

**Montana Weed Control Association
Board Meeting
January 15, 2002
Great Falls Heritage Inn**

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present were:

Stacey Barta, Fred Bell, Scott Bockness, Dave Brink, Kevin Chappell, John Day, Dennis Hengel, Becky Kington, Kelly Leo, Marty Malone, John Moodry, Gloria Sundquist, Paul Wick, Brenda Witkowski, Jim Larson, Rosemary Koch, Phil Johnson, Roger Sheley, and Vic Roberts.

Guests present were:

Jed Fisher, Jennifer Crammer, Wayne Pearson, and Betty Sykes.

Members absent were:

John Beaver, Adam Brooks, Dave Burch, Clint Clark, Jim Freeman, Bob Gilbert, Doug Habermann, John Halpop, Marijka Haverhals, Carla Hoopes, Marko Manoukian, Jerry Marks, Hank McNeel, Barb Mullin, Lee Ohlinger, Barry Rice, Dave Schulz, Julie Walker, and Dan Williams.

Secretary Report

Becky reported that 251 people had pre-registered for the annual meeting, there were approximately 451 members for 2002 signed up, and that the ballots were to be placed in the folders of those who were members and had to be turned in by 10:15 on Thursday.

Treasurer Report

Scott reported on the 2002 budget as well as the 2003 budget and stated that it was a conservative budget and that he hadn't received a lot of input from the committees. He also reported that the 2001 and 2002 taxes would be presented at the spring meeting. Roger Sheley moved to approve the 2003 budget and Jim Larson seconded the motion.

Idaho Annual Meeting

John reported that the Idaho Annual meeting would be held on February 5 – 7 and explained the fees for that convention. Scott moved that John attend their conference and Gloria seconded the motion.

Bio-Control Committee

Jim Larson reported that he had recommendations for the Dept. of Ag on how to continue the bio-control committee and they would no longer be supporting the importation of bio insects at the ESA. He reported that the APHIS lab at MSU was going to leave and they were also releasing the information on collection mapping that has taken place. Due to the high volume of grants the bio control committee received, they were reviewing change in their current policy of grants review. Roger motioned that the MWCA take

steps to meet with the advisory council and the Department of Ag to improve the grant review process. John Day seconded the motion.

Statewide Noxious Weed Education and Awareness Campaign

Dennis Hengel reported for Carla Hoopes on the calendars. The SNWAE Campaign thanked the committee members listed on the back of the calendar. Tongue River Basin Weed Group provided \$2000.00 for the calendar and will be recognized on the calendar for the next two years. 43,315 calendars were produced and shipped by Alexander Clark Printing in Boise, ID. The committee has already begun work on the 2003 Prevention and Integrated Weed Management Strategies Calendar. Conservation and Weed Districts have been polled for their stories and ideas. Page content will be narrowed down at the March 7, 2002 meeting in Helena. You can contact Carla to get your name on the list to receive preliminary materials. John Day suggested that the calendar get out sooner.

Montana Weed Management Plan

Scott reported that Dave Schulz would be the representative for MACo and replace Ted Coffman. Scott moved that the past president be moved in as representative for the Weed Management Plan and John Moodry seconded this motion. Marty Malone would now serve in this position. Scott also reported that Kelly Leo, Barb Mullin, Dave Schulz, and Marty Malone would be attending the Weed Awareness Week Conference in Washington D.C. during the last week of February. He reported that \$1200.00 in funding had already been donated from various companies and that he had put in for a grant to cover the rest of the costs.

Local Weed Council Elections and Memberships

Vince Thomas explained that the Southeast Area Council Meeting had undergone some elections that he felt were not done correctly. Non-members voted and a non-member was voted in. Vince suggested that all area reps be elected at those meetings. Area councils were polled and it was agreed that the bylaws would be followed and voting would take place at the A.M. He suggested that area meetings be published prior to meeting in the Weed Times, that a current membership list be sent to area director two weeks prior to the meeting, and to extend the opportunity for anyone to join prior to the election. Dave Brink suggested an interim vote and that everyone would vote at the current annual meeting. Area meeting notification is a part of the annual meeting.

BLM Environmental Impact Statement

Vic Roberts reported that the BLM was holding EIS scoping meetings which had been upgraded to include four new states. The BLM had been treating 500,000 acres but now would be treating 6 million acres in 18 states. The BLM would be changing the way that it handled weed management on their properties, one of which includes the use of prescribed burning. It also includes less use of traditional methods of weed control, including herbicide and bio-control. Vic and Kelly Leo told everyone of the importance of the public and everyone in the MWCA to get involved in these meetings. It was suggested that Marty write a letter on the behalf of the Association and Scott would present the letter.

Legislative Statement

John Moodry presented a draft of a legislative statement for the MWCA to the board for comment and review. Dave Brink suggested he run the statement by the Political Practices Committee before going any farther as he felt there were some red flag words in the statement. Marty asked John Moodry to refine the statement and present it again at the spring board meeting.

Weed Fair

John Day reported that the Western Area was trying to coordinate all area councils to hold one state-wide weed fair for July. They were trying to get all areas to cooperate, but acknowledged that some areas were short on funds and representation. On the same note, Scott Bockness reported that the National Association of County Commissioners were holding a conference in Billings in May for all Western Commissioners. He suggested that the MWCA have a booth at this affair and that the areas come together to fund the \$1,000.00 fee for the booth. He stated that having MACo involved with us greatly enhances our professionalism and especially helps us in legislative issues.

Spring Coordinators Conference

Stacey Barta reported that the Spring coordinator training would be held in Lewistown on April 17 – 18 at the Yogo Inn. This year's title would be changed as "coordinator conference" doesn't cover the people who would be included at this conference.

Fire/Weed Grant

Roger reported that five areas had been targeted and that grants had been submitted in three of the five areas. Kim Goodwin was doing a great job.

Education Committee

John Halpop reported that the proceedings for the annual meeting had been put together by the education committee and MSU. The committee was handing out surveys and they had two goals of strengthening area councils and producing a membership survey. They want to get people more involved.

Montana Department of Transportation

Phil Johnson reported that the MDOT had funded 1500 copies of the Weed Management Plan. Phil also stated that he would be replaced by Dan Williams and that the MDOT was working on developing a management plan in alignment with the Statewide Weed Management Plan.

Southeastern Area Report

Brenda Witkowski reported that 117,000 acres had been sprayed in her area and that they had completed a helicopter survey on noxious weeds. Their goal was to have a complete map of eastern Montana. Salt Cedar is a problem in the eastern part of the state and that they were giving out bio-control insects to people in the county to try.

Southwestern Area Report

Dennis Hengel reported that their last area meeting was December 5 and one topic of concern was the agreement with the Montana Rail Link and discussion ensued on how best to make the changes for their area. They discussed the BLM Scoping statements and its impact, and they discussed their crew training, which would take place in Alder.

The next board of directors' meeting will be held in Lewistown at the Yogo Inn on Tuesday, April 16, 2002 at 9 a.m. Preliminary plans were made to not hold a summer board meeting and instead have a September board meeting on the 12th in Livingston. Marty Malone motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kelly Leo seconded the motion.