

## NDWCA Area II Minutes

### Barnes County Highway Dept., Valley City, ND

Yet to be approved

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Area Director, Ron Manson called the meeting to order at 9:12 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Richland, Barnes, Cass, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman. Others present were: Chelsey Penuel, NDDA, Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU, Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply Co., Bill Walker, CPS Timberland Division, Mike Schalla, Dow AgroSciences and Merlin Leithold, NDWCA Executive secretary.

Additional agenda items: Stan: Pesticide Ban

The 2014 area II minutes. Stan moved to accept the minutes as presented, Jim seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 5, 6, 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Baymont Inn (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 begin at 8:00 with a welcome from the Mayor of Mandan followed by speakers. At noon we will have a luncheon. Right after lunch we will have our booth people give their presentations. At 2:00 we will load buses and head to Bismarck for a tour of the new Heritage Center. We should be back by around 5:00. There will be a place to check on the registration form whether you want to go. No extra charge for this. In the evening starting around 5:30 we will have a social sponsored by DOW, followed with our evening banquet and awards and entertainment. 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.

Exhibitor Breaks: We would like everyone to contact their local businesses for their support. For a mere \$25, they could become a sponsor of our breaks. There is a letter printed that you can take to them. Also, there is one on our website, to be downloaded.

Awards: Once again the association will be offering two awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Weed Warrior Award. Fill out the form and mail or e mail to Merlin by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

County reports:

Cass: Stan Wolf: We hired 2 contractors and split the county into a north and south sections. Spraying started in the north section in mid-June and continued throughout the summer until October 22. The south section didn't start spraying until September due to a lot of ditch haying operations throughout the area and finished on October 20. A total of 8166 acres were sprayed in state, county, township and no maintenance road ditches. Canada thistle and Leafy spurge were major weeds. Tordon/Overdrive

was the herbicide mix. We also sprayed a total of 460 acres with the UTV's on various Water Resource, county, city and park properties an outlined in the following projects.

#### Special Projects:

Common Tansy on water resource property, area was scraped in December 2014, brush and weeds were burned. Area was sprayed with Escort twice for emerging Common tansy and Tordon/Overdrive for emerging Canada thistle.

Coordinated a spraying project to control Absinth wormwood and Plumeless thistle on water resource owned property in the Maple River Dam flood pool. The area is leased pasture land with an extreme infestations of weeds. A helicopter was utilized to apply 5oz. Milestone, control was excellent with the grassed recovering nicely. A forest service grant was obtained through the NDDA for cost share reimbursement. We will be looking into the possibility of conducting additional weed control projects in the neighboring area next year.

Purple loosestrife was found and sprayed in a couple of areas that were known to have Purple loosestrife. The Sheyenne River was not scouted due to high water levels or low water levels that prevented traveling on the river.

The Northern Cass Pass hiking trail was sprayed for noxious weeds. The trail is the old railroad bed between Hunter and Arthur, which was developed via an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. Perspective was used to control Canada thistle and Leafy spurge.

While traveling around the county scouting water drains, we were on the lookout for Palmer amaranth, none found.

We inspected 2 gravel pit operations in Clay Co., Minnesota. Clay Co. did not have an inspection program and the gravel was for Cass Co. Highway Dept., which requires product from an inspected pit operation.

We outfitted both of our sprayers with the Outback guidance systems and new data loggers. The guidance systems are highly recommended as one can stay on course for the next pass especially in rough terrain and odd shaped fields. This feature adds to the safety of the operator as he is able to look out for obstacles instead of looking for his wheel tracks.

I partook in the ATV training conducted by ND Parks and Rec.

We upgraded to a new Kubota side by side, replacing the old Kubota.

LaMoure: James Riddle: Started spraying the end of May. Sprayed state highways, county and township roads. Sprayed them twice.

Dickey: Terry Weis: This year started out with dry conditions that shortly turned into very wet conditions. By June 1<sup>st</sup>, I had covered all the state and federal roads, and sprayed the bridges in the county. We had a good spraying year, for the most part.

The most troubling issue I had to deal with this year was the damage the areas suffered from being sprayed with Plateau. It seems that most of the areas have recovered. I would recommend a lessor amount of application to minimize the potential for damage in the future.

This year we sprayed the cattails along the county roads and intersections to improve the visibility and reduce the snow building up on the roadways. I started spraying the cattails on 7-21 and finished 8-25.

There seems to be more Leafy spurge this year than in past years. Where I have not seen Leafy spurge before there seemed to be a good crop of it this year.

The board purchased a new one ton truck this year that we did not get into service before the end of the year. Then at the end of the year, the county commissioners required the board to use additional money that had to be used to purchase equipment so they purchased another truck, with a 1600 gal tank. We hope to have it operational by spring.

Barnes: Jim McAllister: We began 2015 with helping townships out with doing sterilizing along some roads to help with keeping the grass from continually encroaching. We also treated some county road projects to help with total vegetation management. This went smoothly.

County employees helped with scouting, digging and spraying hounds tongue on the Neil Tangen farm for a few hours at the end of May. This infestation is becoming less, but is still a concern.

The spraying of noxious weeds in 2015 was a productive year, once we got past the rain and wind early in the season.

Scouting for spotted knapweed was a priority again in late June through the end of September. We did spray approximately 200 acres in the heart of our infestation in Sibley Trail Township. There are still plants being found in this original infestation. We also scouted the Sheyenne River from Valley City to the county line and found no plants.

Purple loosestrife was also found and treated along the Sheyenne River in the normal areas. It was also located in a slough in Hobart Township, Sec 6 & 7. It was also found again in Hemen Township Sec 15. Plants had not been observed in this area for the last 3-4 years.

The Yellow toadflax in the county is expanding rapidly. We treated in June with 32 oz. Tordon and 6 oz. Overdrive. This mixture gave us varying results. This fall in early September, we treated with 32 oz. Tordon and 8 oz. Overdrive. It will be interesting to see if the increase in Overdrive makes a difference.

Fall spraying went well, but was limited by windy days. Even with that we were able to get some state right of ways sprayed that has not been sprayed for a couple of years.

In August, John Nowatzki, NDSU, had 3 locations in the county flown with a drone to scout for spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife and yellow toadflax. This was very interesting and I am very curious to see the results. This could be an aspect of technology that will change how scouting for noxious weeds is done in the future.

We did have an accident this year with a UTV being tipped on its side. Employees were not hurt, but shook up. Very little damage was done, but it was a lesson on how quick things can happen. It certainly made employees aware that there are dangers in operating even the best equipment in the safest manor.

In the spring, we were able to purchase a 2015 Ford F250, and a Dodge crew cab this year to update old vehicles.

Stutsman: Ron Manson: Fairly productive year. Sprayed everything early, except Township roads. We hit them hard this fall, with Tordon and Milestone. Between haying and sensitive crops, I felt that by waiting until fall, we could get more sprayed, and it worked.

Concerns: Yellow toadflax found by the Pipestone Dam and watershed. Spotted knapweed found blocks from the weed shop, by the railroad tracks, and not just a few plants either. I see having trouble finding help in the future.

Spent \$60,000 in cost share to landowners. A lot more Milestone cost shared. Collected 2,000,000 beetles this summer. We sprayed cattails as well.

Agencies:

Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU: Last year discovered Japanese Knotweed. It has been spotted in more areas, but does not appear to be spreading, which is good news. Have to continue to monitor it. Getting a lot of calls concerning Yellow toadflax, especially the North Central part of the state.

Milestone plus Overdrive works well on Leafy spurge, especially in sensitive areas. Continually working on different mixes that will be effective and economical for use in the future.

Concerns with counties that have Milkweed as a noxious weed. It is a native weed. And with the publicity concerning the Monarch Butterfly, it would be best to take it off county lists.

Recommend Plateau at 6 oz/acre rate, to prevent grass injury.

Industry:

Mike Schalla – Dow AgroSciences.

