

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

April 23rd, 2024

Yet to be approved

President Cliff Ferebee called the meeting to order at 9:58 am. Introductions. Members present were Cliff Ferebee, Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Jim Bahm, Josh Short, Joan Lorge, Levi Jacobson, Stan Wolf, Tom Leo, Jamen Windish, Roger Gunderson, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Additional agenda items were: Jamen – Area Meetings, Cliff – Grasshoppers. These two items will be added under New Business. Josh moved to approve the agenda, Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

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

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

Jamen moved to approve the financial report, Josh seconded the motion. **M/C**

Conference Report: Merlin gave the financial summary of the conference. Joan moved to approve the financial report, Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

Newsletter: Joan asked that Merlin give those on the board that need to have a report in the newsletter a 2 weeks advanced notice. Merlin said that he will, but also said that he usually wants the reports the last week of the month before the newsletter is published. For instance the last week of May for the June newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Education: Tom gave the education report, which was prepared by Tom and Derrill Fick, committee co-chairs. At our annual meeting in January, members voted on the posters that were submitted for judging. The chosen poster was created by Zoe Reisenauer, a student in the 5th grade from the New Rockford Sheyenne Public School in New Rockford, ND. T-shirts for Zoe and the other students in her class were made with the poster design on them and a plaque with the same design had been created for and given to Zoe. A presentation was made on February 23rd to the whole class along with Eddy County Extension agent Michelle Gilley and Eddy County Weed Control Board President Corey Longnecker. The presentation consisted of why the NDWCA is doing the poster contest and how it hopefully creates noxious weed awareness for the students.

We had a booth at the Earth Day festival in Bismarck on April 16th. This booth lets us interact with local students and the public to inform them of the importance of noxious weed control. The festival was very well attended with over 300 students, teachers, and parents coming through to view the booths and displays.

We have set up the Sprayer Schools for this year:

May 29th -- at the Carrington Research Center

May 30th --in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

May 31st -- in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office

Each sprayer school will have registration starting at 8 am local time. At these schools' we will have from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds, 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 a 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 working on putting together another Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium to be held at the 4H camp in Washburn from August 20th to the 22nd. At this Symposium we will have live weed ID, updates from the ND Department of Agriculture, a mock pesticide inspection, reports on Ventenata, a range tour for buckbrush control, the use of drones, an update on Salt Cedar, information on grasshoppers and monarch butterflies and industry updates from chemical suppliers and other topics. More information on this Symposium will be sent out as the agenda gets finalized.

The Association is a member of the Vision West ND Consortium with emphasis on being part of the Natural Resource committee. This Natural Resource Committee membership give us the ability to help form and have input in the discussion along with some decisions made on the reclamation efforts of oil field sites, oil pipeline systems, gravel pits and any other reclamation efforts that are going on across the western part of ND for the control or prevention of noxious weeds. There was a Natural Resources Public Meeting on March 26, 2024, in Manning, ND at the Dunn County Court House. The emphasis was on weed control in gravel pits, what chemicals to use, and the convenience of doing the weed control with drones as an option. Discussed also was what counties have gravel pit regulations in their planning and zoning requirements and what type of permitting is needed by a gravel company to start and operate a gravel pit. Discussed having a consistent program throughout the state.

[Merlin will add gravel pits to the June agenda.]

Agency Reports:

Government: Levi gave the report. Nothing to report, mainly because of winter.

NDDA: Merlin read and handed out the NDDA report submitted by John Mortenson.

NDDA Update

Good morning, I apologize that staff are not present for this meeting. We are spread a little thin with the noxious weed position being open.

Noxious Weed Specialist Update: NDDA did interviews and has made an offer to an individual. At this point the department has not heard back on that offer. The hope is to get someone in that position ASAP. Currently any questions regarding Noxious Weeds should be directed to the Plant Industries Division Director Samantha Brunner. Her contact information is 701-328-4765 or sbrunner@nd.gov

Biocontrol Update: Field season is just around the corner. Now is the time to check supplies and make sure that mice have not found your sweep nets. NDDA has grant money available for the purchase of Biocontrol supplies and agents. I have included a copy of the application to apply for this funding. NDDA has also commissioned additional Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle Sorters. If any counties have an interest in additional sorters please reach out to John Mortenson. If anyone has any questions or ideas around biocontrol feel free to reach out to John at 701-226-8804.

