

## NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Yet to be Board Approved

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

Guests present: John Mortenson, NDDA, and Samantha Bruner, NDDA

**Additional agenda items were:** None. Josh moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jamen seconded the motion. M/C

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

**Financial Report:** Merlin gave the financial report. Josh moved to accept the financial report. Bill seconded the motion. **M/C** Merlin also gave the itemized financial report from the conference. It showed that we lost money with the auction. Good discussion on how to move forward with expenses with the auction. Merlin will check with the hotel on what type of menu we can have for the auction. Merlin asked what he should use for the youth fund and what he should do with the education fund. Bill moved that Merlin put the \$150 from savings and transfer to the youth fund. Jamen seconded the motion. **M/C** Jim asked whether we could put the expenses from the auction to the conference side. Jamen moved Merlin to move the expenses from the auction to the conference side and put the total income into the education fund. Joan seconded the motion. **M/C** Josh moved to approve the conference summary as presented by Merlin making the changes from the previous motion. CJ seconded the motion. **M/C**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education Committee Report:** Tom Leo, co- chairman could not attend. He did not submit a report.

**Legislative Committee Report:** Merlin indicated that the legislature is slowly winding down in sum aspects but gearing up in other aspects. A lot of the smaller bills have been worked on, but some of the major ones are now getting attention. Highway speed limit bills are a prime example. The Ag department's budget is still being worked on in the Senate Appropriations Government Subcommittee. The noxious weed part looks pretty good. The department can give us a clearer answer on that. HB 1318, the pesticide bill, is most likely to pass easily. And most importantly, Rhubarb is now officially the state vegetable.

**Other Committee Reports:** None

## **Agency Reports:**

**Government:** Given by Levi Jacobson, ND G&F and government representative: Nothing new to report since the February conference.

**NDDA:** Samantha McGrath, noxious weed specialist

Not a lot of changes since February and what was put in the March newsletter. She has 22 out of 41 LAP reallocation letters back. Only 7 annual surveys have not been sent back. A question was asked if the federal funding programs will be cut. As far as they know, everything is still good.

Jon Mortenson: Is taking orders on the bio posters. He handed out the actual poster on a regular sheet. The other ones are larger. Still have money available for bio control. Let him know. They also will be available to help with field days. Let him know and he will get it posted.

Samantha Bruner: The department budget has an additional \$366,000 in it for LAP and or TAG. Two years ago, they received funding for biocontrol. They are required to have cost shared. If they transfer that money to the association, in a grant, the association will pay for the biocontrol and get reimbursed by the department. Merlin says that if Jon does the ordering, etc., it could work. Merlin will work with Samantha Bruner as we get closer to the new biennium.

**Industry:** Bill Walker, Industry representative, gave the report.

There have been no changes on the industry side since the conference and the March newsletter. With the tariffs that take effect on April 2, we could see some price increases. If you have a bid, you will see no changes, unless there is a hard increase. It will affect the Ag side more than our side.

Corteva is in the process of adding a rep for the eastern Dakotas. Mike Otto, the rep for the western Dakotas, is also resigning, and moving to another part of the company. So, they will be looking for a rep for his area. Jerome Otto, as many of us know, will handle Mike's area until they hire a replacement. Maybe they will have the new rep cover all the Dakotas.

As far as TruRange from Envu, there is no major news yet. EPA is doing some environmental studies. Envu would like to meet with Commissioner Goehring to see whether he can help. Bill plans on setting up a meeting with Commissioner Goehring. Bill would like Jim to be there representing the association.

There will be more regulations on herbicides soon. Environmental studies are the main trigger for this. Labeling, run off, using the herbicide, and applicator use. Row crop herbicides will be affected first, but it will come to our side as well. Something to watch as we move forward.

Merlin mentioned that according to the pesticide division in the AG Dept, indicate that QR codes on the AquaPacs will work.

## **Break**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Conference Survey Results:** Merlin went through the survey results.

**Suggestions from the surveys:** Jamen suggested that we use QR codes for the surveys as well.

**Treasurer's Report:** One suggestion was to shorten it up. Josh said keep doing what you're doing.

**Area Directors:** Directors should give a short report at the annual meeting. Also, give area directors jobs at the annual conference.

**Dress Code at Banquet:** Merlin received a lot of criticism for enforcing the dress code, which was a board decision. Discussion. Merlin will check to see when or if the board mandated this. Will bring this back up at the June meeting.

**Break out sessions:** They started fine but became totally disorganized. Area directors could help with this part.

**Trade Show Booth Updates:** KFYR Agri-International, Bismarck – Excellent crowd, a lot of information went out, up from last year. Valley City Winter Show – its turning from an ag show into a vendor show, selling their wares. Reclamation Conference – Tom said that he could have used another person, as it was quite busy. His booth was busier than others.

**Gravel Pits:** Bill plans on building a plan with a couple of people, probably won't need a committee. Will have something in place by fall.

**Sound systems:** Travis showed what he has for prices and type of systems. Costs would be in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,000. Jamen moved that we allow Travis to get what he feels will work best, with a limit of \$5,000. Josh seconded the motion. **M/C** Travis will run it through his county, and we'll reimburse his county.

**Social media:** Josh has not followed up; it will be on the June agenda.

**Breakfast:** Merlin said that the hotel cannot serve a continental breakfast because they are considered a full-service hotel and conference center. Merlin suggested that we drop the full breakfast and have two smaller breakfasts for Wednesday and Thursday morning. Would we want a sponsored breakfast, or an attendee paid breakfast? Jim would like the committee to work on it. Jamen would like to see attendees pay it on their registrations. Bill suggested that the registrations be raised to cover the extra breakfast. The conference committee will work on it.

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

Jim adjourned the meeting at 12:09 pm.

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary.