First of all, thank you for all the business this past season, and for your continued business in the future.

Dow is launching 2 new products for the upcoming year. The first is already for purchase, and it is called Graslan L. It is a premix of Tordon plus 2-4D Choline. The 2-4D Choline is a new type of 2-4D that is not an Amine or Ester. This is a brand new 2-4D that Dow has come out with that has some great benefits. First, it has a low odor which is great for applying around cities or towns. Secondly, it has near zero volatility, which means, that on hot summer days, it won't move off site. Finally, the formulation results in less drift, under normal application conditions. Graslan L will have a caution signal word, which is safer than the danger signal word that most 2-4D's currently have. Graslan L will be for sale in 2x2.5 gal, 30 gal drums, 250's or bulk. The recommended rate is 2-5 pts/acre which will contain 1 pt. Tordon and 2 pts 2-4D Choline. You can add milestone or other Dow products for different weed issues. You may also add Tordon to it to create your own 2-4D – Tordon ratio. Graslan L does not have extra haying or grazing restrictions.

The second new product is Vastlan. It is not currently available to purchase. It contains tricolpyr with a Choline salt. Vastlan has excellent activity on trees and brush, like salt cedar. It will have a caution signal word and have low volatility attributes as well as an aquatic label. Vastlan will be for sale in 4x1, 2x2.5, and 30 gal drums.

Pricing for 2016 will have a flat Tordon and Milestone pricing. Milestone for agencies will be \$277/gal for 2x2.5's and \$70.75/quarts.

Dow has a new Prairie and Grassland Management Guides that contain information that producers have found very beneficial. If you would like any literature for winter trade shows, please let me know. I'll make sure to get you some.

Dow has a new equipment support program that will offer credits at dealers. Please contact me for more details about that great opportunity.

One last reminder for Bareground or gravel pit treatment acres, Dow's herbicide, Opensight, is labeled for 6.6oz/acre. That provides excellent control and residual. Opensight allows for those acres to be hayed or grazed as well. Opensight is also on the equipment program. For more questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply. Thanks for the opportunity to be here today. Perspective is still not fully labeled. Glyphosate may be higher this coming year, while most other chemicals should remain stable.

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & CPS Timberland Division

Perspective: Still not labeled for haying and grazing. EPA is now asking federal agencies if they need the product, and what quantities they would use. Reminder, Perspective is currently labeled, it just has a 1 year haying and grazing restriction.

Bayer does have a product called Method 240SL. It is liquid Perspective, without escort and telar mixed with it. Does an excellent job on Leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Bayer will probably package it in 2x2.5. Rate: 12oz/acre, approximately \$325/gallon. Expect a slight increase in 2016 on this product. But remember again, 1 year haying and grazing restriction as well.

Graslan L from Dow is an excellent chemical. The 2-4D in it is a little more active than regular 2-4D. This premix may be the future.

Milestone still has a government agency attachment. Prices will remain stable, but retail prices will increase by 1% or \$3/gallon.

BASF: One salesperson in the entire US. He is an office person. Prices for Plateau and Overdrive should remain stable in 2016.

Other chemicals used by weed boards should remain fairly stable.

Butterflies and Bees: Be very careful out there next season. Milkweed and pollinator plants. Hot topics. Watch what and how you spray.

CPS: 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. Our warehouse in Spearfish is run by two of the best, Jesse and John. We can extend bid prices from 2015 to 2016. Feel free to contact me or the warehouse anytime.

Break

NDDA Update: Chelsey Penuel, noxious weed specialist:

Biocontrol:

Leafy spurge collections 8 field days: McKenzie, Billings (3), Stutsman, Grant, Stark and Benson 900,000 total beetles collected.

Yellow toadflax: 6 biocontrol sites – established in 2 sites near Minot, continue to monitor

Spotted knapweed: 1 site in Golden Valley County, continue to monitor

Weed Seed Free Forage: 2015 – 14 inspectors, 46 inspections, 7519.9 acres inspected, 28,887 tags issued, and 1311 bales used the purple and yellow approved twine.

At the NAISMA conference, some changes to the weed list was made. Also, they are looking for a new twine vendor. The department may seek one themselves.

Commissioner Weed Forum: Jan 5, 2016 - Free to the public – free noon meal –WEED OFFICER IS REQUIRED, UNDER STATE LAW, TO ATTEND –the board may send a board member, if the weed officer cannot attend. SOMEONE MUST ATTEND!!

Annual Weed Survey: Due Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do not copy and paste from last year's report. Double check names and addresses on report, to make sure they are correct, as this is the directory, not only for the department, but for the association as well.

Funding: NOGA'S (Notice of Grant Awards) have been sent out. Several counties in this area have not signed and returned the forms. These are the new forms that have to be signed for you to receive state funding, whether it be LAP or TAG.

TAG: All weed boards qualify, \$5,000/counties, \$2,000/cities No longer need prior approval, unless questionable. Grant periods: July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017.

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. Landowners must contribute 20% total cost of chemical and or in-kind. Grant period July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, July 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016.

NAISMA Report: Derrill Fick – read by Merlin

NASIMA Report: Derrill Fick

Many biological agents were discussed. Over the years there have been many weeds that have had bio agents used for their control. There is still continued research from overseas companies that are looking for new bio agents so we have more options for weed control.

A program called Play, Clean, Go was discussed which is a program designed to help prevent the spread of Invasive species. No matter what you are doing: working, hunting, or recreational activities they idea is to be aware of any weeds that might be stuck to you, your animals or to your vehicles so you do not spread them to other areas.

While listening to some NAISMA members from Canada at this meeting in Vancouver it became very apparent that us as chemical applicators have to be very diligent in the way we apply our chemicals. The Canadian government has restricted or taken away the use of many chemicals that are used by weed control people. We must be thankful for what we can do and what we use as long as we follow the label and do exactly as prescribed or we will be down to injecting chemicals into plants with a syringe as they do in Vancouver!!

There will be more detailed updates at the annual meeting on these and other topics that were discussed at this meeting. I just wanted to make everyone aware that the worst case scenario, short of not doing anything in weed control, is already happening in some areas.

As President of the Association I just wanted to thank everyone attending these area meetings for their continued support of the association and to continue the great job of weed control despite the challenges of the weather and other day to day activities in weed control.

New Business:

Elections:

Area Director: 2 year term

Jim nominated Stan Wolf and asked that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Stan. Terry Weis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. M/C

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate: 2 year term

Ron nominated Steve Ginsbach and asked that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Steve. James Riddle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. M/C

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate: 2 year term

Stan nominated Terry Weis and asked that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Terry. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. M/C

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Can only be from areas II, III or V. No Nominations

Government Director: David Hirsch nominated previously. No other nominations

Industry Director: Bill Walker nominated previously. Ron nominated Mike Schalla

Poster Contest:

Merlin read the letter from Dan Dew, education chairman. The information should be out to the schools by the end of October. He is requesting that the posters be returned to him by Friday, December 11. Any questions can be also directed to Dan.

By Laws: Merlin read the change to the bylaws. This will be voted on at the annual business meeting. There will be a definition added to the definitions defining calendar year.

Resolutions: None were brought forward.

Winter Show: Do we want to have a booth again at the winter show? Steve moved to have it again, and to purchase a book for giveaway. Stan seconded the motion. M/C

Other Business: Stan Wolf talked briefly about what he found is happening in the state of Maryland, in Montgomery County. They are banning pesticide use on private lawns, for cosmetic purposes. There are concerns by the Ag. Community that such a ban could eventually lead to agricultural lands as well. Could this catch on in other parts of the country, you never know.

Area director, Ron Manson said we need to work together as weed boards and weed officers. Sometimes, newly elected people in county and state governments do not know what we do, and why we do what we do. They begin to wonder if there is a need for our departments. We need to continuously educate them and the public on the importance of weed control.

Ron asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting, Terry seconded the motion. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary