

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan

January 5th & 8th, 2015

Yet to be Board Approved

President Jim McAllister called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Members present were Joan Lorge, Derrill Fick, Ron Manson, David Hirsch, Bill Walker, Gary Hartman, Leon Pederson, Kadie Benson, Dan Dew, Kevin Schmidt, Chelsey Penuel, Stan Wolf, Cass County and Merlin Leithold.

Additional agenda items were: under new business – Monarch Butterfly

Joan moved to suspend reading of the minutes. Leon seconded the motion. M/C Everyone reviewed the minutes from the September board meeting. . Bill moved to approve the minutes, Kadie seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin read the financial report. Dan moved to approve the financial report, Bill seconded the motion. M/C

Pizza Hut delivered. Break for pizza.

Merlin summarized the 2015 budget, which was worked on at the September board meeting. No changes have been made since then. Joan moved to approve the budget for 2015, Kevin seconded the motion. M/C

Committee Reports:

Education: Stan stated that the committee purchased a few more pad folios for resale. We now have 32 on hand, and the cost will be \$18/each. He also listed what the committee has on hand. Derrill stated that the poster contest went better than last year, but more work is needed. The ND Department of Public Instruction gave us a list of schools and that was very helpful. Derrill also sent the list to all area directors, for a follow up. DPI will work with us again next year, making labels for us, etc. The education committee will try and meet during the conference. Earth day is in April, and we usually attend.

NAISMA: Derrill stated that the conference last fall in Fargo went quite well. Thank you to the NDDA for funding the registrations and the speaker. Also, thank you to the NDWCA for sponsoring a break. Next year the conference will be in Vancouver, BC. They are going over their membership lists, to see who still wants to be a member, get everything updated.

Legislative: Merlin stated that there are several tax bills of concern. SB 2056 does a few minor changes. HB 1055, changes the entire tax code from mills to percent's. One mill now, will be .05 cents per \$1,000 property evaluation. Another bill, which has no number as of yet, consolidates the levies. This drops noxious and adds grass control to the weed law. This is quite serious. The NDDA budget bill, SB 2009 will be heard January 15, at 8:30 am in Senate Appropriations. Also, this Friday, there is a joint meeting of the legislative Ag. Committees to hear the Ag.

Commissioner give the safe send and container disposal report and commodities to give their reports.

Convention: The aggregate meeting has been switched from Wednesday to Thursday, to accommodate Kevin Sedivic. He needs to speak on Wednesday, as he will be gone on Thursday. Also on the aggregate panel, we have Marsha Watland, from Becker Co, Minn... Our Wednesday luncheon speaker is Steve Van Dyke, from the lignite council. For the women's luncheon, they will be going to the Heritage Center after the meal. The hotel will take them over. We had four applications for weed warrior award. One for lifetime achievement, Richard Anderson. We will give out two weed warrior awards, one to Jared Burian and one to Mike Connally, Mercer County Weed Board.

Agency Reports:

Government: Dave Hirsch stated that nothing new to report since the area meetings. Thank you to Merlin for taking his report to all the area meetings. Their budget is stable, and they should be able to help with field days again this coming summer.

NDDA: Chelsey stated that they are ready for tomorrow, for the Commissioners forum, hope everyone can attend. A prime focus is the LAP formula. Concerns and questions were raised at the Area IV meeting, prompting the department to revisit the formula, and work with the association to change and improve it, if needed. They want all concerns brought to the area directors, and bring to the March board meeting.

Industry: Bill Walker stated that in 2015, everything he said at the area meetings has come to pass. Dow has taken a 5 to 7% increase. Milestone has come down in gallons to \$277/gallon government agency. Milestone has gone up to \$78.75. Your local dealers are not in that price, just through distributors. Dicamba is still in short supply. DuPont is now Bayer for the range management division. Labels will be the same, for now. Price increases did happen, but all prices are through agencies only. It looks like they are coming out with Method, a liquid Perspective, without Telar in it. Easier on forbs than Perspective. But, like Perspective, needs a label approval. Scott is still our rep., now with Bayer, while Katie is now the extension agent in Grant/Sioux Counties.

OLD BUSINESS:

Research: Stan spoke about the proposal for research. It is on the shelf, for now. We still need a dedicated funding source, to use for education, research, and more, similar to what commodity groups do. Is rangeland/pasture a commodity? Good discussion followed. Merlin gave a brief history of the EARP fund. At one time, that would have been the perfect fit. Possibly working with the ND Game & Fish Department could be a fit.

Aggregate: We need to take the results of the panel discussion and put together something to put on the website for the counties to utilize. On the panel, besides Marsha, Stan, Bill and Les Simonov.

3 meetings per year by counties: If you take the results from the area meetings, the majority felt that it should stay the same. After some discussion, it was decided to leave it alone.

By Laws - Bill gave a report why we want to change the bylaws. Government entities usually cannot pay full membership dues. Dave said that for now, his agency approves his dues, but that could change down the road. This will be brought up tomorrow at the annual business meeting, then a committee will get it ready for next falls area meetings, with approval at next years' annual business meeting. Merlin asked if we want to change the bylaws concerning dues. According to the bylaws, you have to be a fully paid member to be eligible to vote. This will be worked on by the new bylaws committee.

ATV Training: Area's II & III are setting up to have training. Eric Dietrich can also do a train the trainer class, to get more people to be trainers.

Thursday noon lunch: Merlin stated that we cannot order from a menu. What does the board want to do? Discussion was that Merlin should do something to make the board happy.

Other old business: Derrill will be attending the Montana Weed Conference in Great Falls, January 14 & 15.

Merlin stated that he plans on having Karen, from the Baymont, come and visit with us at the Thursday meeting.

Dow is sponsoring the exhibit booth for Area IV at the KFYZ AgrilInternational.

Being no other old business, Jim declared the meeting recessed until Thursday.

Thursday, January 8th.

Derrill, the 2015 President, called the meeting back to order at 11:45 pm.

Those present were Derrill, Leon, Kevin, Joan, Ron, Gary, Dan, David, Bill, Jim, Chelsey and Stan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Secretary's contract for 2015. As is in the budget, the wages cannot exceed \$7,200/year. Merlin was asked to leave the room allowing discussion. After discussion, Bill moved to hire Merlin for 2015 as the association secretary for \$7,200. Dan seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin reentered the room. Dan stated that the audit committee felt that Merlin should use a different form when he does his voucher for per diem, allowing him more room to itemize.

Contracts were signed.

Fred Raisch, from Alligare has offered a \$3,000 rebate for reimbursement. (Rebate) After much discussion, it died due to lack of a motion.

Convention: The women really enjoyed the tour of the Heritage Center. Merlin will try and find a reasonable way to have a tour for everyone next year. Merlin read the email that Linda from FSA sent to the Fargo office. Will try and have someone from the Fargo office to come to our March board meeting, with possibly Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring also at the meeting. Merlin also read an e mail he received from Steve Van Dyke, thanking us for having him as the noon luncheon speaker. We gave him \$100 for speaking. ND Game & Fish is now an associate member. Beer & Brat - \$3,925 Gross. We had 95 registered. 10 women attended the women's luncheon. Overall, I feel the convention was well attended.

Do we want to change the month in which we have our annual conference? Merlin will put it on our agenda at the March meeting.

Derrill asked Trent Loose what he would charge to come to our conference. He wants \$4,000, flat rate.

Area I is the next area to help plan the conference. Kevin, our new 2nd vice president, is the chairman of the conference. Gary is the new Area IV director.

Board meetings for 2015: March 24, June 23, September 22. These meetings will be starting at 9:00 am. Also, January 4th, at 6:00 pm. They will be at the Baymont, Mandan. Merlin will check with Karen to make sure the days will work. Next year's conference will be January 5, 6 & 7th, 2016.

Trust Fund: Stan: Possibly ND Trust Lands could be involved. Good discussion held on who should we ask to help fund. We have several agencies we could work with. Possibly even on the federal side. Stan will work on a request proposal and bring back to next board meeting.

Karen from Baymont: Hopefully everything went well. They are now a Wyndham hotel, no longer a Best Western. They are remodeling the hotel, several rooms at a time. In a couple of weeks, they plan to do a facelift on the outside of the hotel. Also, on January 19th, the hotel will begin to serve lunch 7 days a week. It will be at the Seven Seas Bar & Grill. Will be able to order off the menu. It is kid friendly as well. They will continue to offer state rates. When will the remodel be completed? Will it be all done by next year's conference? Answer: Yes it will.

Monarch Butterfly: Could be placed on the endangered species list. Good discussion was held. We need more knowledge to form an opinion. We need to find a study on this or additional information. The deadline is March 2nd to submit comments.

Pizza for lunch! Board happy?

Bylaws: Derrill will get a committee set up by the March meeting. Derrill has picked Dan Dew as the Education chairperson. Derrill will also review all committee assignments.

Other New Business:

ATV Safety Certification: Dan Dew: Have someone from every area certified. Eric can get people certified to be certified trainers. It would be a two day training seminar.

Attendance at the weed forum: Chelsey asked what can be done to get more counties to attend the weed forum. Discussion was held. Isn't it in the law? Could the NDDA enforce it? If a weed officer can't make it, couldn't a board member attend? Changes would have to take place, either in house rules, or possibly even a change in the century code. That is something for the board to pursue, if they so desire.

Dan moved to adjourn the meeting, Ron seconded the motion. M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold
Executive secretary