

NDWCA Area I Minutes

Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND

Yet to be approved

October 27th, 2015

Area Director, Brent Nelson, called the meeting to order at 9:12 am. Introductions. Counties present were: Ramsey, Towner, Walsh, Cavalier, and Nelson. Others present were 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: Elvin Johnson has an annual meeting idea.

Everyone read the 2014 area I minutes. Leon moved to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Lee seconded the motion. M/C

Old Business:

Merlin gave the annual meeting update. The annual meeting will be held on January 5, 6, 7th 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 1st.

Elvin Johnson: How to deal with complaints. Elvin would like someone to speak to the group at the annual meeting about how to handle a complaint. What to say, do, etc. He would like the education committee to record the presentation, and have it available to everyone to hear, and to use as a learning tool for weed boards.

County reports:

Cavalier: Leon Pederson: A lot sprayed this season. A lot of Leafy Spurge. Fighting the wind, but got everything sprayed. Stem boring weevils for Canada thistle seem to be working.

Ramsey: Roger Gunderson: We had a pretty good year overall for spraying. We used 95 gallons Milestone and 355 gallons Tordon, 27.5 of which were cost share. 70 gallons Curtail were cost share also. We sprayed roughly 2,200 acres this season. Milestone seems to be controlling the Canada thistle well. I am still finding new spots of Yellow toadflax, but seem to have eliminated those that were previously present along state highway ROW's.

Towner: Lindy Berg: We are seeing a fair amount of spurge, wormwood and Canada thistle. Starting to see more yellow toadflax. Cost share on Plateau, Tordon and Curtail went well for us this year. Looking for more sprayers and a new foreman.

Nelson: Tim Lee: Leafy spurge and Canada thistle: a losing battle this year. Ranchers are haying spurge infested areas. Sent out 2 notice to control letters. They didn't spray due to high water tables, may use beetles. We had a lot of gumweed this fall. Question for group: Do you send out notices when cutting ditches? We ran into a problem in Nelson County with a landowner and his ditches. We have been in contact with our states attorney. Just checking what you do, and what the best way to do it is.

Walsh: Brent Nelson: Mostly spurge and thistle. Later start due to weather. Roller coaster this year with weather. Flea beetle releases are down. 15 landowners in cost share program. Petty good year. A lot of ditch work being done on state roads. Next year they will be full of weeds. Density of Leafy spurge is less, acres the same.

Agency Report: None

Government Report: none

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.

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.

Tom Hendrick, Van Diest Supply: Thanks for your business, to work with you. A lot has been covered already. Feel free to talk to me or call me if you have any questions. Again, thank you.

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 1st. 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.

Break

New Business:

Elections:

Since Kadie resigned her position as area director, Brent has moved from 1st alternate to area director. Roger has moved from 2nd alternate to 1st alternate, so we need an election for 2nd alternate for a 1 year term.

Leon nominated Lindy Berg for 2nd alternate. Elvin 2nd the motion. M/C. Leon moved that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Lindy. Roger 2nd the motion. M/C.

2nd Vice President: Only from areas II, III, or V. None. Merlin reminded the group that they can be nominated from the floor at the annual business meeting or by contacting Merlin before then.

Government: Dave Hirsch was nominated already. No others nominated.

Industry: Bill Walker was nominated already. No others nominated.

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.

Being no other business was discussed, Leon moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd, meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Merlin Leithold

Executive Secretary