

MWCA Early Fall Board Meeting
September 12
Bozeman, MT

Members in attendance: Amy Adler, Ken Babcock, Scott Bockness, Dave Brink, Dave Burch, Clint Clark, Mack Cole, Jennifer Creamer, John Day, Grant Godbolt, John Halpop, Chuck Jarecki, Jerry Marks, John Moodry, Marijka Wessner, Paul Wick, Carla Hoopes, and Becky Kington.

Members not present: Stacey Barta, Jay Cole, Bob Gilbert, Jim Gordon, Rosemary Koch, Jim Larson, Marty Malone, Marko Manoukian, Barry Rice, Diane Rice, Stuart Schilling, Dave Schulz, Brenda Witowski, Fred Bell, Kevin Chappell, Kelly Leo, Hank McNeel, and Dan Williams.

Guests present: Stan Huhtala, Ken Keever, Kim Goodwin, and Cindy Martin.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 9:05

Minutes of April board meeting and August E-board meeting:

Amy Adler moved to approve the minutes and Scott seconded the motion all were approved. The August E-board minutes were called into question by Jerry and there were a few comments made. John Day moved to approve the e-board minutes and John Moodry seconded and all were in favor.

Financials

Scott explained the change in fiscal year which just approved by the IRS and a short year tax report will be completed as well as a new July – June budget. Scott will be calling for budget requests from committee chairs. The professional firm is currently getting our budget set up and we will have everything ready and present at the late fall meeting. Three CDs are about at \$15,000. Dave Brink motioned to approve the budget and seconded by Amy Adler. All were in favor.

Interim president nomination

John Day motioned we nominate Jerry as interim president and president-elect until his actual term in 2004. Dave Burch seconded the motion. John suspended his motion until the board resolved the letter of resignation issue. Jerry read Roger's email and John Moodry motioned to accept the email as a letter of resignation and Scott seconded. All were in favor.

Insurance quotes

Becky reviewed two insurance quotes with the board and answered questions on both quotes. The board decided to approve the lower quote with Novich Insurance after some questions answered from the insurance agency.

License plates

Kim reported organizations that don't sell enough plates will lose their plates. Numbers will be tracked as soon as the plates hit the market. In April the artwork was sent to the printer, in June a tagline was added, and personnel problems within the printer have delayed the plates getting out. Now the proof has to go to title & registration for approval and Kim won't predict when the plate will be out. Kim explained the marketing strategy is to get each county posters to post at their discretion and the small promotional cards are also available to place at businesses, local establishments, and such. More items will be ordered based on need at the next board meeting. Designs for free placement in newspaper should be available as we are a non-profit group. Kim will work with Fossil design to get the ad going now. John Day moved that we give the sub committee control over ad design and Amy seconded. Limited edition posters can be obtained through the MMCA website. 15% of all proceeds from those prints will come to our organization.

MWCA Rep to NWTF advisory council

Jerry reported that the e-board nominated Diane Rice to the council at their last meeting to represent our organization. Diane is interested but Dave Burch reported that Ralph has reservations at putting a legislative rep on the Trust Fund Council. He would like to have us submit more names in case this doesn't work for Ralph. Other names brought up were Kathy Bessett, Bob Boettcher, Josette Hackett, and Calvin Wilson. Dave suggested we put these names with their contacts and a background in a letter to Ralph. John Day motioned we do this and it was seconded by John Moodry. All were in favor.

2004 Annual Meeting update

Jerry reviewed the tentative agenda. He asked that committees contact him if they wanted to meet at the annual meeting. If so, he would find a room for any committee that wanted to meet. Dustin will work with vendors and see if they wished to speak at the annual meeting. Jerry reported that they are still looking for a guest banquet speaker and a motivational speaker for the annual meeting. Dave Burch would like to have salt cedar addressed at the annual meeting. John Moodry would like to see new invaders addressed as well.

Committee lists/reports

Jerry reviewed the committee list and took revisions and corrections. John Moodry asked about Dave Burch becoming a voting member as a committee chair. Dave would work that out with his committee. It was determined that the SNWEAC committee was not a standing committee, but rather a subcommittee of the MWCA education committee. The Summit Committee was not a committee of the MWCA and removed from the list.

SNWEAC – Carla announced her general meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 11, and on Friday, Sept 12 all important weed groups will be coming together. She reviewed the agendas for both of those meetings. She also provided a list of the recent activities completed and projects underway today. More information can be found at www.weedawareness.org John wants to be actively involved with both Dave Burch, Carla's group, and the MWCA education committee to address the NWTF legislation in 2005. It is important to educate, but not get into lobbying. Jerry requested we have some ideas and suggestions for addressing education in place for the January board meeting.

Marijka brought up that we need to have something at the annual meeting, in conjunction with the education committee, to present to the membership. Mac suggested we involve as many other organizations in this process as we can.

Prevention Committee – Paul Wick went to the annual contractors meeting and discussed education. They are working on education in the schools. Paul has worked with Carla to try to tie in with her program

Management Committee – John reported that the committee is in the process of revising the state weed management plan. Some items they are addressing will be farmed out to other committees. Looking for more info on tall buttercup. Funding is always an issue that the committee is trying to be aware of with all different counties. By the annual meeting, they will have a revised plan for their committee.

Coordinators Support – Scott reported on the fall coordinator's conference and the agenda coming up in Sidney the last week in September. This meeting is focused on providing coordinator support for both old and young.

Bio-Control Committee - Having a big meeting in Coeur D'Alene, a report will come later.

Mapping Committee – The committee hasn't met in a while. Trust Fund has approved funding for NRIS and this should help all counties map and update the map on-line. People will be able to input all weeds, and some training will occur at spring coordinator training. Dave stated they would look into changing chairs for this committee to eliminate his conflict as a voting board member.

Summit steering group – This group is currently doing a survey about the state weed plan. John reported that a number of the priorities had been accomplished in the plan to date, but it needs to be shown that it is working and moving forward.

New business

2005 annual meeting – Bob has sent out bids and Becky is receiving calls from all over the state indicating a great deal of interest in hosting the annual meeting.

Washington DC representatives for 2004

For National Invasive Weed Awareness week, the MWCA needs to review who to send. John reported that a motion had been made in the past to send the president and the past president for continuity. Scott motioned to rescind that previous motion and have the representatives voted on by the board every year through a selection process at the early board meeting. Seconded by Mac. All were in favor. The nomination committee will take nominations for this process and present them at the late fall meeting for the board to vote on. John suggested we have a timeline for this process. Average costs per person has been an average of \$1,500 each year. John suggested we have position papers for the MWCA sent each year, and Dave Burch suggested the E-board come up with this.

Trust Fund Grant Proposals

Jerry asked if anyone had any grants to be submitted to the Trust Fund and no one had.

Weed Booth at MACD annual meeting

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts will be holding their annual meeting in Billings in November and Scott had asked the E-board to fund the cost of a booth for the MWCA and sponsor a coffee break, of which they approved. Mac suggested we have a booth at the MACo annual meeting as well, of which we have.

Commercial Applicators Training sponsored by the MWCA

John reported that he would be inviting his area applicators to the annual meeting. Instead of trying to place the focus on commercial applicators at the annual meeting, he suggested we hold specific trainings in the east and the west for commercial applicators and then get them involved with the annual meeting. John Moodry suggested we have a specific classroom training session offered during the winter for training and show it is sponsored by the MWCA. John and Amy would work on this with the Department of Ag and come back to the late fall meeting with a report.

Role and Authority of the E-board

Jerry gave an overview of some past history of the MWCA and there was discussion on the President's ability to vote. The general consensus by the board was that the President does have a vote as he is an elected official. Becky explained the difference between the e-board and the board of directors and who was a voting member and who wasn't. Dave Burch suggested that any new information not be discussed or decided on unless it is urgent to handle, otherwise, it needs to come before the board. It needs to come before the board, even if it is in the form of an on-line ballot. Dave Burch commented that the weed coordinators support committee needs to be stronger to better represent a voice for those coordinators. John suggested that the weed coordinators need to be represented as a group with MACo. Chuck Jarecki suggested that weed coordinators need to be more involved in their local area council to ensure representation in the MWCA. The issue of area councils and their representatives needs further guidance and direction for active participation in the MWCA. Area reps can send someone in their place as a voting member. Dave Burch suggested that we have a meeting for area reps to let them know what is expected of them as far as the MWCA is concerned.

Bylaws

Need to be reviewed annually and the executive committee has the authority to change the bylaws. At the next eboard meeting, they will be reviewed and then revisions will be presented at the late fall meeting.

Visions/Goals of the MWCA

State weed plan

Dave Burch explained what the summit group has been doing and they have decided to go back to the task force and start a rewrite of the plan. They will start formulating what needs to be updated in the plan. Now it is a matter of educating people on the successes

of the plan. A rewrite will be formulated in 2004 and there was a suggestion that the plan be presented to the governor. Need results of educational survey from coordinators and commissioners before going to the governor. Scott added that the six-year plans with federal agencies can be used as a great tool with the legislature, and the state plan can be a viable tool in this process. Another weed summit is being looked into as well.

Education

Becky suggested that the Association come up with a new brochure to present themselves at these booths and for other various reasons. The Association needs to move forward and do something, move somewhere, and maybe come up with goals, short term and long term to do this. Chuck asked that area councils be involved in the goal setting process – maybe at the fall meetings. E-board will come up with ideas for goals to present at the late fall meeting. Dave suggested using the license plate design for our brochures.

Executive Director

Becky explained that the E-board discussed where we are with that position and the same old issues came up, especially with a membership of only 500 members. Funding issues of this position always comes up. Mac asked about full or part-time position. John discussed the executive director of the Idaho Weed Association and his duties. Grant writing, lobbying, networking, annual meeting success, etc. would all be a part of these duties.

Fires & money

John is working with Dave and the DOA to address funding for the 2003 fires. John asked the MWCA board if this was an important issue, and Dave said it would be up to the individual weed coordinators to work with the BAER teams in their areas. But John asked if the MWCA board would submit a letter to support fire/weed funding from Ralph Peck to talk with Governor and request additional monies from Congress? Dave reminded everyone that the Forest Service grants through the Trust Fund are available for those burned areas.

Area reports

Western Area – Dave Brink reported that their area is burning up! They held crew training in May and lots of federal and state participants at this training. They are working with local, state & federal agencies on education about meadow hawkweed. They had a presence at the Weed & Feed, Missoula County's educational week, this summer. Their area council meeting will happen on October 15th in Pablo.

Triangle area – Paul Wick reported that he is having problems coresponding via email with his area council, but the responsibilities lie with the recipient of the emails. The area was involved with the state fair and had a booth there, and they had good participation within the area to represent this booth. Had the 6th annual Weed Wacker Rodeo and it was a successful once again. The amount of effort that it takes to produce this event is becoming an issue, so they are trying to move it around the area and have counties share responsibilities.

Central Area – Clint Clark reported that four out of seven counties in his area do not even have members in the MWCA. He will work on this. No knowledge of salt cedar tour that occurred until he worked with 4-H groups. Ducks and wind are spreading salt cedar at an alarming rate. Forest restrictions are causing crews to slow down and not cover as much land. They did produce classes in the schools this year on noxious weeds.

Northeastern Area – Ken said they haven't met as a group since the last meeting. They have also been working on education with the public schools. They have been dealing with saltcedar issues in their area as well. Good June precipitation and good year for crops and weeds, which made for a good spraying year. Ken also talked about attractions in Sidney for those attending fall coordinator training.

Southwestern Area – no representation.

Southeastern Area – crew training participants were down due to other areas holding their own trainings. They had good speakers. Plans are in place for realtor training and they had a hot year as well. They started crews earlier and because of the early morning hours, got a lot of ground covered and good kill. No area functions.

Southcentral Area – no representation.

BLM – Ken Keever reported they were working on 2004 budget. Becky asked about BLM budget cuts and they are not are not statewide.

Forest Service – Grant Godbolt reported that funds that were supposed to go to weeds are more than likely going to fires. Also working on budgets for 2004, don't expect fat budgets. He reported that he had presented at the Montana Loggers Association and had a great response, although it was like preaching to the choir.

Dept. of Ag – Dave reported that the DOA has a full crew again. Trust Fund grants are due on December 5 and hearings will be held on March 9 - 12 in Lewistown. They may have to split hearings up if they have more than 100 grants. Looking at 2.2 million or better again this year. They are putting together a statewide saltcedar task force and the state is saying any saltcedar needs to go, so they aren't taking chances. Also going to a symposium in Colorado at the end of October and four or five members will be attending this function.

MACo – Mack reported that will be having their annual meeting at the end of September. They are involved in fundraising issues for fire areas as well. There is a committee taking a look at the Yellowstone River and the Corp of Engineers is currently involved in a lawsuit on how they are taking care of their land.

Awards Committee – Becky encouraged everyone to please look at web site and nominate people for the awards.

Next meeting – November 13, Thursday in Missoula at the Missoula County Weed District. Meeting will begin at 9 a.m.