John Mortenson

Plant Protection Specialist

ND Department of Agriculture

P: 701-328-4128 C: 701-226-8804

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Biological Control Cost-Share Funding Request

Section 1. Applicant Details Project **Project Agency:**

Coordinator:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Section 2. Cost-share Request Details Project Title:

Project Location:

(address, GPS coordinates, or TRS description)

Project Purpose:

Total Cost of Project:

Amount of Funding

Requested:

Funding Period:

Start date:

End date:

Approx. Acres to be treated or controlled:

Other (describe):

Biological Control Agent:

Weeds targeted in proposed project:

Section 3. Funding Requirements

Before your project is considered, please note the below requirements:

1. Cost-share required by the county is 25%, state will pay 75% of costs.
2. Funding can include a percentage of labor, supplies, and equipment. Funding must be used to promote, implement and monitor biological control agents.
3. Treatment locations and contact for land manager must be reported to NDDA. NDDA staff may request access from land manager to survey for agent establishment.

Do you agree to the above requirements? YES

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report.

As we move into spring there has not been much activity with manufacturers, most have been stable on pricing so far and some are experiencing some supply issues, while not great some of these are tending to slow up some product deliveries.

As always, get all your needs into your suppliers as soon as possible so they can make sure t have what you will be needing on hand and to you when needed.

CORTEVA – Currently has some supply issues with HighNoon Herbicide in the 2.5-gallon containers, they are hoping to clear these up by the first of May, some minor issues with Milestone Quarts and some other products that really do not affect this side of the industry.

REMINDER NOTE: - Just wanted to put this in one more time for everybody to read and 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 (Warning - makes them more hazardous to use) and requires more PPE when using in comparison to Tordon 22K Herbicide (Caution). 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)

There has been some comparisons on the labels of Tordon 22K Herbicide and Triumph 22K Herbicide at some of the NDWCA area meetings and annual meeting, the comparisons were not done on a “LABEL to LABEL” comparison, there was some information excerpted from the SDS sheets on the Tordon 22K Herbicide and was used to try to make that product look like it has/had the same signal wording as the generic offering of Triumph 22K Herbicide and, is not as safe as well.

SDS (Safety Data Sheets) are now designed to work on a worldwide basis, additional information has to be added into these to satisfy not only the U.S. markets but world markets as well as California, if a company is doing business worldwide than they will have to add additional information into the SDS sheets to satisfy other countries requirements but, these extra requirements might not necessarily be needed in the U.S., hence different wording that might not exactly match the U.S. label “SIGNAL” wording on that product.

Herbicide Labels are written for the country they are sold and distributed in, the EPA states that the **“label is the law”** on that product (**NOT THE SDS SHEETS**), when comparing products to see if they are the same for safety, needed PPE, if the product is the same active ingredients, Use sites and so forth the **“Label”** is used, again, not a SDS sheet on one product and the label on another.

If you are being told any of this as a product comparison to any of the current products you are using, please check these and any comparison comments made “Very Carefully” before making that decision to change, that decision could put you and your employees at some additional risk when using one of those products they are telling you is the same as.

ENVU (formally Bayer)

ENVU – Did their price increases on February 1, 2024, which includes 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.**

EVNU – Supply on ENVU products as of date have been good so far, they have stated that they should have good supplies of most all products for 2024 season.

No current updates on the TruRange Herbicide labeling setting in EPA for registration.

****Adjuvants** - We are seeing some slight surfactant price increases; these have been in the 3% to 5% ranges, more on the petroleum based or oil-based products.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Conference Survey Results: Merlin went over the results from the results of the surveys filled out during the annual conference in January. Good discussion on how to raise the amount of vendors.

Trade Show Updates: Bismarck – Cody and Merlin watched the booth. Attendance was up from last year. The NDSU Weed Control Guides went fast. A lot of questions. Definitely a good show. Valley City – Stan worked some of it. Not a huge turnout while he worked it, but he did get two EPA letter signatures. Jamen was not there, but Ron told him that the other days were pretty good. KMOT Ag Show in Minot. McHenry County also helps with it. It’s a huge show, not sure of the traffic at the booth. Reclamation Conference in Dickinson – Merlin worked the booth. A lot of Vetanata questions. Kept busy both days. Definitely worth having a booth at the conference.

Cliff asked if the message of Vetanata is getting out to farmers and ranchers. Rick said that it is being discussed at the pesticide training this winter. Bill said that there will be more searching in the western part of the state this year. Discussion on brochures, banners, etc. Tom will work on it. Jamen can check on banners. Stan mentioned that we could ask the NDDA about funding, possibly a Forest Service Grant. Cliff asked that Rick, Tom and Jamen work on it and report back at the June meeting. Jamen asked to put it on the website, Merlin said he can put in the June newsletter. Levi said Game and Fish can put it out as well.

Range Judging Team: Rick said that they are leaving this Saturday. Tom asked about the finances for the team. Tom moved that the association give the team \$2,500 towards their expenses. Jim seconded the motion. **M/C** The costs will come out of the NoDak Fund.

NDSU Weed Scientist Position: Stan is representing the association on the committee. They received 14 candidates and will be quick screening of 4 via zoom later this week. After this process, it will be determined who will be invited on campus for interviews. The job description states that is for noxious weeds. With Quincy, it had an emphasis on crops. The position has a PHD level requirement with it. Stan stated that he is requiring on July 3rd, but will stay on the committee until an applicant is hired. Cliff stated that on behalf of the board, he asked Stan to stay on until finished. Stan asked if we should have a meet and greet like we did last time. At that time we met with Quincy in Valley City. The board was in agreement with this.

Resolution: Merlin handed out the finished resolution after it passed at the annual business meeting. Merlin has discussed the resolution to Representative Dennis Johnson. He referred Merlin to Representative Craig Headland, as if we have a bill, it would go through his committee, the House and Finance Taxation Committee. Merlin passed out the correspondence

with Rep. Headland. He stated that it would be nearly if not 100% impossible to get it passed. To raise the mill levy, we would first have to amend the law that put a ceiling on the mill levies in counties, then have a bill to raise the mill levies for weed boards. Merlin feels that we would be better off putting it on hold for 2 years. Jim moved to table the resolution for 2 years. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C Jamen did vote nay.**

EPA Letter: Stan brought the board up to date. 6 county weed boards signed on, 23 landowners, ND Ag Association, ND Soybean Growers for a total of 66 signatures. He also sent a signed letter to Envu, at their request, to include that with their packet they sent to EPA. He has Senator Cramer's office to help. Stan will send them a copy of the signatures. Stan will send the originals to EPA. The ND Weed association will also sign the letter. Bill stated that he will not sign the letter. Levi also cannot sign the letter. Tom moved that the board sign the letter and have Stan send it in. Joan seconded the letter. **M/C** At this time, the board signed the letter. Cliff signed it as president for 2024, and Stan signed it as president for 2023.

New Invasive Weed Funding: Merlin passed out copies of the proposed funding. The portion that would give weed officers a boost in salaries and some funding to LAP. The actual new invasive weed fund that the executive committee requested will not be funded, at least not through the NDDA. We may need to have a stand-alone bill to get that passed. Jamen moved to have Merlin visit with the NDDA to find out what they plan to fund so we can formulate a plan moving forward. Tom seconded the motion. **M/C**

Break for Lunch

NEW BUSINESS:

Washburn Weed Symposium: Tom and Jamen discussed the symposium. There have been several education meetings. The cost of \$2,500 for a deposit, where does it come from. It was determined that the education fund is set up for all expenses and of course the income goes in there as well. They asked if they could give out the notepads that were left from the conference. Merlin had suggested it to get rid of them. No motion necessary. Williams County Weed Board will donate mugs for the symposium for each attendee. Jamen was wondering about giving out caps. They have some on hand, but would like to get more. One for each attendee. Jamen moved to purchase caps for the symposium. Josh seconded the motion.

The committee would like to have a place on the website to pay for the symposium. Tom moved to have the association set it up for the website. Josh seconded the motion. **M/C** Merlin will check into it and will get together with Travis to set it up.

Bill let everyone know that we are getting the camp for ½ price, because of the weed control the committee is doing.

Jim asked if someone wanted to only go to part of it, if that person has to pay for the full price. The committee will work on changing the registration to possibly reflect a single day price. Tom will keep in touch with Merlin for number of registrations. Merlin asked whether he had to pay, as executive secretary, to attend the symposium. Tom asked what the board wants. Jim moved

that the board pays the registration fees for Merlin to attend. **M/C** He will take it out of the secretary travel fund.

Tom asked about the costumes. They are getting in very tough shape. Stan said that they were handmade around 2008. They are irreparable. Tom will tell Derrill to look into it and report back to the board. They will probably have to be handmade again. Tom also asked about getting table covers for each area with the weed association logo on it. Will have Derrill check into it by the June meeting.

Research Partners Meeting: Stan gave an update on the meeting. He also explained about the meeting, what takes place, etc. It is important that we as an association remain involved with it. Stan will make sure that Merlin will be on their mailing list.

Area Meetings: Jamen feels that attendance at area meetings is mostly poor to very poor, except for Area V. He would like to see a 1 day meeting, centralized like in Bismarck. That way industry, NDDA and more would only have to give their report once. Bill said that in South Dakota they eliminated them and have them at their annual conference. It was suggested to have 2 meetings, one in the east and one in the west or at the annual conference. There were also questions about the bylaws. Jamen moved to have it in October in Bismarck on Wednesday, October 23rd. Josh seconded the motion. **M/C** Merlin will check with the Bismarck Hotel and will tentatively reserve a room.

Grasshoppers: Cliff said that they have been getting calls locally about grasshoppers. Rick can get information to Merlin so he can put it out on the list serve or newsletter. Cliff would like to have it brought up at the sprayer schools in May. What to use and when.

Being no further business, Jim moved to adjourn the meeting, Jamen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary