

NDWCA Area I Minutes

Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND

Yet to be approved

October 27th, 2014

Area Director, Kadie Benson called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ramsey, Towner, Walsh, Cavalier, Nelson, Eddy and Pembina. Others present were Jim McAllister, 2014 NDWCA President, Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply, Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences, Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: none presented.

Merlin read the 2013 area I minutes. Leon moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Walker seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The 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:

Cavalier: A lot sprayed this season. A lot of Leafy Spurge. Spent \$5,000 on bio-control. Stem boring weevils for Canada thistle. Last year, saw an orange spider mite, a gall, on wormwood. Saw it this year in the same area. Seems to kill the wormwood dead. Will monitor and see next year, and check with NDSU.

Walsh: Spurge is the main weed, a fair amount of thistle. Density is down, but overall acres are increasing. 3500 acres treated, 12 bio-control releases, couple of notice to control letters. Did more fall work this year.

Towner: Fair amount of spurge, Wormwood heavy in some areas. Canada thistle as well. Some Dalmation toadflax by water areas. Tough year for spraying, but got it done.

Ramsey: Late year getting started, due to weather. Spurge and thistle are the main weeds. Milestone worked. Sent a couple of notices to control. A lot of bio-control.

Nelson: Cost shared Tordon, Plateau and Curtail. Spurge coming back this fall. Had 1,000 in spraying this year. We spray gravel pits. These are a huge concern to us. Something needs to be done. Needs to be enforced.

Eddy: Good jump on weed control. A lot sprayed by July 4th. Good handle on Babysbreath. Had 2 field days.

Pembina: Good Canada thistle control. Had a good spraying season and good fall spraying. Found some yellow toadflax. Sent out 6 notice to control letters.

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.

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: 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.

Perspective: Pre approval date has been moved from October 10th to February, 2015. So nothing has changed as far as the label. DuPont 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: 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 insecticides.

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. Quinclorac with 4oz of Overdrive looks to have very good control on Leafy Spurge. Thanks for allowing me to take part of this day.

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.

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.

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.

Break

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, 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.

Alvin Johnson mentioned that he was the first recipient of the award, even though he has not retired. Merlin stated that he was the exception to the rule, and before the rule was adopted.

Elections: Area Director: Leon nominated Kadie Benson. Being no other nominations, Leon moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Kadie, Brent seconded the motion, M/C. 1st Alternate Director: Leon nominated Brent Nelson. Being no other nominations, Leon moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Brent, Alvin seconded the motion. M/C. 2nd Alternate Director: Leon nominated Roger Gunderson. Being no other nominations, Leon moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Roger, Brent seconded the motion. M/C

2nd Vice President: Can only be from areas 2, 4 & 5: No nominations

Poster Contest: Kadie stated 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. It is open to 5th and 6th graders. We only get a couple of the same schools each year. Some 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.

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. Kadie 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. Again by show of hands, Area I feels that the law should be left 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 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. We will keep our members updated.

Being no other business was discussed, Kadie adjourned the meeting at 12:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary