

NDWCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND

March 29th, 2016

Yet to be Board Approved

President Leon Pederson called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Members present were Leon Pederson, Joan Lorge, Stan Wolf, Bill Walker, Gary Hartman, Brent Nelson, Terry Volk, Kevin Schmidt, David Hirsch, Katie Clyde, Derrill Fick, Lane Kozel, Chelsey Penuel and Merlin Leithold.

Additional agenda items were: under new business – membership dues

Minutes were reviewed. Brent moved to approve the minutes as presented, Dave seconded the motion. M/C

Merlin gave the financial report, including the check register, memberships paid so far, the budget update, and the 2016 convention update. Kevin moved to approve the financial report, Joan seconded the motion. M/C

Discussion on convention and summary: We had a net income on the beer and brat social of \$3,083.42, and \$9,376.37 on the annual meeting. We had 91 full registrations, and numerous spouse or extra registrations.

Convention went well. Excellent turnout. We had 11 booths. The tour at the Heritage Center was well attended. Good comments about it. 60 plus went on the tour. Both, Roger Hille and Mylo Hatzenbuehler were great. Awards went well. Jim McAllister received the Weed Warrior award, and the association's first president and the association's first executive secretary, Wayne Colberg, received the lifetime achievement award. Topics for the speakers were good. Overall, the meals were good. Not too many glitches. Area II is the host area for 2017. The convention planning committee will meet in June, after the board meeting, to get next year's convention, rolling.

Memberships: Eight counties have not paid their memberships as of this meeting. About the same as last year at this time.

Membership pamphlets: Merlin asked what to do with the membership pamphlets. Out of date, would take several labels to get them up to date. He has 2 boxes full of them. Derrill has quite a few as well. Bill stated that Merlin should put some of the items periodically in the newsletter. After much discussion, Bill moved to trash them, but have Terry put the pamphlet on the website, fully updated, for viewing and to download for printing. Joan seconded the motion. M/C

At this time, we went into a short recess to tour the facility. After a few suggestions with the staff from Ramada, everything seemed adequate.

Committee Reports:

Education: Derrill gave the education report. Sprayer schools are set. Andrew Thostenson would like for us to set the dates for the sprayer schools earlier, so that he could advertise them. Leon stated that we should set them in January, at the board meeting.

Sprayer schools: Set for May 24 in Carrington, May 25 in Minot, and May 26 in Dickinson. Sprayer calibrations, weed ID, data logger help, and ROW recertification. In Minot, there will also be an update on pipeline issues. Noon meals will be sponsored by DOW, CPS and Bayer.

Earth Day will be April 21st. It will be held at the Career Academy in Bismarck. It starts at 4:00 until 7:30. Cost is \$100.00.

Katie moved to have a booth at Earth Day. Bill seconded the motion. M/C

Poster Contest: Stan discussed the poster contest winner, Page, from Hatton. Stan and his wife went up to present the winner with her plaque and presented t-shirts to the entire class. A good time was had. Will do it again next year.

Derrill feels that the education committee should get a new computer, as ours is old. Derrill will bring a price to the June meeting. He is also working on updates for the area booths. Discussion was held where the 5 area booths are stored at. Area I booth is not on the radar. Brent and Leon will work to find it.

Starting to work on a new weed officer manual.

NAISMA: Derrill is not on the NAISMA board anymore. But, what he knows is that they are hiring a new secretary, as Phil Banks won't be there anymore. They are looking at getting back to their past agendas.

Dues: They are \$100.00 for this year. Question being: Should we pay them for 2016? Bill questioned Derrill what NAISMA is really doing. Leon feels that we should table it until the next meeting, and have others bring other organizations to the table for possible memberships, with facts why we should join.

Agency Reports:

Government: David Hirsch gave the government report. USDA/APHIS/PPQ is going through another reorganization. Biocontrol remains a top priority in his agency, which is good news. They have hired three seasonal employees again this year. They plan on helping with as many bio field days as they can, hopefully all of them. Questions have been asked what the mild open winter will have to the spurge beetle population. Dave feels that unless we get a very prolonged deep cold spell, which seems very unlikely, we should be in very good shape. Should see very good populations this summer.

NDDA: Chelsey Penuel gave the NDDA report. She has been in contact with their attorney regarding several Century Code questions.

Roadside Spraying: This was first brought up at an area meeting last fall. At that time, most weed boards were advertising in local papers, newsletters, notifying landowners about the roadside spraying. When looking at the Century Code 24-05-20, which states that notifications

need to be given for controlling plant pests on roadsides. When looking at the definitions, plant pests are not defined as weeds. Counties need to work with their local state's attorney for local clarification. As was stated, if you are advertising now, and it is working for you, keep doing what is working, whether the law states it or not.

Weed Officer Employment: Questions have arisen whether a county or city can have a weed officer as an individual contractor. According to the ND Century Code 4.1 47-09-8a for counties, and 4.1 47-20-7a for cities, it states that weed boards shall employ and compensate weed officers. Weed officers need to be employees, paid by the weed board/county. Again, boards need to visit with their state's attorneys.

Montana is having a supervisors meeting in Baker, Montana, no definite date set, with their supervisors and they would like to also meet with North Dakota counties along the border, to discuss weed issues on both sides of the border.

Forest Service Grants: Wrapping up the 2012 grants

Land Enhancement Grants: They are available. 50% match. The NDDA would like to work through weed boards with landowners.

Early detection/rapid response grants: These are available to the association as well, working on the area booths, etc.

NDDA is hosting the Central Plant Board meeting, April 11 thru the 14th. Does the NDWCA want to donate giveaway items? Need 75 items. We will give 75 pinochle card decks, as a donation.

Richard has now been hired full time. He is 50% office/ 50% field. So he should help out.

Chelsey is moving to Fargo. Her office will be somewhere in Fargo, not sure where. She will let everyone know, with her own phone number, when she gets it.

Gary was wondering what counties do not have weed officers. Chelsey stated that is why they are working on outreach, to get counties more active. Control needs to stay at local control.

Industry Report: Bill Walker gave the industry report. Vaslan is now registered. A mirror label of Garlan3A, 3 to 4#. Label went from Danger to Warning. Coline based acid, which has less smell and volatility. Eventually, Garlan3A will be phased out. It is priced at approximately \$80/gallon. DOW is still pushing Graslan L, the Picloram/Amine premix. About \$4/Ac more than mixing it yourself. It is supposed to be more active, but too early to tell, as Bill has not seen any test plots himself, to make a determination.

Method, by Bayer, less grass damage than Perspective, because of the SU chemistry, no telar or escort, 7 to 8 oz/acre, around \$2.35/oz. Bayer is still working for a full label. It seems that Bayer may phase out Perspective, by 2018, and push Method. This may help getting a full label.

All other chemicals prices are pretty stable. Low commodity prices are keeping prices stable.

DOW has not received an aquatic label for Milestone.

OLD BUSINESS:

Oil Patch Weed Concerns: Merlin invited Darryl Zarak to attend the meeting. Has not heard from him. Merlin will try to have him come back in June.

Legislative Concerns: Leon feels that when Merlin is at the legislature, and a big issue comes up, Merlin needs to involve the board, in providing testimony, force in numbers. Leon feels that the more that can testify, the better. Stan has sat in on the Cass County/Association of counties weekly meetings. He has let Merlin and Derrill know what he heard. Merlin has stated that what Stan did really helped, having a heads up, when getting to the legislature. Merlin stated that everyone needs to be in contact with their legislators, whether by e mail or in person.

Weed Officer Pamphlets: Leon and Chelsey are working on it. Job descriptions, duties, etc. Stan has talked to most of the counties in his area. He has compiled a list of each county, what they do, from weed officer duties, to everything else from office work to field work. He did not ask for salaries. Stan gave a copy to Chelsey for a prototype for other areas, to use.

By-Laws: Merlin asked that all should have picked up a signed copy of the new by laws. Merlin will send them to Terry to put on the website.

Jackets: No prices have been checked on. Merlin will get some prices by the June meeting. The idea is to take orders at the area meetings, and have them ready to be picked up at the convention.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liability Insurance for trade shows: Merlin read the e mail that he received from the ND Winter Show, regarding liability insurance. They were asking for us to carry \$1,000,000.00 in liability insurance to have a booth at the winter show. After discussing this with them, they allowed us to have a booth, without insurance, this year. They may get their own insurance for next year. Derrill stated that in Minot, they have the booth listed under their county, not the area. This may be something to look at in the southeast.

Break for lunch:

Liability Insurance: Leon said that he is working with an insurance agent on liability insurance. It could cost us \$500 - \$700/year. Who would be covered, what would be covered, who do we want covered, directors only, members in general? What is the deductible? After much discussion, the board instructed Leon to check into liability insurance further, and come back in June, with more specifics, and possibly have the agent come to our meeting, to answer, most likely, a lot of questions.

Weed Free Forage: Lane Kozel said that changes are coming for inspectors. Inspectors will have to send in a resume, to become a weed free forage inspector. The weed list has changed with NAISMA standards. It is on the website. New brochures will be updated and printed. The department will have twine on hand this season. If Lane is not around, contact Carrie Larson, for weed free forage needs. A lot of discussion took place on weed free forage, what to do, what is being done in the field and what can be done. Can round bales be re-baled into small square bales? Does it need to be re-inspected?

Outreach Committee: Because of the need for outreach, and the association's mission statement, Leon feels that the association needs to have a committee, to work with counties, and work on handouts, etc. Leon will chair the committee. Ron Manson has stated that he would like to be on the committee. Chelsey will also be on the committee. If anyone else would like to be on, contact Leon.

Website: Terry Volk maintains our website. We have paid him \$100/annually for his service. Joan moved to pay Terry \$100.00 again this year. Gary seconded the motion. M/C

Bees & Pesticides: Stan brought up an article about bee poisoning and pesticides. Even though this was about fungicides, not herbicides, we should be careful on our spraying activities this summer.

Salt Water Spill Reclamation: Stan mentioned a meeting with various state agencies, about reclaiming salt water spill areas. One idea is to introduce salt tolerant plants in these spill areas. Plants like salt cedar was one plant mentioned. Their plan is to harvest the plant before it makes seed.

Dues: Merlin stated that he was asked to put this on the agenda for March. He plans to annually place this on the agenda. The board needs to decide in March whether to raise the dues for the next year, as counties begin to work on budgets in June/July for next year. The board decided to leave the dues the same for 2017, \$275/full members, and \$175/associate members.

When you have field day dates that are open to other counties, send the dates to Merlin, and he will get them to Terry on the website.

Derrill mentioned that Farmers Union has a policy stating that any company building a pipeline, oil sites, has to have a control plan in place.

Being no further business, Katie moved to adjourn the meeting, Brent seconded the motion. M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Merlin Leithold

Executive secretary