

NDWCA Area III MINUTES

Minot Research Center, Minot, ND

Yet to be approved

October 23rd, 2013

Area Director, Dan Dew called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Introductions with the following counties in attendance: Renville, Ward, McHenry and Bottineau. Others present were Caitlin Berschneider and Jim Hanson from NDDA, Bill Walker – CPS Timberland, Mike Schalla – Dow Agro Sciences, Jerry Saude – ND Trust Lands, and Gary Hartman – 2013 NDWCA President and Merlin Leithold NDWCA executive secretary.

Additional agenda items were recycling empty chemical containers.

There were no 2012 minutes. They were lost by former NDWCA secretary. Dan Dew thought he had a copy, but could not find them. Merlin apologized on behalf of the NDWCA board of directors.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting Update

Merlin Leithold, NDWCA secretary informed the group of the dates and possible speakers/topics for the annual convention, which will be held January 7, 8 & 9, 2014 at the Seven Seas in Mandan. The business meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon instead of Wednesday morning. We will be having a history program late Wednesday afternoon, since it is the Associations' 30th year. Merlin stated that he has booked the group Tigerlily for the entertainment for the banquet. They are two high school girls from Hazen, ND. The beer & brat social and auction is again on Tuesday evening, following our annual business meeting. Bring an auction item to donate to the association. Also, Merlin stated that the motel room rates are the same as last year, \$79.30 for a single, and \$89.30 for a double. Should be a good convention, and Merlin hopes that everyone can make it to Mandan in January.

County reports:

McHenry County: submitted by Jerome Peerboom, board chairman

Three members attended the state convention held in Mandan in January. Members of the weed board assisted at a booth at the Ag Expo in Minot. The annual report was completed and submitted to the state office. Annual dues were paid to the NDWCA.

A spring newsletter highlighting the year's program was published in mid-April and is distributed to all the operating producers in the county. Spring chemical sales are held on three half days and one full day. Chemicals offered this year included Milestone, Tordon22K, Plateau and Curtail. A fall letter was sent to these producers offering chemicals for sale by order only with one advantage of the discounted prices this year. Producers spent approximately \$87,057.50 with the weed control board spending \$79,552.55 in the LAP program.

The board completed and approved the 2013 budget. All monies received and disbursed by the weed board continue to be filtered through the county auditor's office. TAG monies are used to assist with

ROW spraying for 2013. Commercially certified board members and weed supervisors also continue to assist in spraying the county ROW's as required.

Due to the excessive amount of moisture in the county, ROW sprayers experienced a very challenging year finding many new varieties of plants. County roads are the primary concern with additional township roads sprayed as time and weather permits.

Crops are being seeded into the ditch ROW and are very vulnerable to chemical drift when ROW is sprayed. Landowners are not controlling weeds on ROW's and can expect spray damage to crops in the ROW.

Two noxious weed complaints were filed and addressed this past summer. Three board meetings and one sprayer meeting were held throughout the year with one additional meeting planned for mid-November.

Ward County: submitted by Derrill Fick – weed officer

In January we had a booth at the Ag show. The end of May we hosted the sprayer school for the NDWCA. The spring started cold, wet and late. We hired two contractors and two employees. We bought a Ford 1 ton chassis truck and had the Ward County Hwy Dept. shop guys build a bed for it and put a 500 gallon tank and sprayer on it. Did not start spraying until mid- June because the ditches were wet and some roads are still under water. We are running 2 pickups and the new truck with spray tanks, one 4-wheeler and 1 UTV. Just finished up fall spraying with the helicopter. We used 120 lbs. of Perspective, over 25 gallons of Plateau, and about 20 gallons of Tordon with the helicopter.

We cost shared Tordon and Plateau with 92 landowners participating.

We have been finding more Canada thistle in the ROW's and range lands. We had a grant with the NDDA for the control of Canada thistle in flood zone areas. It was a continuation of last year's efforts. We could tell a difference of who sprayed their thistle or who did nothing at all about it in the river bottoms that get hayed or grazed. We have a current contract with the NDDA for the flood zone again but in a different area. Still been finding lots of Houndstongue. Seems to be as much as in previous years even though some of our worst areas have gotten flooded and washed away. Sprayed for Purple loosestrife along the Souris River again, even though there was some erosion that occurred from the flood. The river still has loosestrife growing along its banks but not as much as in previous years. Still finding scattered plants outside of the city where drainages go to the river. Been finding more Yellow toadflax. Showing up in more range land areas. Leafy spurge seems to be a little less, but did not get some ROW sprayed because of water. Spotted knapweed is still giving us trouble in the same areas.

Have been finding a lot of Canada thistle gall flies this year. Have noticed that the areas that we released the Yellow toadflax insects have shown to have fewer plants but still hard to collect insects. Did not collect any Leafy spurge beetles this year again. Whenever we would do any sweeping, we could find the beetles, but not enough to collect and hand out.

Bottineau County: submitted by Terry Volk – weed officer

2013 ROW spraying was delayed until late June due to weather conditions. Rather than begin spraying operations in the townships, we started with the state highways. The in-slopes were done first to get ahead of the mowers and insure good control on the shoulders.

Recent late springs have become the new normal; delaying operations through most of June. Some early Leafy spurge may set seed before it gets sprayed; but, this disadvantage is more than offset by enabling control of Canada thistle, Milkweed, Toadflax, Chamomile and Leafy Spurge with a single pass through July and August.

The ROW held a lot of water from heavy rains all summer. Putting our ATVs/UATVs to use was difficult. We had to revert to spraying from the top of the road with a truck mounted boom. The weather cut quite a few workdays out of the schedule; but, it turned out ok. Trucks spraying at 10-12mph compared to ATVs spraying at just 4mph was an advantage; more rapid progress was made and labor was less than with ATVs. The speed advantage enabled us to finish all the townships plus cover the highways again. Frost and fall ROW mowing ended the season with some touch up work left to do; but, overall the spraying went well.

The 4 oz Overdrive+8oz Tordon mix is doing an excellent job. Leafy spurge has been greatly reduced in the ROW. The combination works well on Milkweed, Canada thistle and a host of other weeds. Plants begin to wilt in as little as 2 to 3 days under good growing conditions. Use of a premium sticker, spreader, surfactant (Liberate) seems to accelerate the effects of the herbicide. Canada thistle has grown to be a larger problem than spurge. It spreads so quickly and appears to be on almost every ROW. The popularity of row crops encourages infestations due to limited weed control options, Milkweed was difficult to knock out until we started using this mix. Instead of slow wilting for a week or more, we now see rapid burn down to the color of burnt leather; very satisfying. Milestone in the fall is also quite effective and provides sure Canada thistle control. Fall spraying may be a great option; but, it doesn't always work out as a dependable plan. Extended fall rains frequently turn into snow and cut the spraying season short.

Our bio-control program is at a standstill. Flea beetles are still working but discretely. They are present but are spread out too thin to collect. Excessive wind and heavy rains discouraged beetle collecting. There were reports of 30 inches or more of rain this summer; 17 inches is average.

Cost-share has dropped off in recent years. Bottineau County has bumped up cost-share limits from \$2,000 to \$2,400 in an attempt to bring in more participants. The limit may need further increases as participation remains low. Another option to get people on board is to offer cost-share for additional weeds; Canada thistle, Milkweed, etc. The demand for Canada thistle cost-share could be very high; but only a small percentage would be covered before the funds would be depleted. The weed board has made no decision on this yet.

Another issue for next year is finding enough help. Two of our best sprayers are retiring and two others may take other jobs. Despite good wages, applicants answering the "Help Wanted" are few to none.

Renville County: submitted by Dan Dew – weed officer

The spray crew for the 2013 spray season consisted of myself, Tonya Naumann, Cody Beck, Katie Johnson and Lexi Bahl. We operated two spray trucks and an ATV. We concentrated on Canada thistle, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and yellow toadflax as well as common milkweed. We sprayed mostly Canada thistle and milkweed. The weed board purchased two new data loggers and a new computer using TAG grant money from the NDDA. The new data loggers can do more things and are more accurate.

We collected beetles for leafy spurge. We put the beetles in three different locations and will monitor the sites.

There is a list of contact people for each township and they can be notified where the weeds are so they can let us know by sending a map or coming with us when we spray the township.

Any complaints received by the weed officer must be in writing and signed with an exact land description. The weed officer will check out the complaint and talk to the landowner about getting the weeds sprayed. If this is not done in a reasonable amount of time a certified letter will be sent with an exact time to be completed by. If this is not done, the county will have it sprayed and the cost will be assessed against the landowner's taxes. This year, I had five complaints and three were dealt with easily, but the other two are still pending and will be dealt with next spring.

I checked two gravel pits for noxious weeds and found them to be clean. The state has no set policy on gravel pits, but we go by the noxious weed laws for landowners.

Agency reports:

Jim Hanson – NDDA

Bring your data loggers and your computers to the convention. The older downloading cords are not compatible to the Windows 7 programs. Jim is working with the ND Aeronautics Commission to merge their spraying data into the NDDA website.

Merlin stated that Vince Thomas from Reds Fixit is also now the dealer for outback guidance systems for auto steer for tractors

Caitlin Berschneider, intern with the NDDA on behalf of Rachel Seifert Spilde- NDDA noxious weeds specialist

Have several speakers already lined up for the commissioners Ag. Forum at the Seven Seas on January 7, 2014. We will be starting around 9:30 or 10:00 and finishing around 3:00.

Judy Carlson has retired, and Carrie Larson has been promoted from within the department to fill her position. Carrie has been with the department since 2004, working in the plant protection department. The department will be filling her old position in the next several weeks.

Rachel has been working with NDSU on a new weed ID pocket guide. Hopefully it will be done by the convention. Caitlyn has made an update to the Leafy spurge bio-control guide, and hopefully that will also be ready by the convention.

New in-kind rate sheets were sent out, looking for input. A few changes have been made to the annual report forms. Get in touch with Rachel if you have any questions about funding or anything else.

Jerry Saude, ND Trust Lands

Usually I am at land auctions this week. Thanks to Merlin for asking me to attend these meetings. The ND Trust Lands Department is a constitutional institution. We have been around since statehood. \$65.163 million will be paid out to the school districts in the state, or \$622/student.

In 1983, or around the time of the start of the association, our office began a cost control program for Leafy Spurge with our lessees. There is a long form, that many of you have had to sign, and a short form, for small infestations, up to \$100.00. 50% cost share on Leafy spurge, and 100% on all other state noxious weeds. In 2013, we cost shared for Canada thistle, wormwood, Yellow toadflax, Russian knapweed, Musk thistle, Spotted knapweed, Common tansy, and Black henbane.

When a lessee fills out the form for cost share, we see incorrect rates listed. When using an MSO, we see the proper quart/acre rate not always used, sometimes no MSO. Also, we have seen some using the four way cocktail mix in the fall. We will pay the first time, but then we send them a reminder to follow rate recommendations and the weed control guide recommendations or we cannot cost share next season.

If a county would like to set up a chemical demonstration site, contact me, and I would be more than happy to work with you.

Industry reports:

Mike Schalla – Dow Agro Sciences

Dow has realigned North Dakota. I am the range and pasture specialist. Reps that you may have worked with in the past such as Sam Law and Chad Brusseau are now mainly crop specialists. I am the sole person for range and pasture. Feel free to contact them with any questions as well.

Milestone has an aquatic label. It can now be sprayed to control plants in the water and can also be sprayed across water to kill plants on the other bank.

I would like to thank you for all of your past business, and look forward to working with you in 2014.

Bill Walker CPS:

Thanks for all of your business this past year. For 2014, not much price changes for the main chemicals you guys use, Tordon, Milestone, Amine, Perspective and MSO and surfactants. These should stay pretty flat. But, if you use Banvil or Glyphosate products, you will see price increases. Even with Overdrive, you will see an increase. If you had a contract with us in 2013, we will extend that contract with those 2013 prices for next season, except for the chemicals I mentioned that will have significant price increases.

Perspective has not had its one year no hay/grazing restriction lifted. As of today, it is beginning to look like the restrictions could remain in effect into the next couple of years. If I find anything different in the next several weeks, when I meet with DuPont, I will let Merlin know and he will get the information out to you.

Derrill mentioned that he got a call from Tom Hendricks with Van Diest. He could not be here this week, but thanks everyone for the business, and looks forward with working with all of us in 2014.

New Business:

Early Career/Senior Awards

Merlin explained that if you have a weed officer or a board member, or know of someone, not necessarily from your county or even your area, write a letter recommending that person worthy to be award, beyond ten years, the senior career award. The award will be given out at the banquet during the convention, so hopefully that person will be there to accept the award if they are picked by the committee. Applications must be sent to Merlin by December 1st.

Elections:

Area Director:

Chuck Weiser nominated Dan Dew. Jerome Peerboom moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Dan Dew. Jo Ashley seconded the motion. M/C

1st Alternate:

Derrill Fick nominated Terry Volk. Chuck moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Volk. Jerome seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Alternate:

Chuck nominated Jo Ashley. Derrill moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Jo Ashley. Chuck seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Vice President: no nominations from Area III

Industry director: no other nominations

Government director: no other nominations

By-Law Proposed change:

Dan read the proposed by law change, which would take away term limits for industry and government directors. This will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Trust Fund:

Dan read the trust fund proposal submitted by Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer, on behalf of the NDWCA board of directors. The trust fund would be set up to fund research projects for noxious weed control.

Resolutions:

No resolutions were presented.

Other Business:

Recycling jugs:

Gary Hartman, 2013 NDWCA President began to explain problems that are occurring without a recycling program. Do we have to put up storage just for containers? Why do we have to take them to the landfill? Landfills are filling up fast. Why can private applicators burn their jugs and commercial applicators cannot. Some private applicators have more jugs than we do. What is the solution? It was tagged along with safe send one time, that didn't work.

Derrill stated that he had talked with Gary Knudson this summer about the issue and he said that he was going to check into the problem, that a company was supposed to run a program in the state.

McHenry County stated that it is a huge problem. What can we do?

Bill Walker stated that he had been on the phone with folks from his company, CPS. CPS has a company that they work with. Bill will try and find out more in the coming weeks and get back to Merlin with what he finds out. If there was a huge profit in running a program like this, you would see several companies trying to compete for your containers.

Check Weiser said that he saw in Canada a huge holding area where chemical jugs had been dropped off. Will check into what they do some more.

A lot of good discussion took place over this issue.

Jerome moved to adjourn the meeting. Terry seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am

Submitted by:

Merlin Leithold

NDWCA Executive Secretary