Kevin Sedivic on buckbrush, have a pasture walk. Education is a big part of it. Jim said the Stockmen’s Association do tours. Possibly we could work with them as well. Tom said if we could get some kids to do a pasture walk with the Stockmen’s Association on their tours that would be great. Rick said Kevin is working a lot with individual youth.

Merlin will put Range Judging on the agenda under old business for the March meeting.

Being no further business,

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

Cliff adjourned the meeting at 2:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary