

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck

June 24th, 2025

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jim Bahm called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Introductions. The members in attendance were Jim Bahm, Cliff Ferebee, Roger Gunderson, CJ Pearce, Joan Lorge, Jamen Windish, Levi Jacobson, Josh Short, Tom Leo, Travis Jepson, and Merlin Leithold, executive secretary.

Guests present: Samantha Bruner, NDDA and ND Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring

Absent: Bill Walker and Samantha McGrath, NDDA

Additional agenda items were: None. Jim mentioned that if anyone has something going on in their area, that needs discussion, it can sure be brought up today. We need to get all counties involved. Cliff mentioned that Diane Allmendinger, Dunn County Weed Officer, has retired. On behalf of the board, Jim told Cliff to tell Diane that the board sends their best wishes for her retirement. Josh moved to approve the agenda as presented. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C**

Minutes: The June minutes were reviewed. Josh moved to approve the minutes as presented. Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

Financial Report: Merlin gave the financial report. CJ asked where range camp is held and what they are taught at the camp, and who oversees it. Questions on which counties and cities are members. Josh moved to accept the financial report. Roger seconded the motion. **M/C**

Committee Reports:

Education Committee Report: Tom said that the education side of the association is not just a committee, but everyone in the association, especially board members.

Legislative Committee Report: Merlin indicated other than the budget, which the commissioner will update us on, there were a couple of bills that were discussed earlier in March and February but were killed or amended that did not affect the association.

Other Committee Reports: None

AG Commissioner Doug Goehring: Jim welcomed Commissioner Goehring to the meeting.

Commissioner Goehring: Jim indicated that Bill Walker could not attend today's meeting, but Jim found out that Bill and Jim Hossfeld from Envu did meet with you regarding the chemical TruRange. Jim asked what the commissioner found out when he met EPA Secretary Zeldin. After some discussion, the commissioner said that there are EPA officials in ND now, doing their annual tour of the state, which is important to show them how agriculture in ND works, and how numerous restrictions can hurt all types of production in the state. Some discussion on legislative bills, including the department budget. When asked again about TruRange, the commissioner indicated that it needs to take its due process.

Tom asked about new products going to EPA to get registered, if they see what has been happening with TruRange, this will slow the process.

Samantha Bruner, NDDA: Samantha mentioned that she had the biocontrol posters with her for those on the board who told John that they wanted some. The department is also working on a similar poster about noxious weeds. As far as biocontrol funding is concerned, the department may not need to run any funds through the association, as they are planning to use operating funds first, and then figure out the appropriate course of action. Commissioner Goehring asked how mailing biocontrol works, if counties are notified in advance that they are being shipped. Josh and Jamen indicated positive feedback on receiving them. Merlin indicated that he visited with Sam yesterday, and Merlin has everything set up, other than some paperwork, to pay and receive biocontrol if needed.

With additional funds appropriated by the legislature, discussion on adding to LAP or to TAG with these funds. The department will be working on this.

Levi Jacobson: Not much going on because everyone is busy spraying or moving beetles

Industry: Bill could not attend, but he said that the report is the same as it was in the newsletter. He asked Merlin to include that report in the minutes.

While earlier in the year it was somewhat quiet, that's not the case over the last few months. We have seen almost every manufacturer of Pesticide products start to take price increases, some are still due to the 2,4-D lawsuit but, most of late have been attributed to the tariffs or should I say tariff wars currently going on.

2,4-D products, ester and amine formulations and most all products that contain 2,4-D products have taken drastic price increases over the past 6 months, if I just look at from January 1, 2025 up until now, they have increased about 25% in cost, that does not include the increases that were taken between September of 2024 up until the end of the 2024 year.

Expect to see your distributors/suppliers having now to follow suit with price increases and expect 2,4-D amines to be in the \$21.00 to \$24.00 ranges and 2,4-D esters (6 lb.) esters in the \$36.00 to \$40.00 ranges, these are not expected to drop anytime soon.

Glyphosate products have taken about a 12% increase since March 2025, this might be a in season increase but a vast number of these products also come from offshore so tariffs are also affecting these products, expectations are, these may increase more as the season progresses as well.

By the companies.

ENVU - had announced that they would be taking a 2% price increase on June 1, 2025 on all products across the board, before that time came ENVU announced that they are rescinding the 2% increase, but increases could possibly come at a later date, currently all pricing has remained at the February 1, 2025 pricing, products include Method 240 SL, Rejuvra, Esplanade 200 SC, Escort XP, Telar XP, Oust and OustExtra XP, Plainview SC.

CORTEVA – Earlier in the year CORTEVA had stated that they would try to hold on pricing, as of May 29,2025 they decided they needed to take price increases, this does affect most all CORTEVA products you are using, these increases range from 3% up to 6% plus on some products, here is the new stewardship pricing on some of the main products being used.

All non-manufacturer price set products did get the increase as of June 2, 2025, all manufacturer price set products will take the increases stated below on June 16, 2025, there will be no exceptions according to CORTEVA and your distributor/Supplier will have to follow the new stewardship pricing as of June 16, 2025.

Milestone Herbicide 2.5 gal. cont., \$325.00 per gallon, 1 quart cont., \$81.25 per quart **(non-government pricing)** up 1.3%.

Milestone Herbicide 2.5 gal. cont., \$294.00 per gal., 1 quart cont., \$73.5 per quart **(Special government agency pricing)** up 1.3%

Freelexx Herbicide 2.5, 30 and 250 gal. cont., \$35.00 per gallon, up 6.7%

HighNoon Herbicide 1 & 2.5 gal. cont., \$98.00 per gallon, 250 gal. tote, \$96.00 per gallon, up 4.3%

Opensight Herbicide 1.25 and 10 lb. cont., \$105.50 per pound, up 1.3%

Other products such as Tordon 22K Herbicide up 3%, Grazon PD3 Herbicide up 4.1%, Grazon Next HL Herbicide up 4.2%, Transline Herbicide up 3.1%, Garlon 3A up 3.7%, Garlon 4 Ultra up 4.1%, Vista XRT up 3.4% and again, all other CORTEVA products have price increases.

Alligare – took price increases on May 1, 2025, they averaged 10% overall on all of their products that would include, Diuron products, Panoramic 2SL (generic Plateau), Whetstone, Alligare 2,4-D amine and Ester (higher than 10% increases), Imazapyr products, triclopyr products and picloram products.

BASF – has currently had no price increases on their products, these would include Plateau Herbicide, Arsenal Herbicide and other Imazapyr products, Frequency, Detail and other products, that is not to say they could follow suit of all other manufacturers later this season.

NuFarm – has been taking price increases on their products containing 2,4-D's or their 2,4-D's since last fall with the bigger increases coming after January 1, 2025, E-2 Herbicide is currently \$64.05 per gallon which is one of the bigger used products from them, AquaNeat Herbicide (aquatic labeled glyphosate) has increased 7% since the first of the year (in line with other glyphosate product increases).

Companies such as **Albaugh** (large in glyphosate production), **Drexel Chemical Company**, **SePro** (large in aquatic products, averaged 2% across the board on all products), and almost all other manufacturers, have all also taken price increases due to the tariff uncertainty at this time (looks like COVID 2.0 all over again).

Surfactants and adjuvant products – have remained somewhat steady as this season has progressed, price increases could come as tariffs could affect some packaging materials for these products, some of the same issues facing the above products, not all packaging is manufactured here in the US, some does come from offshore suppliers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dress Code: After the last meetings discussion, Merlin was asked to find if the dress code that we are trying to enforce is the policy of the association. Merlin found that at the June 30th, 2020, board meeting, with Cody Schnabel, presiding as president, discussion took place on complaints that we had concerning board members not dressing in a more formal manner at the banquet.

Merlin preceded to read from the minutes: "Other Old Business: Bill (Walker) talked about protocol at the convention. Acting properly, not dressing up at the banquet. No need for ball caps. The board needs to set a better standard. That also stands true when you are the moderator at different sessions. Suggested that in the booklet, have it stated that proper attire for the banquet. No motion, just move forward with it. Merlin also said that the prayer will be back at the banquet."

After some discussion, the consensus of the board moving forward is to dress responsibility and let everyone decide for themselves. No policy set.

Sound system update: Travis stated that he has all the equipment. He could also do a livestream. Jim said that for speakers that cannot come, that would be great, but to have people to watch it instead of coming to the conference, he would not be in favor of it.

Travis said that we would charge for it. Maybe do it during the ag forum, since it is free already. Possibly do a test run of a few people to see how it would work. The cost of doing this would be zero. Samantha said something to look at, but no promises.

Range Judging Team: Do we need criteria on giving funds for a team to go to nationals. We have not funded the winning team every year. One year we funded the runner-up, just to go to nationals and watch. Possibly give it to Kevin Sedivec and have him give it to the team or teams.

Discussion on raising the annual membership dues for funding the range judging teams. Merlin will invite Kevin to the September board meeting.

Social media: Josh has been checking with someone, his cousin, who does this as part of a job. It takes a lot of work to keep it up. You would want to post something nearly daily. It can be very time and labor intensive. It was suggested that we don't do this. Jamen added that even with Facebook, it takes a lot of time to keep it up to date. It was decided to drop the idea.

Newsletter: Jim thanked all the directors for their work in getting their reports in the newsletter, and especially to CJ for reaching out to all his area counties for a report. Jim liked his report and told the other directors to take notes.

Cultivate 2025: Jamen had been asked to speak about his weed control program as the weed officer from Barnes County. He was on the panel Managing Crop Pests for Today, Tomorrow and Beyond. Discussion on AI and future technology, from Drones to driverless trucks. Jamen wondered if the association should participate in the future. Have a booth? Jamen will check into it.

Job Openings in Weed Control: Merlin keeps being asked about whether there are folks interested in weed control, as there are constant openings in counties for weed officers. Merlin

will put an article in the newsletter to let counties know that we can list their job openings at no charge. He will also bring it up at the area meetings.

Contract sprayers are needed everywhere, and some are looking for work. We could list them on the website for a fee. Area directors should reach out to their counties to see what contractors are available. Jamen moved to charge contractors \$100 to advertise on our website. Travis seconded the motion. **M/C**

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

Conference planning meeting to follow regular meeting

Jim adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary.

Conference Planning Meeting

Chaired by Travis

Speakers:

Border Control Agents

Livestock for Pest Management, integrated pest management, grazing and chemicals

Kevin Sedivec - NDSU

Swap with other states How they do weed control

Organic weed control

Talia Humphries - NDSU

Cody & Marge – Follow up on purple loosestrife management

Skin Cancer

Nevin with Warne Chemical

Rebecca Orgard – Mock Building inspection

Judging Team

Madeline Smith - NDSU

Live Plant ID

Will meet again after the September board meeting

Meals Committee: Samantha, Travis and Merlin – can plan them in September