

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

June 25th, 2024

Yet to be approved

President Cliff Ferebee called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Introductions of members and guests. Members present were Rick Schmidt, Bill Walker, Jim Bahm, Joan Lorge, Roger Gunderson, Cliff Ferebee, Tom Leo, Jamen Windish, Levi Jacobson, Josh Short, Samantha Bruner, NDDA, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests: ND Deputy Ag. Commissioner Tom Bodine

Additional agenda items were: Merlin asked to add by laws under area meetings in old business. Jamen moved to approve the agenda with one addition, Joan seconded the motion.

M/C

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

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register and budget sheet. Jamen moved to approve the financial report, Josh seconded the motion. **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education: Tom gave the education report. We will talk about the symposium further down in the agenda. Sprayer schools were a great success with very good turnouts at each of the three places.

Agency Reports:

Government: Levi stated that they are busy moving beetles and spraying, so nothing else to report.

NDDA: Samantha and Tom gave the NDDA report. Tom mentioned that the EPA tour is in North Dakota this week. It will be a challenge to get relabeling on numerous chemicals. Good to have them here to see how we are applying the chemicals. They have hired Samantha McGrath to replace Richard Weisz in noxious weeds. Samantha and John are out in Montana this week collecting the redheaded stem borer for releasing for Leafy Spurge.

The Commissioner supports the funding increase that was brought forward by the association. The Governor is asking for cuts in the budget but will be asking for it back from the legislature.

Merlin asked both Tom and Samantha about why noxious weeds acres aren't listed anywhere on the website. Samantha said that they are working on getting it on the site.

UAF Grants: They are in Nebraska collecting photos from Palmer Amaranth. Later this summer they will be flying over Barnes, Cass, Traill and Richland Counties. Should have good data later this summer.

LAP & TAG Update:

- The current fiscal year closes June 30, 2024, but the biennium still continues.
 - Vouchers are due to me by July 10, 2024 for reimbursement.

USFS Funding:

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

Jim was wondering if anyone from the weed association would be able to stop and visit with the EPA folks while they are here. Deputy Commissioner Tom and Jim will focus on getting a time schedule before the end of the meeting today. It would be a great idea.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report.

It has been a quiet several months in the industry, we are seeing some spot outages and some increases on certain products.

2, 4-D products are seeing an increase in pricing, that is expected to trend throughout the rest of the year. Esters are the first to see increases and taking higher increases. Amine products are following, and we are seeing some slight increases on these at this time.

***CORTEVA** – Currently has some supply issues. Milestone Herbicide will be in short supply until further notice, no timeline when supply will get better, last information was they are out for now, if you are needing quarts for cost share than you might have to look at an alternative such as Whetstone Herbicide.

HighNoon Herbicide seems to be back into stock and available again in all package sizes.

Again, Curtail Herbicide has been discontinued and no longer will be available. 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.

***ENVU (formally Bayer)**

ENVU – Has had no changes from the March 2024 report. They have had no price changes and supplies this year seem to be stable.

Tru-Range Herbicide labeling has been taken off from indefinite hold and is back in que for EPA to look at for registration. No pria date to report as of this writing.

| 2023 Pricing | | New 2024 Pricing | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Method 240 SL Herbicide | 2.5 gal. cont. | \$343.04 per gal. | \$357.12 per gal. |
| Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide | 2.5 gal. cont. | \$1,437.44 per gal. | \$1,509.12 per gal. |
| | 1 quart cont. | \$395.54 per quart | \$415.36 per quart |
| Rejuvra Herbicide | 2.5 gal. cont. | \$1,064.45 per gal. | \$1,102.08 per gal. |
| | 1 quart cont. | \$319.54 per quart | \$336.00 quart |

Escort XP, Telar XP, Oust XP, Oust Extra XP have all mostly remained stable or flat, very slight increases if any.

