

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck

March 25th, 2014

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jim McAllister called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Members present were Joan Lorge, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, David Hirsch, Bill Walker, Gary Hartman, Carrie Larson, Chelsey Penuel, Lane Kozel and Merlin Leithold.

Also present was Stan Wolf, Cass County weed officer.

Additional agenda items were: under new business – materials for display boards.

Merlin read the minutes from the January board meeting. Bill moved to accept the minutes as read, Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin gave the financial report. He passed out a map indicating which counties, cities and agencies have already paid their dues for 2014. He also gave the updated version of the budget presented in January, and he also handed out and explained the financial report from the 2014 convention. Joan moved to accept the financial report, Derrill seconded the motion. M/C

Convention Dates: Merlin explained that there was a mix-up on some future convention dates. Working with the Seven Seas, Merlin stated that the following dates are set:

2015: January 5, 6, 7, 8th – Seven Seas in Mandan

2016: January 4, 5, 6, 7th – Seven Seas in Mandan

2017: January 9, 10, 11, 12th – Seven Seas in Mandan

2018: January 8, 9, 10, 11th – Seven Seas in Mandan

2019: January 7, 8, 9, 10th – Seven Seas in Mandan

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill stated that the spring Sprayer Schools have been set. The following places have been selected:

May 27th – Dickinson - Stark County

May 28th – Stanley - Mountrail County

May 29th – Devils Lake - Ramsey County

May 30th – Jamestown - Stutsman County

All locations will start at 9:00 am local time.

There may not be no right of way recertification at the schools this year. Derrill will check with Andrew Thostenson to see if we could have them at two locations. There will be ATV training and weed ID training at all locations.

The education committee plans to have a booth on Earth Day in Bismarck. This year it will be at the McCabe United Methodist Church. Poster contest winner is from Linton. Kadie and Stan will present the winner with a plaque, and t shirts are being printed with the drawing from the winner placed on the t shirts.

NAISMA: Derrill stated that they are gearing up for Fargo. The dates for the conference in Fargo are September 28, 29, 30, 31, and Oct 1. Derrill asked if the weed association would be willing to sponsor a break at the conference. He will bring the cost of a break to the June board meeting for consideration.

Legislative: Merlin reported that he attended a meeting in Beulah put on by Eide Bailey concerning Corps land along lakes Oahe and Sakakawea. He wanted to hear the Sakakawea area's perspective. He will attend the meeting in Bismarck in June. This has been an issue for a number of years, the issue of wanting the corps to sell some of their landholdings back to the state or local landowners.

Merlin also held up a 31 page interim tax study which would directly relate to weed boards, as well as other entities. Merlin stated that this is the beginning of things to come, as the legislature tries to overhaul the tax system in the state.

Agency Reports:

Government: Dave Hirsch stated that his seasonal crew will possibly be down by two people, but even with a smaller crew, he is confident that they will be able to assist in all field days this summer. Dave has heard that Houndstongue bio control agents may be available for release in North America this summer. He has not heard whether North Dakota will get some, but he will let everyone know if they do come available.

NDDA: Carrie Larson introduced Chelsey Penuel, as the new noxious weed coordinator, replacing Rachel Spilde. Chelsey is no stranger to the ND noxious weed program. Chelsey interned in the noxious weed department several years ago. The NDDA has also started again the Land Enhancement program. This is through the US Forest Service. This helps restore land flooded this spring, including the spread of noxious weeds. The deadline to apply is April 18. The NDDA does have the new weed ID booklets available, either here in Bismarck, or you can pick them up in Fargo as well. Carrie also mentioned that the NDDA would like to send one member from each county/city weed board/weed officer to the NAISMA conference in Fargo this fall. This is not FINALIZED as of yet. They are checking on funding sources, etc. They will let everyone know if this becomes a reality.

Lane Kozel, NDDA, spoke on weed free forage issues. Currently, inspectors are under a contract with the NDDA. The NDDA is proposing changing this to better suit county weed boards. The NDDA is proposing to have weed boards, who have weed officers or members currently doing inspections, sign a joint powers agreement with the NDDA. This would however limit the weed officer/member to only inspect within that weed jurisdiction, unless they have a joint powers agreement with neighboring weed jurisdictions. Contracts will still be used for those inspectors who do not belong to weed boards, such as extension agents. Contracts may also still be used for weed officers/members who still desire to be under a contract. They plan on extending the contracts an extra year, as training will be done every two years. There were 39 inspections

done in 2013. Also, discussion was held on state borders, and there are no inspections being done on forage traveling to or from North Dakota.

Industry: Bill Walker stated that everything he stated in January has remained the same or has come to pass. Dicamba shortage and higher prices, Plateau, Tordon, Milestone, and Amine stable. Oust has a new label, with stricter restrictions on distance near water. Be sure and check the label.

Perspective is still not labeled without the one year restrictions. May be fully labeled in October, but no guarantees.

OLD BUSINESS:

Empower the taxpayer lawsuit: Merlin received an e mail from the Association of counties attorney, Aaron Birst. The case at the Supreme Court is still pending. Another appeal may be coming, but nothing more to report at this time.

NDSU Research Fund: Stan Wolf, Cass county weed officer, handed out the finalized proposal that was sent to Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring. The front page gives the list of items that the Heritage Committee would not consider for funding. Research is on that list. So, we are back to square one. Discussion was held whether to pursue this as a trust fund proposal to the legislature. A lot of discussion took place. Jim added Merlin and Derrill to the committee to work on this. Merlin will talk to Wade Moser, chairperson of the Heritage Committee, and then he will also talk to certain legislators to get their feel and direction. A possible funding source could be the EARP fund. But numbers would have to be run to see where the EARP fund is at, come the end of the biennium, and also the commissioner needs to be on board with this as well. Derrill will check with folks from Montana to see how their trust fund is set up. Will discuss further in June. Hopefully we will have a clear direction by then.

Container Recycling: Derrill mentioned that Winfield Solutions from Minot, do take empty chemical jugs at no charge for recycling. They will give you the bags, you clean up the jugs, triple rinsed, labels and lids off and put them in the bags. Bill said that he is still working with Larry Bricco from IBCNA out of Chicago to set up a program across the state. There may be a charge to do this. Also, Bill stated that his company, CPS, could be used in transporting empty jugs to different pickup sites, as long as they are on CPS's routes. The NDDA is also working on putting together a pickup site list.

Ag Coalition: Jim mentioned that Kevin has been working on this, but could not attend today. Jim mentioned what the membership dues were. Joan moved to table until June, Ron seconded the motion. M/C

NEW BUSINESS:

Dickinson Reclamation Conference: Jim stated that the association had a booth at the conference. Les Simnioniw had the booth. He gave out a lot of the small weed ID booklets.

Northern Great Plains Workshop: Stan attended the two day workshop, which dealt mainly with cool season grasses, and the grass invaders of our grasslands. Jim felt that we should continue to have the topic discussed at our annual conference.

License Plates: Leon is not here today, so this subject will be discussed at the June meeting.

Material for display boards: Joan feels that the area display boards need to be brought up to date and more material displayed on them. Derrill stated that they need updating. Derrill and Joan will work on this.

Break for Lunch

NDDA handed out the final Pollinator plans that are also posted on their website. They are basically the same as the draft plan handed out in January. Jim stated that everyone needs to read the plan.

Dick Anderson: Jim mentioned that he visited with him and he is doing much better.

Awards: Ron feels that we should change the awards. We should have one award. It should be an achievement award. What he or she has done for their county/city, and mainly what they have done for the association? There should also be a way that they could apply on the website. Merlin will talk to Terry, and report back at the June meeting.

Membership list: Merlin passed out the map showing the paid members for 2014.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary