

*Late Fall Board of Director's Meeting
November 14, 2002
Cascade County Weed District, Great Falls*

John called the meeting to order at 9:05

Members Present: Roger Sheley, Grant Godbolt, Dave Burch, Marty Malone, Paul Wick, John Halpop, Jerry Marks, Kevin Chappell, Carla Hoopes, Stacey Barta, Jack Eddie, Diane Rice, Barry Rice, Clint Clark, John Day, Scott Bockness, Becky Kington, Gloria Sunquist, Rosemary Koch, Dan Williams, and Jim Larson.

Guests Present: Kim Goodwin, Ken Keever, Jim Freeman, Larry Lang, and Jim Midboe

Members Absent: Amy Adler, John Beaver, Fred Bell, Dave Brink, Bob Gilbert, Dennis Hengel, Kelly Leo, Marko Manoukian, Hank McNeel, John Moodry, Lee Ohlinger, Stuart Schilling, Julie Walker, Brenda Witkowski, Jim Ghekeire, and Dave Schultz.

October E-board meeting

E-board minutes were reviewed by Roger, and John reminded the board that everyone was invited to attend those meetings and nothing would be voted on or decided on without board approval per the by-laws.

Minutes Approved

Minutes were approved.

Secretary Report

Becky reported that registrations and memberships were starting to come in for the annual meeting; Scott and Becky had been working on the budget; wrap up of the fall coordinator training; the Barb Mullin fund was still receiving funds; and everyone was reminded to turn in newsletter information.

Treasurer Report

Scott presented the current budget figures and Grant Godbolt motioned to approve the existing budget, seconded by Rosemary Koch. All were in favor. Scott then presented the 2003 – 04 fiscal budget for board approval. He explained that we only had two real fundraisers, and that he felt the Association was on the verge of needing to expend some money on itself. Kim mentioned selling advertising in the proceedings for next year. Stacey motioned to accept the preliminary budget, and Grant Godbolt seconded. All were in favor.

Legislative Report

Diane Rice reported on a bill that was being drafted to protect the Trust Fund. She asked the board for input on the wording of the current draft. Dave Burch explained the current funding of the trust fund, what hard principle goes into it, and what is spent out of the trust. Jerry Marks motioned we need the cap at 10 million at a soft cap, providing

discussion ensues with Gilbert, Peck, and Moodry prior to approval. Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Annual Meeting update

Roger and Kim reported on the progress of the annual meeting. They are still asking for a call for papers and for folks to fill the symposium. Roger is working on a publicity campaign for the annual meeting to be paid for by MSU and the MWCA for an insert in the Prairie Star this year. Gloria motioned for a match amount of \$500.00 to get this insert done and Barry seconded the motion. All were in favor. Kim would invoice the Association. Becky asked the board for approval to order more *Weeds of the Prairies* to be available at the AM. Barry motioned we order 100 books and Jerry Marks seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Association needs to publish proceedings again this year. Dave Burch announced that the DOA is donating \$1,000.00 for the publication of proceedings and John Halpop said that the Education Committee will be producing a silent auction at the annual meeting to also raise funds. These funds could be used for the DC trip, the proceedings, etc. 400 hard copies and 100 CDs will be made available at the AM.

Statewide Noxious Weed and Awareness Campaign

Carla reported that all calendars have been handed out. The SNWEAC was successful in getting the Forest Service on board for this year's calendars – 24 forest ranger districts helped fund and distribute calendars. 26,000 calendars were printed and 22,000 distributed, and the SNWEAC has collected around 22,478 in funding so far. These calendars were out by October. She passed around an explanation of her group as well as the strategic plan for her committee. They are working on a campaign for a state-wide mass media production on noxious weeds as well.

Awards Committee

Rosemary reported on the awards committee and requested we have the American and Montana flags available at the meetings. She also requested we have an invocation at our meetings (especially the annual meeting) before we eat. She reported that she has received two nominations for the Barb Mullin Memorial Award so far. John Day relayed the process of how the Barb Mullin Memorial Fund was established. A committee was developed for the BM Fund and the MWCA was the facilitator for these funds. It was decided that a lifetime achievement award as a traveling plaque and also as an award to be given to the recipient along with \$100.00 monetary award. The money gathered from this fund will be placed into a CD account. Marty suggested that Rosemary create a generic form for the awards next year to make the process easier.

Designer License Plates

Kim reported that the process of getting the plates made was being held up due to high turnover at the prison. She suggested we go with a professional graphic designer who would request .50 plate or an up front fee of \$2000.00. Dave motioned we go with the .50 per plate fee and Jack Eddie seconded the motion. All were in favor. A subcommittee was established to approve the design of the plate. They will then submit their choice to the board before the annual meeting for approval. Roger motioned we let the

subcommittee make the decision to final completion and Grant Godbolt seconded the motion. All were in favor. (Note – make sure e-board reads the fine print in the contract with the graphic designer before signing off!)

Lunch break 11:30 – 12:45

Grants

John Halpop reported that an educational grant was being looked at and written by the education committee as requested of them by the executive board. The Washington DC trip, the proceedings, and advertising are being looked to incorporate into a grant for the MWCA. However, further discussion resulted in a decision to up the registration fee at the annual meeting next year. Roger felt that funds raised by committees needed to be used to further the cause of the committee. Jack felt that education needed to be pushed to a greater extent within the Association to give the members something to show for their membership. Discussion ensued about the value of our representation at Washington DC was very important; several good things came from last year's representation. All agreed this representation is important, especially with the Craig/Heffley bill in the works. Jack motioned that the education committee write a grant to include expenses for 2003 and 2004 for the DC Trip and advertising for the annual meeting. This was seconded by Barry Rice. All were in motion. John asked if everyone who was submitting grants through the MWCA had presented at this meeting and no one came forward with more.

Raising Dues

Roger motioned that at the annual meeting, the members have an opportunity to vote on an increase in dues in \$5.00 increments. The e-board will handle the details at the next e-board meeting. This was seconded by Gloria Sunquist, and all were in favor.

Coordination with other agricultural organizations

Roger has been working to facilitate cooperation and collaboration with other organizations like the Stockgrowers, Woolgrowers, and Farm Bureau to work on a weed prevention plan in northeastern Montana. He would like the Association to come up with mutually beneficial initiatives together and this process has been started. The above three organizations, the Nature Conservancy, and 17 counties have signed off on the weed prevention plan produced by the MSU Extension. Roger asked the MWCA to sign off on this prevention plan and for the MWCA to be the leader of this effort. John asked if the Prevention Committee and the weed coordinators involved in the plan had been contacted and were in support, and Roger stated that they were. Roger proposed that the MWCA sign off on the program and write a letter our congressional representatives and our governor in support of this plan. Barry Rice moved we do this, and Jim Larson seconded. All were in favor.

Committee Strategic Plans

Education Committee – No strategic plan at this time. Surveys for the membership are being handed out at annual meeting; legislative packets also being worked on.

Bio-Control Committee – Will be meeting in December to discuss a strategic plan.

Prevention Committee – Looking for volunteers.

Management Committee – No formal structure yet.

Summit Committee – Will try for another weed summit in 2004 in conjunction with the annual meeting; revising job description for state weed coordinator/start a movement to draft Dave Burch to the job- everyone write a letter; will meet in December to have a strategic plan.

Mapping Committee – BLM working on handling mapping for the state. NRIS on board with mapping efforts, but process is slow and BLM having problems with website. Jim Larson will get information to BLM, who will in turn get to the NRIS website for public consumption. The detailed information is taking a long time to gather from the counties. Jim Larson will work with those folks who need to get GPS mapping going in those counties. Will have a strategic plan in place by the next meeting.

Supervisor Support Committee – Needs volunteers, spring training April 1 – 3 at Holiday Inn in Bozeman, and will have agenda at annual meeting.

Research Committee – Proposals are being drafted for trust fund grants for research grants. Roger stated that the grant proposals had been detailed out at the last board meeting.

Nominations Committee – Jerry Marks reported that a number of positions are open and the committee is actively soliciting at least two candidates for each position. Reported on current nominations.

Written strategic plans will be presented by **all** committee chairs at the next board meeting.

Single Day Registrations at Annual Meeting

It was decided that a single day registration be allowed at this year's annual meeting. A form for one day attendance only at the AM with no meals will be produced. This will be posted on the web ASAP and will cost \$25.00 per person.

Area and other reports

Dan Williams – Will use listserver to communicate more with folks; DOT has three programs underway: new mowing guidelines for right-of-ways statewide, kicking off a statewide weed inventory, and using an integrated weed plan to replace the current six year agreements between DOT and counties.

Gloria Sunquist – Reported that she continues to work with youth in her area and is handing out weed calendars.

Clint Clark – Reported that weeds are a problem.

Barry Rice – Reported that cattle prices are down.

Carla Hoopes – Thanked everyone and reported that calendar distribution is at an end, there are not many left.

Kevin Chappell – Reported that they are at end of performance audit for DNRC;

preliminary proposals will be presented soon and they are also working with recommendations on HB 395.

Paul Wick – triangle area – They are putting together a mapping and GIS program over the winter. Have a meeting with Dave Burch in November about the grants program.

Dave Burch – The DOA will be holding meetings at AM and grant hearings will be held at the Hampton Inn this year. The Salt Cedar Management Plan will be dovetailed into State Plan along with the Startthistle Plan. There will be a meeting on Dec 5th for the Weed Summit Steering Committee. Grants are due Dec 2, hearings will be Feb 25 and 26, and will start around 8:30 or 9 a.m. A retroactive clause in education grant will be allowed if we get funded.

Grant Godbolt – Still working on contacting the MT Logging Association for interaction with our association.

Ken Keever, BLM – Still operating under continuing resolution but will be the same as in the past. If there are cuts in the program, biocontrol efforts will see a reduction. BLM employees are increasing across the state. The goal is to have a weed employee who is employed half time in every office in the state.

Jim Larson – APHIS is moving out of Bozeman, and will move to Fort Collins. In MT we will have one domestic representative left, all of the rest are going to homeland security. Joe Morenz will be 100% dedicated to domestic work within our region. Jim Larson wants to be at all fall meetings concerning mapping to get this program rolling everywhere.

Western Area Council – John Day – Working in their area with a specific zone for growing vegetation along roadsides. This area is to be weed resistant. They are working with DOA and MSU Extension in this process. Also trying to include training for these purposes.

Other Business

John Day sent out a survey over the listserver to see how counties are complying with state plan and asked everyone to get this information back to him.

Carla asked if our mission statement has changed to fit the state plan. It has not, but John Day believed it should.

Ag Couples conference – John asked for feed-back on nominating a couple for this program.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm