

(To be approved)

**NDWCA ANNUAL MEETING
January 7th, 2014 @ 3:30 pm
Best Western plus Seven Seas, Mandan, ND**

The NDWCA Annual Business Meeting was called to order by 2013 President Gary Hartman at 3:35 pm.

Additional agenda items: none

Merlin Leithold read the 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes. Steve Ginsbach moved to approve the minutes as read. Kevin Schmidt seconded the motion. **M/C**

Presidents Report

President Hartman reported that the NDWCA had a busy year. With the resignation of our executive secretary, the board had the task of finding her replacement. Interviews were held at the Burleigh County Extension office building. A lot of good applicants were interviewed, with Merlin Leithold being hired. He informed the membership on the status of the ongoing Empower the Taxpayer Lawsuit, in which the NDWCA is named. It was appealed to the ND Supreme Court by the plaintiffs. He has not heard of a court decision. He attended the weed free forage meeting put on by the Ag Dept... He attended the sprayer schools in May. Excellent job by all who put them on. Good attendance as well. He attended an aggregate meeting in Dickinson hosted by Dianne Almendinger, Stark County. He attended two bio control events in the state, one in Stutsman County and one in Grant County. Good numbers at both sites. He attended several of the area meetings this fall. A lot of good work is being done in the individual counties in their county run programs. Thank you to all of you for the confidence in him for electing him as your president.

Financial Report

Merlin Leithold presented the financial report. He highlighted various line items. Chuck Weiser asked about the youth savings and its purpose.

Audit report

Dan Dew, Jim Bahm and Kevin Schmidt were the audit committee. Dan Dew reported the financial report to be in order and correct. They only did the audit since Merlin took over. The board had an outside audit done during the secretary transition.

Dan Dew moved to accept the financial report. Jerome Peerboom seconded the motion. **M/C**
Question from the floor: What is the current state for mileage? Answer: .56/mile

Education Report

Derrill Fick reported holding Sprayer Schools in May at Carrington, Morton County and Ward County. Safety, education, calibration, ROW recertification, weed identification, updates from the NDDA, 4 wheeler ATV Safety course. It is designed for new people but also as a refresher course. Thanks to all who helped in any way, from hosting to teaching, to supplying the refreshments. The committee also had a Booth at Earth Day in Bismarck. They did a lot of research into the history booklets that are being handed out this year, our 30th. We will be having a presentation tomorrow afternoon. The committee also decided to hand out in honor of our 30th anniversary, the pad folios you received when you picked up your convention packets. We are again having a poster contest in the exhibitor's room. Please vote for the one you like the best. Last year's winner was Alex Worter from Drayton. Kadie and Stan went to his classroom and gave a presentation. Hats, cards and coolies are available.

Legislative

Merlin Leithold reported that last session, he attended a record number of hearings on taxation issues. Most of those bills need to be tracked, not necessarily testifying. The noxious weed line came through the legislature fully funded. Merlin reminded counties that they need to make sure that they spend all of their funds allocated to them by the department. He also attended several hearings concerning corps land around both Lake Oahe and Lake Sakakawea.

Industry Report

Bill Walker, CPS Timberland gave the state of the industry report for 2014.

Dow: prices on milestone and Tordon should be stable. Some of their other chemicals may increase by 3%. They are still pursuing an aquatic label for milestone. Chaparral will be discontinued while Opensight will be registered. Opensight is the same as Chaparral, and slightly a better chemical. DuPont: They are still pursuing the registration for Perspective for range and pasture. Possibly later this fall, but no guarantees. Prices should be stable for Escort and Telar. BASF: Plateau prices should be very stable in 2014. Overdrive will be higher. Frequency will possible have a rate/acre increase to 16oz/acre for bareground control. Amine prices should be stable. Glyphosate prices should be stable for now. Dicamba products are in extremely short supply. We could see some significant price increases this season.

Government Report

Dave has been in contact with other agencies to try and get them involved in our association and to get them to become members. Dave and his crew helped out at several leafy spurge field days this past summer. They were able to send some beetles to several western states to help those states in establishing insectaries. Rich Hanson was one of the first persons to release flea beetles in ND. He is now working with bio control for Houndstongue. Hopefully we can get some in ND this coming summer. Yellow Toadflax bio control seems to show some real promise. He brought some in from Montana a year ago.

NDDA Report

Rachel has nothing new to report from earlier today

Old Business:

Lawsuit Update: Merlin reported that he has not heard of any decision from the ND Supreme Court from the hearing earlier this year. It does look like Empower the taxpayer group could be possibly appealing again to the Supreme Court, but nothing has been received in the mail or by e mail.

New Business:

There are no resolutions this year.

Amendment to the bylaws:

Dan Dew read the proposed amendment to the association by laws. The amendment would add the following language to Article 5 Sec 1 Line E. Following an area alternate again. The period would be changed to a comma and the following words would be added (**Except for the industry and Government board members who may serve unlimited number of two year terms**)The proposal was also up on the screen.

Elvin Johnson moved to accept the proposed changes to the bylaws, Leon Pederson seconded the motion. **M/C**

Nomination for 2nd vice president

Nominations can be from Areas I, IV or V.

Leon Pederson, Area I and Kevin Schmidt, Area IV were nominated at the area meetings.

President Gary called for further nominations from the floor. None were nominated. Gary asked Leon and Kevin to come forward to give a campaign speech. Ballots were handed out to voting delegates.

While counting was taking place, President Gary asked for nominations for Industry. Bill Walker was nominated from the Area meetings.

Hope Mastel moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Bill Walker. Chuck Weiser seconded the motion. **M/C**

President Gary asked for nominations for Government. David Hirsch was nominated at the area meetings. Kevin Schmidt moved that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for David Hirsch. Leon Pederson seconded the motion. **M/C**

The ballots were counted. President announces that Leon Pederson is the new 2nd vice president. President Gary thanks both for running.

President's Transition

President Gary Hartman again thanks everyone for their support and turned the gavel over to the 2014 President, Jim McAllister.

President Jim thanked Gary for his dedicated service.

Trust Fund

President Jim called upon Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer to come up and bring the members up to date on the proposal. Stan gave a history for the reason he first proposed this to the association board. Quite simply, it is to fund research. After a meeting with AG

Commissioner Doug Goehring, he and the board feel that a standalone fund may not be the best approach at this time, but rather to pursue a grant from the Heritage fund may be the best approach.

President Jim asked the membership for their thoughts and ideas. One question asked was whether this would be a onetime expenditure or continuous funding. Stan stated that this is for ongoing research, possible multiyear grant for experiment stations or possibly a grad student at NDSU.

Question asked: Where will this money be spent? It will be spent in the state. It will not be spent out of ND. Question asked: Who will control the funds, who will decide where the money is spent? President Jim stated that we may be changing our focus as an association on weed control. Question asked: Could we talk to Montana about their trust fund and how it works?

Answer: Yes but that is a different type of fund than the Heritage fund.

Question asked: How about doing more for weed control in western ND?

Comments stated:

Should spend more on education.

We as an association should be helping all counties in ND.

What happens if we don't pursue funds now for research or if we don't get a grant?

Answer: Research is currently put on the shelf waiting for funding from somewhere.

Question asked: What is the cost of the grant? Answer: Approximately \$100,000 annually.

President Jim called for more questions or comments. None were stated.

President Jim then called for a show of hands to proceed with a grant proposal. Majority of hands feel we should proceed.

No other business was brought forward.

President Jim stated that the convention will be held here in Mandan next year January 6 – 8, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin Leithold
Executive Secretary