

(To be approved)

**NDWCA 33rd ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
January 10th, 2017 - 3:30 pm
Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND**

The NDWCA Annual Business Meeting was called to order by 2016 President Leon Pederson at 3:52 pm, with 58 in attendance.

Additional agenda items: none

Merlin Leithold, executive secretary, read the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Corrections: Stipend not stiffen, and Brent Nelson, from Walsh County, not Brent Walsh from Nelson County. Jerry Rekow moved to approve the minutes as read. Steve Nelson seconded the motion. **M/C**

Presidents Report

President Pederson reported that this past year was an interesting year. He attended two sprayer schools, one in Minot and one in Carrington. Leon went to all 5 area meetings. Met a lot of people and saw places that had never been to. Leon, Joan Lorge and Hope Mastel attended a multi-state meeting in Baker, Montana this fall. One person was Jesse Scott, Carter County weed supervisor, from Ekalaka, Montana. She is very outgoing. Heard different approaches to weed control, what other states do, what are their concerns, from different weeds to control methods, and also funding sources and concerns. Palmer Amaranth is a problem in Iowa and other nearby states, and we may have it here in North Dakota as well. With Marijuana legalized, with hemp being grown, we as weed folks may see new concerns on the nearby horizon. So be vigilant as you go about your work next season. Leon would like to thank the sponsors of our conference, visit their booths, and thank them for being here and for being a sponsor. Vote at the association booth for your favorite poster. Thanks again for allowing me to be your president this past year.

Financial Report

Merlin presented the financial report. He highlighted various line items. Gary Hartman moved to accept the financial report, Joseph Camisa seconded the motion. **M/C**

Audit Report

Stan Wolf and Jamen Windish were the audit committee. Stan reported that everything is in order and correct.

Budget

Merlin presented the budget for 2017. Merlin highlighted several line items, including the education lines in expense and income, and explained the line on insurance. Merlin also pointed out the line on newsletter expenses. Leon mentioned that without the e mailing of the newsletter, the price would be more than double. He asked that everyone try and switch to e mail of the newsletter, to help keep costs at a minimum. Amber Higgins moved to accept the budget as presented, Steve Ginsbach seconded the motion. **M/C**

Education Report

Derrill Fick, chairman, gave the education report. This past year, we had the poster contest winner awarded, had booths at Earth Day and Ag Day, both in Bismarck. We had three sprayer schools, one in Dickinson, one in Minot, and in Carrington. In the mornings we had right of way training out on by NDSU. Later, we had sprayer calibration with Bill Walker, hands on demonstrations by the NDDA pesticide inspectors, on what to wear, etc. It was conducted like a real inspection in the field. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way, from our sponsors, to the instructors to the hosts. We will have them probably around the same time this spring again, as they were very well attended. We are looking at purchasing new displays for each area. Around 6 or 7 for each area. Stand up displays, which roll up for easy storage and set up. The education committee will be spending \$3,000 to \$3,500 with a matching grant from the NDDA. We have retail items for sale at the registration table. See Merlin or Stan for these, and they also are selling jackets, vests and just in, new style caps. Also, if you ordered a jacket or vest, they are here.

Legislative Report

Merlin gave a brief legislative report. On Monday morning the Ag Dept. budget had its hearing in House Appropriations. Merlin and Leon attended. So far, there are no cuts proposed for our line in the budget. Nearly all of the noxious line comes from the EARP fund, a special fund. SB 2027, is a rewrite of the pesticide law. Some mistakes in it, will watch it closely. Otherwise, no other bills, but the session has just begun. If anyone hears of an issue, or a bill which may affect us, let me or anyone on the board know.

Industry Report

Bill Walker, CPS Timberland gave the state of the industry report for 2017.

Not a lot of changes. Bayer: Prices have seen a 5 to 7% increase for some of their products such as Perspective and Method. Other products like Escort will remain stable. Method is a liquid. It is Perspective without the SU chemistry, which makes it much safer on grasses. But as a reminder, it does have the haying and grazing label restriction, for one year.

Dow has retained the government program for 2017. Their prices will remain stable this coming season. Dow has their Coline based products, Graslan L has been effective. It is a premix of Tordon/Coline (a new type of 2-4D). Has less odor than regular 2-4D. Freelexx is Dow's new 2-4D. It is their Coline based product. You can get a label for it on their website, but it is not for sale at this time.

BASF should remain the same for 2017.

Monsanto: Glyphosate will have a slight increase. Other chemicals like 2-4D and others should be in good supply, and stable pricing.

NDDA Report

Chelsey is not in attendance. Leon, on her behalf, thanked everyone for coming earlier today, to the commissioners forum, and please use your TAG and LAP funds allocated to you.

Government Report

Dave Hirsch, USDA APHIS, PPQ, gave the government report.

Federal budget cuts: The biocontrol side in his department did not receive any cuts, so that is good news. His agency should be very stable for 2017.

Biocontrol: Houndstongue bio agents are not available again, and unfortunately, won't be for this season.

Working on two older projects: Field bindweed biocontrol. Got some from Colorado, put them in Dickey County, and they looked good early. Hopefully they overwinter, and get established.

We would be able to distribute some then. Purple loosestrife biocontrol: Got some from the SD Dept. of Corrections, and put them north of Mandan in Morton County.

Helped with 3 Leafy Spurge field days this summer, and will do so again this coming summer.

Would like to see more held in other locations in the state. Will talk more on this subject Thursday morning during my presentation. Thanks again.

NAISMA Report

Ron Manson, became the area director, taking Derrill Fick's spot on the board. A learning experience, meeting people from all over. We are doing a major push with the program Play, clean and go. It's a program to recognize that you need to clean yourself and equipment before moving to new areas. In many states, biocontrol is lagging behind North Dakota.

Federal Issues: The number of noxious weed acres on Federal lands equal to the size of Wisconsin. This is mainly due to a lack of funding over the years.

Old Business:

Gravel Pits: Stan Wolf, Cass County, asked the question: Do weed boards have the authority to charge a fee to inspect a gravel pit? Amber Higgins, McKenzie County, stated that they do. Stan asked, but do you have the authority? Who gets paid? Is it part of your job as weed officer? Can the board charge a flat fee per pit? Can it be done on private pits but not county pits? Very good discussion followed. Federal projects require a certificate. Leon said we should have a resolution in place for next year's meeting. Katie Clyde moved that we work on the issue and bring it back next year in the form of a resolution. Ron Manson seconded the motion. M/C

New Business:

Resolutions: Merlin read the resolution from **Area I**, which was passed by Area I on 10-25-16

Whereas: Since the beginning of noxious weed control in North Dakota, the chemicals available to use of noxious weeds have been few in number

Whereas: Noxious weeds have continued to spread in North Dakota due to the few chemicals used

Whereas: Landowners in our state are becoming better stewards in chemical applications, and are constantly searching for safer environmentally friendlier chemicals to use

Therefore be it resolved: We the counties of Area I requests that the North Dakota Weed Control Association adopt this resolution and request that the North Dakota Ag. Department, request a Section 18 from EPA for the use of the chemical Method 240SL, on noxious and troublesome weeds in North Dakota, on hayed and grazed land.

Brent Nelson moved to pass this resolution. Roger Gunderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Brent stated that the purpose of the resolution was to remove the one year haying and grazing restriction. Brian Jenks, NDSU research Center, Minot, stated that a Section 18 is an emergency exemption. What is the emergency here? Bill Walker said that the current pesticides that we have available are not controlling Leafy Spurge like they should. We need a new chemistry. Brian asked who would work on this Section 18, as it takes a lot of work to get them right. Bill said that he would take the lead on this, along with others from industry.

Leon called for a voice vote on this resolution. **M/C**

Merlin read the resolution from **Area III**, which was passed on 10-24-16

Whereas: In North Dakota, the many Federal, State, County, Township, City and private landowners, have spent many thousands of dollars over the years for the control of noxious weeds that have infested their land.

Whereas: Noxious weeds are capable of being rapidly spread by seeds blowing in the wind by human activities, by livestock, by wildlife, and/or by an extensive root system.

Whereas: If a noxious weed has been identified and there are very few plants found, it would be easier to control because most noxious weeds are very difficult to control, once the plant has become established and a seed bank has been created.

Whereas: In states that have the same type of growing season and produce similar livestock and grain crops, as North Dakota, they have seen the influx of the invasive weed, Palmer Amaranth, which can have an economical and environmental impact to their areas with very limited control options.

Therefore be it resolved: That Area III, of the ND Weed Control Association, ask that the North Dakota Weed Control Association the placement of Palmer Amaranth on the state noxious weed list..

Therefore be it further resolved: That if passed, the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in pursuing the listing of Palmer Amaranth to the North Dakota State Noxious Weed List.

Chuck Weiser moved to pass this resolution. Jerry Summerville seconded the motion.

Discussion: Brian Jenks said that Palmer Amaranth is on our doorstep. It has been found in Iowa, South Dakota and in Minnesota. It may be in North Dakota as well, especially in cropland, or newly seeded CRP. Controlling it can be a problem. Minnesota has tested it with Glyphosate, and it did kill it. If we do not put it on the state noxious weed list, we need to be very aggressive. Dr. Rod Lym, NDSU stated that he does not agree with putting it on the state noxious weed list. First of all, it is a cropland weed. If it is on the noxious weed list, weed officers will be forced to control it. It is an annual weed. Brian stated that he does have a list of herbicides that will control it.

Leon asked for a voice vote on this resolution. Too close to call. Leon then asked for a show of hands, and 66% opposed the resolution. **Motion failed.**

Merlin then read the resolution from **Area V**, which was passed on 10-28-17

Whereas: In North Dakota the many Federal, State County, Township, City and Private landowners have spent many thousands of dollars, annually, and over the years for the control of noxious weeds that have infested their land.

Whereas: Noxious weeds are capable of being rapidly spread by seeds blowing in the wind, by human activities, by livestock, by wildlife, and/or by an extensive root system.

Whereas: If a noxious weed has been identified and there are very few plants found in a certain area, it would be much easier to control, than a noxious weed that has been established, with an established root system and/or a tremendous seed bed.

Whereas: Some weeds contain a toxicity that can be detrimental to not only livestock but also humans.

Whereas: Although some counties may already have Houndstongue on their county noxious weed list, others still do not.

Therefore be it resolved: That Area V, is in full support, asking that the North Dakota Weed Control Association support the placement of Houndstongue on the State Noxious Weed List.

Therefore be it further resolved: That the North Dakota Weed Control Association ask the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to consider Houndstongue as our state's next state listed noxious weed.

Joan Lorge moved to pass this resolution. Katie Clyde seconded the motion.

Discussion: Joan stated that Houndstongue to all over, and spreading, and difficult to control. Leon asked for a voice vote for this resolution. Unanimous approval. **M/C**

2nd Vice President Election: Eligible areas are I, II, III. There were two from the area meetings, Jerome Behm, Ward County, Area III, and Jamen Windish, Barnes County, Area II. President Leon called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he asked Jerome and Jamen both to give nomination speeches.

Jerome: He is the better candidate, but he will do his best if elected. He farms by Des Lacs. His dad helped start the Ward County weed board. He has been on the county board since 1996. Being on the state board has been a passion of his since then.

Jamen: Became weed officer in Barnes County just this last February. Worked for Ron in Stutsman County for 6 years. Graduated from Valley City State University. If elected, will bring new ideas to the board.

Leon reminded everyone, one vote per entity.

Election Results:

2nd Vice President: Jamen Windish. Congratulations Jamen

President's Transition

President Leon Pederson again thanked everyone for their support and turned the gavel over to the 2017 President, Kevin Schmidt.

President Kevin thanked Leon for his dedicated service, and energy. He will do his best to be a good president.

Other Business:

The 2018 annual meeting will be January 8-11, 2018, at the Ramada Inn, in Bismarck. Next year we will again do a survey to see how everyone likes how the conference is run. Beer & Brat in the Assembly room will start shortly. Remember to vote on the posters, visit the booths, and we will see you tomorrow morning in this room at 8:00 am.

Steve Ginsbach moved that we adjourn the meeting. Jim Bahm seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin Leithold
Executive Secretary