

NDWCA Area IV Minutes

Morton County Hwy. Department, Mandan, ND

Yet to be approved

October 30th, 2014

Area Director, Kevin Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Grant, Morton, Emmons, Sheridan, Burleigh and Oliver. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences, Ron Manson, NDWCA Area II director, Stutsman County, Jim McAllister, 2014 NDWCA President, Barnes County and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary, Grant County.

Additional agenda items: none presented.

2013 area IV minutes were read. Kevin asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. None were presented. Jim Boehm moved to accept the minutes as presented. James Haux seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Dr. Rod Lym asked that Merlin take the photos and description of Japanese Knotweed to the remaining areas, and pass them around. Found a plant in Grand Forks of Japanese Fleece Flower, a horticulture variety of Japanese Knotweed. Has been there for years, has not spread, yet, but that is how they all started. Rod will try and have a live plant at the annual meeting in January.

Annual Meeting update:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 6, 7, & 8th, 2015 at the Seven Seas in Mandan. There will be a board meeting Monday evening at 6:00 pm. Tuesday morning and part of the afternoon will be the Ag. Commissioner's forum. Around 3:30, we will have our annual business meeting. Tuesday evening will be the beer and brat social and auction. Please bring an auction item or items to be auctioned off. Net proceeds go to the education committee for their years' activities. Wednesday will be a full day of speakers, a noon luncheon, and of course the banquet in the evening. Greg Hagar, a country western singer, will be the entertainment. We will have the banquet in the large meeting room. Feedback from last year was to have the banquet in the large room every year. More elbow room. Thursday morning, we will again have the exhibitor breakfast, followed by speakers until noon. There will be a board meeting at noon on Thursday to wrap up the activities.

The hotel no longer has a full service restaurant. They serve a free continental breakfast every morning, and you can get burgers etc. through the bar, and also pizza. The meals for the annual meeting has not changed.

Exhibitor breaks have gotten expensive. The board of directors has proposed to have sponsors for the breaks. We want everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. Merlin will get a letter printed and put on our website, to be downloaded, for folks to take to these businesses. Good feedback, with numerous business names mentioned.

County reports:

Grant: submitted by Merlin Leithold

We started spraying roads in the county the beginning of June. We finished spraying roads the 17th of October. I spray all the roads, 1569 miles of county roads. I also spray the DOT roads in the county, approximately 125 miles. DOT roads are sprayed at least twice a year. As far as weeds in road ditches, Dalmation Toadflax was probably towards the top of the acres of weeds sprayed, followed very closely by Leafy Spurge, Absinth Wormwood, Canada thistle, Black henbane Baby's Breath and Yellow Toadflax brought up the least of acres. With the wet summer, I saw a lot of spots of spurge, which were sprayed in early June, that there was some regrowth coming in late September. Those spots were sprayed at 1 pint Amine, 1 quart Tordon plus surfactant. Also, quite a few spots of Canada thistle this fall, especially on DOT roads.

This year we changed our cost share program. We were finding that our acres sprayed were dropping, and I decided that before we lose county and state funding, we better do something. We still cost share 80% up front on Tordon, Milestone, Plateau and Curtail. Also, if anyone could use Perspective, we would cost share it on a case by case basis, which means that the ground would be inspected first before they could even purchase it. When they purchase the chemical, they are given spray logs. If they fill these out and send them back, they then will receive a check for the remaining 20%. This in kind cost share helps offset their spraying expense. This has been very well perceived. We did not require landowners to purchase from us, but most of them did. If they purchased from a dealer their costs were somewhat higher, and they only receive cost share based on our prices which are basically cost. We do not have a set day for those to purchase chemical. If someone called, I had them come in early in the morning, by 7:00 so that I could go spraying. Sometimes late in the afternoon worked as well, usually near dark.

This year we hired Mid-Dakota Weed Management out of South Dakota to spray for landowners. They sprayed approximately 600 hours for landowners, some this summer and some this fall. Pat Swift from Glen Ullin also did a little spraying for us again. He only sprays for a couple of neighbors, as he is already 83 years young.

This summer we again had a Leafy Spurge Bio-control Day at Lake Tschida, on July 11th, our 18th annual. We had 68 people in attendance, collecting 112,000 beetles. We had folks from 4 counties, and state and federal agencies.

I would like to thank the ND Dept. of Ag., and Chelsey and her crew for coming out to help with the day. Also thank you to Dave Hirsch, at APHIS, for coming out with a crew to help us with the bug day. We also hired a crew of 4 to sweep for us that day.

We found no salt cedar in the county again this year, including at Lake Tschida,

We did however find Purple Loosestrife at Lake Tschida.

In summary, it did not start out as the best year for spraying, but it sure finished well.

Morton: submitted by Wayne Carter

We sprayed most of the county, state and federal roads and housing developments in the county. In 2014, the weed board cost-shared Plateau, Curtail, Milestone and Tordon22k.

Cost-shared 131.5 gallons Curtail with 11 producers

Cost-shared 22 gallons Plateau with 9 producers

Cost-shared 468.5 gallons Tordon 22k with 53 producers

Cost-shared 319 quarts Milestone with 52 producers

Tordon22k and all other chemical sales were lower in 2014 than in 2013

I wish to thank everyone who helped out in my time of need! THANK YOU

Emmons:

Sprayed all the highway ROW twice for Wormwood, Leafy Spurge and Canada thistle. A lot of vehicle problems, so didn't get all the other spraying done as wanted to. Cost-share Curtail, Chaparrel and Tordon22k. Some landowners don't want to do the paperwork necessary for receiving cost-share. We found Salt Cedar this fall – 1 8ft. tree. Sprayed it with Garlon. Sprayed some smaller ones last year in the same general area. Did get some weeds sprayed for the Corps this season.

Sheridan:

New spray crew this year. It was late June before we got started. They did a good job. Rehired them again this fall. Did ROW's this year. We are still spraying on them. The crew will come back next year. Had LAP cost share to 5 people. They get \$15/acre. Cost share Chaparrel, Forefront and Milestone.

Burleigh: submitted by Gary Hartman

We started spraying the first week of June, and sprayed through early October. On NDDOT ROW's, we did not complete until mid-July. We spray on Hwy 83, I-94, Hwy 36 and Hwy 41. We spray the county ROW's and old Hwy 10, for a total of 1500+ miles. Milestone sales to 67 customers for 849 acres. Cost share totals to 226 landowners for 1,381.4 acres.

Notice of control letters sent: 12, Fines: 2 landowners for \$160/ each.

Our Spotted Knapweed site has been reduced to about 1.5 acres. Musk thistle is still spreading. Houndstongue: 4 private applications. Purple Loosestrife: \$5,000 + spent over 5 days of spraying (includes boat rental & duck waders). Gravel pits: 3 checked out o.k. Leafy spurge beetles: we swept in Grant and Stutsman counties, and redistributed them.

Oliver: submitted by Rick Schmidt

The Oliver County Weed Board hired S&M Lawn Service to spray ND State Highways #25, 31, 48 and Alternate 200, within the boundaries of the county, at a rate of \$60 per hour. They are under contract to spray Leafy spurge, Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle.

Through the cost-share program, we distributed 50 gallons of Liberate, 92.5 gallons of Curtail, 228 quarts of Milestone, 150 gallons of Tordon22k, and 17 quarts of Chaparrel. There were 6 notification letters sent to landowners for non-compliance, with no fines in 2014.

Agencies:

Government report: David Hirsch, USDA APHIS PPQ. Dave could not be at the area meetings, so he sent this report with Merlin to read to each area.

Kevin Schmidt, Area director, read the report.

Government Report

USDA APHIS PPQ, Bismarck, ND

2014 Field Season activities:

- Spurge Beetle harvest was at least fair at most locations. The cool wet season reduced harvest potential as compared to warmer dry conditions which are more suitable.
- PPQ facilitated or helped at 5 field days and provided presentations at 2 meetings.
- PPQ supplied North Dakota spurge beetles to 2 states. 3 other states had made requests for ND flea beetles but due to the lower numbers harvested they did not receive any.
- I had made a request for additional yellow toadflax bio control agents obtained through PPQ in Montana. Two released were obtained and delivered to the ND Dept. of Ag. The extreme cold last winter in Montana may have reduced bio control insect populations.
- I have established a new bio control agent permit based on ND needs. It contains a long list of agents that ND uses but has many others that ND may want or need in the future. The permit will make the bio control option available for the management of new invasive weeds if weed managers decide bio control should be implemented. Weed managers may obtain bio control agents through this permit by working through APHIS PPQ. This new permit does not supersede any other permits that weed officers or other agencies may have or want to establish on their own.
- Houndstongue agents: Research on the seed weevil is in the final stages and the researchers may be applying for a US release permit this winter.
- APHIS PPQ bio control funding seems to be stable for the 2015 field season so local staff will be available to help with field days and presentations.

Industry:

Mike Schalla – Dow AgroSciences. I represent the manufacturer. I cover vegetation management, not crops. I can refer you to those within our company that do. I am excited for the upcoming year. North Dakota is a higher use state for milestone. Canada thistle is the #1 weed in North Dakota. We have a couple of new products on the horizon. Milestone can be sprayed to the waters' edge, while the aquatic label for it will allow you to spray into the water, to get plants that are in the water. This will not control aquatic weeds. We are hoping that with the predate set at December 6th, it will get the aquatic label. Thanks for all your business.

Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply. Thanks for your business, in the past and into the future. Our chemical comes out of our Pierre, SD warehouse, so we can get chemical to you quickly. Thanks for allowing me to take part of this day.

Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division. Thank you to all of you folks for the business this past season. Hope to continue to work with all of you this coming season as well.

In the last 24 hours, a lot has changed in industry, as far as you folks are concerned. Bayer Crop Sciences has purchased a portion of DuPont. That portion does include the land management division and their products. This sale will take effect January 1st.

Perspective: Pre approval date has been moved from October 10th to February, 2015. So nothing has changed as far as the label. When they hear something, they will let Bill know and he will forward it to Merlin to be put on list serve. DuPont/Bayer thinks that the state of Texas will be applying for a state section 18, for the use of Perspective on Mesquite. If that takes place, North Dakota could do the same. This could help push EPA to lift the label restrictions.

DuPont/Bayer: Increased prices for Streamline and Perspective on October 1 by 5%.

Dow: Not a lot of changes. The aquatic label on Milestone could happen by December 1. In 2015, prices will increase for Milestone by \$2.00/quart. But it will decrease in gallons by \$20/gallon for government agency only. Other Dow products will see a 3 to 5% increase.

Dicamba still in short supply and huge price increases. Glyphosate and 2-4D supplies are stable at this time. Inert may change in insecticide.

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist. I am the new noxious weed specialist. I took over for Rachel. Rachel is still with the department. My phone number is still the same as it was with Rachel 701-328-2983. The noxious weed people are Carrie, our program director, Lane, Jim and myself. Jim will be attending the annual meeting, so if you have any computer, data-logger questions, see Jim.

We have various publications available, get ahold of me and I can get them to you.

Weed Seed Free Forage: 2014 - 11,943 acres inspected, 11,176 acres certified, 2 times more than last year. 20,115 tags issued, and 3 producers used the purple and yellow twine.

Biological Control: 1.25 million flea beetles collected and redistributed throughout the state. Helped with field days in Benson, Stark, Grant and Stutsman Counties. Released 725 yellow toadflax weevils in Ward and Bottineau Counties. Spotted Knapweed weevils were monitored for release in Golden Valley County. In 2015, plans are: April/May: Monitor yellow toadflax weevil insectaries for establishment, June: Collect and redistribute knapweed flower or seed head weevils on hard to access stands, June/July: Collect or redistribute leafy spurge flea beetles, help with field days or just with collecting, August: Monitor knapweed root weevil for establishment, collect and redistribute if necessary.

Funding: USFS Grants: Toadflax – closed, Houndstongue – closed, Flood/Land Enhancement 1, land Enhancement 2 & 3 – are open to the public, Early Detection Rapid Response – for county weed boards.

TAG: All weed boards qualify, 44% spent so far, reimbursement vouchers due by July 3rd, 2015.

Can use these funds for nearly anything. Need pre approval from the department.

LAP: Boards that levy 3 mills or budget the equivalent of 3 mills qualify. 67% so far. Vouchers due by January 3rd, 2015.

Each county viewed where they are at on their LAP spending so far. Discussion on reapplying for LAP after January, to be used by the end of June. We don't want to return any funds back to EARP.

Questions arose as to weed acres reported basing those acres into the formula. Some felt that if you show a lot of acres of weeds, the better the funding allocation to that particular county. A lot of discussion occurred.

Kevin Schmidt asked for a break, giving Chelsey time to show how the LAP formula works.

Chelsey showed that there are currently 48 counties eligible for LAP. 20% of the formula is based on weed acres reported in annual report.

Jim McAllister, 2014 NDWCA President: He encouraged people to attend the annual meeting. The association of counties is concerned about the use of ATVs used in spraying. He also encouraged counties to spend their allocations from the NDDA.

New Business:

Awards: Merlin showed everyone that the association now has two awards. We have combined the early career and senior awards into one award, the Weed Warrior Award. We have also created an award called the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to those former members who have now retired, whether they are alive or have passed on, and were part of the association's board at one time. Nomination forms will be on the website, and are available to be picked up today as well.

Report from Jackie Buckley, Morton County Extension Agent

Jackie reported that she had recently attended the new farm bill meeting held in Morton County. She reported that one of the new provisions, a landowner is required to control their noxious weeds on their property, or they will be in direct violation with FSA, and a loss of payments can occur. Also, she stated that bio-control is not considered as a means of control.

Merlin asked, if the FSA will determine whether there are violations, and become their own weed officers, or whether it will come back to county weed boards, such as is the case with CRP contracts. Jackie felt that it will be handled the same way as with CRP.

Elections:

Area Director: Jim Boehm nominated Kevin Schmidt, Morton County. There were no other nominations. James Haux moved that nominations cease, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Kevin Schmidt. Gary Hartman seconded the motion. M/C

1st Alternate: Merlin nominated Gary Hartman, Burleigh County. There were no other nominations. Merlin moved that that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Gary. Jim B. seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Alternate: Jim B. nominated Rick Schmidt, Oliver County. There were no other nominations. Jim B. moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Rick. Wayne seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Vice President: Can only be from areas 2, 4 & 5: Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer, has been nominated. He has accepted the nomination. Kevin Schmidt, Morton County board chairman, was nominated. Kevin accepted the nomination. His name will be placed on the ballot at the business meeting during the annual meeting in January.

Poster Contest: Kevin Schmidt mentioned that this has been going on for 8 years, and that the board of directors wants it to continue. The question is how we make it better. Merlin said that it is open to 5th and 6th graders. Merlin also mentioned as to what the education committee does with this contest. We only get a couple of the same schools each year. Merlin said that so far, suggestions were to get the weed boards aware as well, to follow up to the schools. Also, get it available to 4th graders. Maybe 6th grades have too much going on already. Also, it has been suggested to possibly open it up to 4-H clubs. The consensus of the area is to let weed boards follow up with the area schools.

Changing state law: Merlin mentioned that when the board met with Commissioner Goehring on September 23rd, one issue discussed was that some weed boards seem disengaged. Checking in state law, it was discovered that weed boards only are required to meet once a year. It used to be three times. Merlin said that the commissioner would like us to possibly have state law changed requiring three meetings per year. The board wants it brought to all areas for discussion before moving forward with it or leaving it alone. Kevin asked for a show of hands how many counties meet at least three times per year. All counties present raised their hands. A lot of discussion occurred. The consensus of the area is to leave it alone.

Resolutions: None were brought forward.

Changing the government position on the board: Bill brought forward the idea to change our bylaws to allow the government position on our board of directors be a non-paying member. Government employees usually cannot get their employer to pay dues to an organization such as ours. By changing the bylaws, we could possibly get more people interested in the position. David Hirsch is the only government full paid member in our organization. This could not be changed until the annual meeting in 2016. This is being brought up now for discussion only.

ATV Training: Jim McAllister, 2014 NDWCA President, talked about the importance of having a training program. He asked how many counties do ATV training, other than the sprayer schools. The discussion being heard from county officials, is that certification will be required. This cannot be done at sprayer schools. This training is a hands on approximately 6 hour course. Merlin and Wayne mentioned that they put on a training back when the counties purchased the ATV's with the state grant, a number of years back. Merlin stated that this was excellent, and definitely needs to be done again. After a lot of discussion, it needs to be done again.

Traveling Award: Morton County.

Other Business:

Question was asked, why not move the area meeting around, to other counties? Why always in Morton County? The most popular answer was that it is centrally located.

Merlin mentioned that we will have a booth again at KFVY Ag Days, Feb. 10 and 11, 2015. Dow AgroSciences will again sponsor the booth. Thank you to Mike for doing this.

Being no other business, Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rick moved to adjourn the meeting, James Haux seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary