



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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2014 Board of Directors:

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 Area II: Ron Manson (701)251-1261
 Area III: Dan Dew (701)756-6320
 Area IV: Kevin Schmidt (701)663-2024
 Area V: Joan Lorge (701)879-6316
 Industry: Bill Walker (605)642-3800
 Gov.: David Hirsch (701)527-7820
 Ex. Sec. Merlin Leithold (701)570-3545

Upcoming Meetings @ Seven Seas in Mandan

BOD Meeting January 5, 6:00 pm

Annual Conference @ Seven Seas January 6—8, 2015

Executive Secretary Note

In the inside two pages of this issue, you will read about Commissioner Doug Goehring and former state senator Ryan Taylor’s comments and answers to questions that we asked them when they attended our September 23rd board meeting. This was not a debate, as they appeared at separate times. This has been the tradition of your association. We do not endorse a candidate. Please read what they had to say, and make sure you vote in November. Both candidates are worthy of your consideration and vote.

Questions were:

1. Accountability of noxious weed control of ND Game & Fish, State Trust Lands, ND Park & Rec, and others.
2. Supporting the ND Weed Control Assoc.
3. How can we (The NDWCA & the commissioner) get lesser counties more active in weed control efforts.
4. How important is noxious weed control to you.
5. What do you feel the role of the local weed control

Area Meetings Schedule Set

Area I - October 27 - Ramsey Co. Courthouse
 Devils Lake
 Area II - October 28 - Barnes Co. Hwy Bldg.
 Valley City
 Area III - October 29 - North Central Research
 Minot
 Area IV - October 30 - Morton Co. Hwy Bldg.
 Mandan
 Area V - October 31 - New Courthouse
 Amidon

All meetings start at 9:00 am local time and hope to be done by noon.

Agenda at all area meetings

- Poster Contest
- ATV Training
- Business sponsors for conference breaks
- Auction items/ 2015 conference update
- Resolutions
- State Weed Law Change/Adding meetings for county weed boards
- Changing government position in by-laws
- County reports
- NDDA Update
- Industry/Chemical Reps Update
- Lifetime Achievement & Weed Warrior Award Update
- 2nd Vice President nominations
(Candidate can only be from Area II, IV, V)
- Area Director Elections in Area I, IV, V

Questions Cont.— and a weed control officer should be.

6. What are your thoughts on adding 1 full FTE, to the noxious weed division, as an outreach person to local weed boards.

Doug Goehring farms south of Menoken with his son, the third generation to be on the farm. They plant a variety of crops to be diversified. He has been ND AG Commissioner for the last 5 and one-half years. He has enjoyed working with the NDWCA. There have been challenges, but we have become stronger working together. ND produces a lot of different products that are shipped to different parts of the US and the world. Technology is also a large part in helping what we produce. Research is also a large part of the equation in helping what gets produced, and in the large quantities that we produce. Trade is also a key component to everything, certainly not the least important. With ND being a land locked state, we need to push for trade.

Shipping by rail has been a huge problem this year, since the railroads are shipping a lot of other commodities besides grain. Leon then asked why this continues to be a problem. A lot of good discussion took place. The commissioner understands the problem, and he continues to fight the railroads on these issues. The commissioner has to deal with both the Canada Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. If we would get more pipelines in place, for the oil, that would free up track space for farm commodities.

Jim stated that controlling noxious weeds by pipeline companies and railroads can be a problem. Doug stated that he is aware that these issues could be a problem. Jim wants to be insured that when it comes to reclamation, that the commissioner's office is aware of these issues. Doug stated that they are and they are working with these companies to ensure that this is taking place.

Dan Dew mentioned that there are weed issues on public land. Doug stated that if there is a weed problem on any state owned land, and they are not doing a means of control, let him know, and he will help. Doug wants copies of letters sent to him and to Carrie, letters that counties are sending to state agencies. Doug feels that there are three modes of action to control, clipping, bio control, and chemical. Each has its place, but each parcel of land may take a different mode, or two or all three.

The commissioner feels that all land in the state should be owned by private individuals, not by the state or federal government.

Jim asked how we can get legislators to understand that noxious weed control are important. Doug stated that the active counties are our success stories. The inactive counties are the problem. Legislators see the inactive counties, making these legislators feel that the EARP money should be spent somewhere else.

Inactive counties are a tough problem for his office. We need to assist them as much as we can. The authority falls back to the local government, other than if there needs to be a quarantine on property, then his office will step in. Keep the line of communication open with his office.

Jim asked about outreach to the counties. Would he be willing to add another person to the noxious weed team for outreach? Right now there is one and a half persons devoted to noxious weeds. Chelsey has attempted to reach some of the counties, about a third of them.

Some counties are only meeting once a year. Jim feels that possibly it should fall back to the county commissions. Doug stated that he has heard, through the Governors' office, that there is a movement that weed board mill levies should be stripped out of the county budgets. After visiting with the Governor, the Governor supports the mill levies for weed boards, as it is now.

As far as legislators are concerned, Doug feels that the legislature will leave the funding from EARP for noxious weed control alone this upcoming session.

Jim stated that he would like the commissioners' office to let the association know if certain legislators are having questions, and we would be more than willing to visit with them.

The commissioner stated that the large box stores are selling noxious weeds, but with other names. This is a growing problem.

Carrie stated that according to state law, weed boards are only required to meet once a year. Doug asked if we would like to change the law. The board seemed in favor of changing it. Maybe we could get a legislator, who has doubts about weed control, to sponsor the change.

Jim asked the commissioner what he feels about research funding. Where could we find funds for research?

The commissioner asked who funds them now. Jim stated that commodity groups are their main funding mechanism. The commissioner stated that have them (NDSU) come to the Ag. Dept. for possible grant funds, possibly through crop harmonization or other ways. He would like to have more information on what they would do with the funds. Possibly more partnerships.

Leon was wondering if we could work with other states on research. The commissioner stated that Minnesota and Montana would be difficult to work with. He would like to, but there a lot of issues to deal with.

Ryan Taylor ranches near Towner with his family, since 1992. They have a cattle and hay ranch in eastern McHenry County, with noxious weeds. Ryan became a Senator in 2002. Served 3 sessions in the Senate AG committee. Was Senate minority leader in 2011, before redistricting ended his term. In 2012, he was appointed to the county commission, but has not elected to run for that position this year, since he is running for ND Ag Commissioner.

Ryan feels that serving on these various positions, he has worked with different levels for funding the three mills for noxious weed control.

Enforcement and control on state owned lands. The authority is there. Nothing makes a landowner more upset than a state entity as a neighbor, and they are not controlling their weeds. First you look why they are not controlling their weeds. Enforcement is an option, but you also must look if they need more funds to control noxious weeds, and advocate for them to receive more funds. Biological control can help, but they do not work on all areas, like in McHenry County. He worked for Cornbelt Chemical Company, so he is well aware of different chemicals, as they use them on their ranch as well.

He will support the NDWCA if he becomes Ag Commissioner. He supported us while he was a state senator as well. He was quick to accept our invitation to the board meeting. He strongly feels a strong commitment to support us, and the work that we do. Both Roger Johnson and Sarah Vogel, both former ND Ag commissioners, told Ryan to always support the NDWCA.

On our mission statement, leadership is first. Ryan feels that is very important as well.

Controlling noxious weeds is very important to him, as he grew up with it.

McHenry County is not only the Cattle Capital of ND, but also the Leafy Spurge Capital of ND as well, due to the sandy soils and high water tables.

There are some counties that probably don't do enough, but most counties do their very best to control the weeds in their counties, with the funds that they do have. We need to help those counties as well. Noxious weed control is very important to the protection of agriculture in ND.

Ryan sees the new generation of farmers seeing a stronger need to control noxious weeds.

As Ag commissioner, to get lesser counties involved, you need more outreach, possibly needing more resources from the department. The NDWCA could also be a help to those counties, such as a mentor.

Ryan sees the role of weed boards and weed officers is that they are the front line in weed control. We have the authority, as in the statute, but sometimes using a big hammer, is not the first option. Using NDSU and other resources to educate the landowner first, to try and get them to control their weeds, using the hammer as a last option.

As AG commissioner, he would consider looking at adding a person to the department for outreach. That essentially ties everything together. That person would have to be qualified to assist those lesser involved counties become more active. There is a lot of good help out there waiting to be hired. Ryan would like to stop the turnover that has taken place in the Ag Department.

Ryan appreciates the invitation to come to the board, not only to meet us, but to speak to us. ND is here because of agriculture. We have an oil boom right now, but agriculture is the main stay.

Jim asked Ryan's stand on research for noxious weed control. Ryan feels that research is very important, whether it is for weed control or crops. Ryan would help, in any way he could to find funding for noxious weed research, whether it be from the federal side or from the state side.

As a member of the industrial commission, he would try and ensure that money from oil would be invested into agriculture.

Kevin asked about corps land being returned to the state, what influence could Ryan have. Ryan feels that the land should be in local hands, for better weed control.

Ryan wants to work with everyone, no matter what party they belong to.

Presidents Report

Here we are again. The leaves are turning golden brown, frost is in the air, and fall is here. Where did the summer go? It seemed that the early part of the season was a constant battle with the wind and the rain interfering with spraying. The wind and rain seems to always win when your job is to control noxious weeds by spraying. When it finally cleared up, there was no end to the work. Recycling chemical jugs was mentioned in the last newsletter. If you follow the link included, you will find other information. I have found our local recycler very helpful. Just remember to triple rinse. I believe all of the jugs we handle are #2 plastic. The link below will lead you to those who recycle in your area. <http://www.ndswra.org/dnn/Home.aspx> At the fall board meeting in late September, we discussed the safety issues and what we do for training in the area of ATV and UTV's. This stems from the tragic death of Jared Burian, Golden Valley weed control officer, in an ATV rollover. This reminds us of the dangers that are always out there when we are spraying and scouting in some very rough terrain. Expect to hear more about this in the future. Please take your safety and employees' safety very serious. For those counties that do not take advantage of funding available from the NDDA, please apply for Landowner Assistance Funding or Targeted Assistance Grants. This funding is available to help landowners purchase chemical and weed boards work on specific weed problems or purchase equipment. I know that many did not take advantage of the offer from the state to pay for registration to the NAISMA in Fargo on Sept. 29 thru Oct. 1. It was very interesting visiting with others from across the country and realizing that they deal with some of same issues we do. The tour of the NDSU Greenhouse was very interesting and impressive. It is amazing that we have a facility of this caliber in our state. Wish you could have been there. On Friday we lost a long time member of the NDWCA and old board member Richard "Dick" Anderson from Sargent County. Through Dick's illness, this has made me stop and think about the relationships we build throughout our lives. Dick became a true friend as well as a work colleague; he was easy to work with and very dedicated. We take our work serious, as we should, but we must always remember as important as our work is, our relationships with those around us is what it is all about in life. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Make every effort to attend the area meetings the last week of Oct. Enjoy the rest of the fall, keep safe and I will plan to see you at the January convention.

Jim McAllister 2014 NDWCA President

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