***NuFarm** – Has announced a price decrease on E-2 Herbicide pricing now as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| E-2 Herbicide | 2.5 gal. cont. | \$58.05 per gal. |
| | 250 gal tote | \$57.45 per gal. |

This is about a \$7.00 per gallon decrease from the 2023 pricing. E-2 is manufacturer priced set, **this could possible be a decent replacement for Curtail Herbicide.**

***NACHINO America – Venue Herbicide Updates (Again, No Current Changes)**

Venue Herbicide -

There is a good supply of Venue Herbicide available for the 2024 season as of the writing of this report.

Venue Herbicide is still \$145.00 per quart while supplies last. Pricing will change once the Pimlico Herbicide is available(stronger version of Venue Herbicide, lower use rates).

It needs to be coupled with a 2,4-D 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).

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.

***ALLIGARE** - Alligare has no Changes Since the March 2024 Report.

Whetstone Herbicide

\$265.00 per gallon in 2.5 gal. cont.

\$67.50 per quart in 1-quart containers

Alligare is currently working on introducing some new products. We should have these updates by the September report or the next newsletter.

****Glyphosate** products – pricing has seemed to stable off for now, large price drops as this year progressed again. 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.

****Adjuvants** - We are seeing these stable for now and should be stable throughout the rest of the season.

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.

OLD BUSINESS:

Washburn Symposium: Site has been sprayed. Merlin received the bill for the camp, will be paid this week. The sponsors get one meal ticket with their sponsorship. Several companies have committed already. Everything is getting together.

Area Meetings: There has been discussion on whether we should go with a one day area meeting in Bismarck or leave it like it has been for one more year. Bill said that if you do one meeting in Bismarck or have 5 meetings throughout the state, you will get the same number of people attending. South Dakota no longer has area meetings, but has it during the conference.

As far as by laws, it would only take a few minor changes. Roger feels that very few would come to Bismarck from his area. Jim felt that we should leave the decision up to the counties. Should have this discussion at each area meeting, allowing the counties to decide which way to proceed. Jamen moved to rescind his motion from the April meeting. Josh seconded the motion. **M/C. Original motion has been rescinded.**

We will have this topic up for discussion at the area meetings. We will be open for resolutions concerning this topic.

Area meetings will be held at the following locations:

Area II – October 21st – Valley City

Area I – October 22nd – Devils Lake

Area III – October 23rd – Minot

Area IV – October 24th – Mandan

Area V – October 25th - Amidon

By Law Changes: Merlin was asked to go through changes he proposes to the bylaws. After some discussion and a few changes, Merlin will correct the changes and forward it the board.

New Invasive Weed Funding: Looks like if a county needs extra funds, the NDDA would have to apply through the emergency commission.

EPA Letter: TruRange is being looked at again to be registered, which is great news. Bill said that they the EPA is in the process of contacting some of those who signed the letter.

Range Judging: Rick thanked everyone for the support. They had a great trip and had much success. They look forward to speaking at our conference.

Weed Costumes and Table Covers: Still working on it. Will address at the September meeting.

NDSU Weed Scientist Position Report: Merlin read Stan’s report that he had submitted, as he was unable to attend the meeting.

NDSU Noxious Weed Research Specialist search report

The search committee received 19 applications from prospective candidates. The position is a 90% research - 10% teaching position. Of the 19 applications, six were selected for a short Zoom interview. Four candidates were selected for on campus interviews. Each candidate interview consisted of two days on campus, each was to present a research seminar addressing “My Vision for a Six-Year Roadmap to Enhance Noxious Weed Management” and a teaching seminar addressing “Fostering GenZ Student Engagement in a Modern Classroom”. The candidate also reviewed the department facilities and visited various university departments. The selection committee interviewed each candidate in two hour-long sessions answering and discussing a set of questions covering both research and teaching experience and philosophies. The selection committee then and recommendations were made to Dr. Richard Horsely, Plant Sciences Department Chair.

Side note: No researchable information is available describing the extent of noxious weed infestations

NEW BUSINESS:

Gravel: A lot of good discussion on how to make a plan uniform throughout the state. Certify pits the same way. Samantha said that with weed free forage, they use the NAISMA guidelines. NAISMA also has guidelines for gravel. Area directors will contact their counties and bring back in September various programs.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 24th, at 10:00 am here at the Baymont in Mandan

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

Cliff adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.

Lunch was then served

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary