NDWCA Education Committee Meeting
August 16, 2007

On August 16, 2007 the Education Committee met at the Washburn 4-H camp to review how the symposium went. Present were: Shauna Berg, Ken Eraas, Stan Wolf, Dan Folske, Odin Heim, Jim Hennessey, Dan Dew, John Arlien and Derrill Fick. Evaluation comments were read aloud as members reviewed them. Overall the symposium was a success and it was made abundantly clear that this was very much needed and needs to continue. Some evening event suggestions included: native walk, bird walk, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center visit, canoeing, and a constellation walk. Other comments included having more coffee pots, intros needed at the beginning of who people are, what agency they work for and where they are based. There was some interest in grant opportunities available, herbicide and chemical uses, wanting to tour an invasive species site, as well as talk on plants crossing borders. Members went through the symposium day by day. Day 1: everyone felt went very well and people really like Randy Westbrooks. Day 2: Bonnie Harper-Lore was another keynote speaker that was very good. Comment was made that concurrents need to be concurrent. Possibly have the ATV/equipment concurrent with a native plant look alike. Members also talked about having Lori Richardson bring in her mule w/sprayer in for a demonstration for equipment as well as Derrill with his river sprayer unit. Maybe have an amphibious vehicle demo as well. Day 3: Dave Borlaug speaking on public awareness and writing the right message was very good. Talked about having a newspaper/radio/TV crews on hand to perform an interview on a random registrant to show how it is done in the media field. There was discussion on possibly having speakers talk about certified gravel programs available. Members talked about speakers needing to be knowledgeable of its audience and agencies attending. Next year's date is tentatively set for August 12-14 and everyone felt we needed to keep it at the same location. All members agreed that we need to keep Rayda as the cook, she did an excellent job and the food served was complimented time and time again. Members talked about vendors coming to the symposium will need to be a sponsor. Advertising needs to be done a little more aggressively and it needs to be made aware of rustic camping with open bunk rooms for sleeping accommodations. The focus is getting back to nature. Shauna will get various pictures from the school to Randy Melhoff for the newsletter coming out in September as well as to Terry Volk for the website. Weeds of the Prairies books for members of the committee will be mailed out. The next meeting to go over the school in greater detail and see where we stand budget wise will be on September 5, 2007 at 9:00 via IVAN. Sites will be Langdon, Fargo, Minot and possibly Watford City.