

**MWCA Late Fall Board Meeting
November 13, 2003
Missoula County Extension Office**

Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

Voting members not present (unexcused): Ken Babcock, Grant Godbolt, Rosemary Koch, Marko Manoukian, Stuart Schilling, Dave Schulz, Paul Wick & Brenda Witkowski.

Guests present: Tonda Moon (representative for Dave Burch), Dustin Baker, Jolene Lambert (WAC Treasurer), Kim Goodwin, & Tim Braun (Fossil Design).

Old Business

Approve early fall minutes – Tonda Moon had some comments on behalf of Dave Burch. Mac moved the minutes be approved, Bob Gilbert seconded. All were in favor. The e-committee minutes were addressed, there were no comments.

License plates – Kim Goodwin explained the cost of the plates and passed around a sample plate, the plates are now available. Sample plates can be purchased from Deer Lodge and are for sale for \$20. Kim has had about five requests for these plates so far. Tracking is done by Deer Lodge and Kim gets those reports. Twenty three plates were purchased the first week. Kim requested \$ 500.00 and Scott motioned we put \$600 into the promotion and John Day seconded the motion. Becky asked about the return on those plates and apparently it will be a quarterly payment, but the process is still undergoing change and they are about a month behind. All were in favor of the motion. Kim is also working on news releases and newspaper promotions for the plate. Link for limited edition prints will be posted on the website and John asked for the link to be put on his own county web site. Kim will forward that link to the listserver. Kim introduced Tim Braun and he explained that he designed the plate with a real marketing strategy in mind. He also explained the limited edition prints that are being offered and the first signed print was presented to John Day. We will gather another limited print for the silent auction at the annual meeting. Dave offered that the print would be framed by the Western area. Jim Gordon suggested information be produced on the Northern Ag Net and Kim would look into it.

Commercial Applicator Training- Kelly Leo discussed that commercial applicators needed to have a forum and there is a real need to up the professionalism of these applicators as well. Amy Adler and John Day have been working on this project and have gotten some great feedback on this issue. Training issues have been brought up and Hank brought up federal requirements and that commercial applicators need to be trained in this area as well. More discussion will ensue before further decisions are made.

Coordinator Mentoring Program– Kelly Leo talked about the mentoring program that the Coordinator Support Committee has devised recently. Jack Eddie, Jerry Weber, and Dave Burch of the Dept. of Ag got together and devised a plan for a grant which she presented in a Trust Fund Grant form. Scott backed the need of this grant and John Moodry explained more as well. There was discussion on the different needs of all coordinators and how those differences would be addressed. Scott motioned to support the grant and Bob Gilbert has seconded. All were in favor.

Update on Weed Plan- Jerry Marks reported that they were in the process of a periodic review and there will be discussions at the annual meeting. No weed summit is in place yet. Hank and Jim reiterated how important this plan was to everyone who went back to D.C. and that this plan and our Association is still premier in the United States. A portion of the request the D.C. representatives will be taking back to D.C. needs to go into the trust if money is received for local programs. A strategy needs to be in place for the funding issues surrounding the Plan.

Representative to Trust Fund- Jerry reported that Diane Rice was approved and accepted by Ralph to sit on the Trust Fund as the MWCA representative.

D.C. Representatives – We need to decide who will attend weed week this year. The nominating committee has recommended two representatives, and five nominees have been selected. The nomination committee recommended Diane Rice and Scott Bockness. The association is going to change the process of the nominations next year and have more of a strategic plan in place in the future. Everyone voted and the two representatives to D.C. for 2004 will be Scott Bockness and Diane Rice.

MWCA nominations – Bob announced the nominees who have been submitted to the nominating committee –VP: Scott Bockness, Treasurer: John Moodry, Ag Rep: Steve Saunders & Barry Rice, Member-at-large: Amy Adler, Kim Goodwin, & Dustin Baker, Legislative Rep: Diane Rice, Forestry Rep: Kevin Suzuki, & Ellen Engstedt, MACo Rep: Dave Schulz. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and are still being accepted. Nominees will be expected to speak briefly at the annual meeting (Wed. luncheon) and have their bios ready by the end of November.

2004 Annual Meeting – Marijka went over the agenda and accepted revisions and updates from the board members. Jerry asked for input from all committee chairs in attendance.

2005 Annual Meeting – Bob reported that the next annual meeting in 2005 will be held in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. It will be held the last week in January – the 25th through the 27th - and the theme will more than likely be a legislative theme. Jim Gordon commented that there might be a conflict with this convention and MABA. Becky and Bob would look into this.

New Business –

Membership dues increase – Education committee did a survey last year and the membership decided that an increase in dues would be acceptable from \$20 to \$25. We would also have to increase group fees. Scott moved we increase the individual dues to \$25 and the group membership to \$200 and sustaining members would be increased to \$90 on July 1, 2004 at the beginning of our fiscal year. There were some concerns voiced by Hank and Barry. The motion was seconded by Barry Rice. Becky suggested advise the membership of these increases at the annual meeting.

Break for lunch at Kadena's at 11:25

Bylaws revisions – Jerry reported that we would have to review these bylaws every year. He asked the board members for input. Amy asked about attendance and that we need to exercise the rule we have. Nothing was decided on the issue. Committee and area councils will still choose their chair and recommend him/her to the President who would most likely approve of that chair. Bob explained the vacancy changes, Bob Gilbert moved we accept the changes and Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor. The membership will be apprised of the changes at the annual meeting in their folders and a vocal vote will be called upon.

Report on nonprofit convention – Becky reported that we should revamp our committee structure, they shouldn't be idea-based, but rather committees that govern the organization. We need to build a better board, we need to be fundraising and grant writing, and we need to have strategic plans, visions and goals in place for our group. John took away that while we have some basic and fundamental structures in place, we can be doing better through advocacy and lobbying efforts, we need to look at setting up a foundation, if you don't ask, you don't get, and John asked that we approve of filing the necessary IRS form to enable lobbying. Washington DC is considered lobbying and we can, within 20% of our operating budget, spend money on lobbying. Chuck suggested we not go into setting up a foundation if it isn't necessary. Go to the DOA and ask their opinion on if the DC trip is considered lobbying. Bob suggested we file the papers just to be safe. Scott reiterated that we can be much more than we are. We are really good at networking and partnering with others, but collaboration is something we need to really work on. We need to streamline as an organization. Burdens might be lessened if we work on making things function better and make things easier logistically. John finalized the discussion with the fact that he was laughed out of the room for us not having an ED by everyone at the conference. It can be done.

MWCA Vision and goals – The executive committee discussed the prospect of having a board retreat and have someone come in and facilitate a discussion in leading us to a better organization. Becky explained that we are looking into various locations, we are looking at late February, we need to have an identified outcome, a product or goals in getting this facilitated. Everyone agreed this had to be done. Becky will have more information at the next board meeting.

2004 Budget updates and financials – Scott presented the updated budget and asked for questions. Questions ensued regarding memberships and time periods. They were clarified by John and Scott.

Committees & area reports-

Coordinator Support Committee – Kelly presented the minutes of their last meeting and let the board know who sits on the committee. She reported on the plans for the spring coordinator convention in Livingston, March 23 – 25, 2004, at the Best Western. Coordinator awards will be revamped and updated as the committee is behind on this. Kelly then presented the proposed budget request for this committee which was a total of \$1,500 and one of the ways they would offset the cost would be to raise spring coordinator registration fees. They will meet as a committee at the annual meeting to decide on a couple of issues. It has been proposed that each area donate a raffle item for the raffle every year. The 2004 fall training will be held at Grouse Mountain on October 5-7 in Whitefish. The Coordinator handbook will be updated in 2004 as well. Scott motioned that we approve the \$1,200 requested from the committee and Jim Gordon seconded. All were in favor.

Bio-control Committee – Jim reported that the committee changed its focus a little. They will be meeting in Bozeman on December 9, and they have put out over a half a million in biocontrol distribution this year. On a national basis, the biological investment from the feds was about 1.5 million. APHIS is still a strong component even though they are now a part of homeland security. They have very strong alliances with several other states. Vic Roberts has been a big contributor to getting biological control agents out there. They tried to fill every bio control contract this year, totaling 81 requests. They had four action items, three have been fulfilled. Montana is the leader in trying to get biocontrol efforts streamlined into the United States and has a large coalition of people involved in the efforts. Stillwater County has largely footed the bill for all of these efforts. The committee has developed a booth for biocontrol, and Jim was elected to the NAWMA board. Mapping for biocontrol is on their agenda, however, they have not gotten to it this year. MSU no longer has biocontrol research program and it should be a concern of ours. They will address that in committee.

Management Committee - They recently met and will be bring bullets of what was discussed and what their goals are at the annual meeting.

Education Committee – Met in the summer and worked on the annual meeting. Emphasized the silent auction and how we need to get involved. They will get up and running again soon.

Prevention Committee – Paul Wick is vice chair, Craig and Jennifer are working on coming up with an agenda for the annual meeting. The committee is working on addressing the fact that salt cedar is still being offered through various catalogs – Kim Goodwin is helping with the effort.

Legislative Committee – John passed around the wording for the voter packet on the Trust fund act. Marijka and John are working on a handout addressing this issue. We need to get a clear message out on this bill. Burch is updating the figures for this advertising. The MWCA needs to request letters of support for this trust fund. Still working on writers for the pro and con sides of the legislation. Mac asked about opponents and there is virtually no opposition to the legislation so they may not even appoint a committee for the con side. Jerry's office would work on the wording because the most important point to get across is that this isn't new taxes. John requested that John's committee work on a press release for this legislation.

MWCA Sponsor to MAS - Jerry was asked by the Montana Academy of Science to sponsor either a booth and/or a financial commitment. They are providing a weed symposium at their annual meeting and will meet in April 16th at MSU Billings. Hank asked the board for input on this meeting – as in speakers and topics. The Academy of Science is mostly made up of University science folks. Scott motioned we sponsor the meeting by providing a \$250 donation and we may do a booth. Amy seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Western Area – met Oct 15 in Pablo had a good turnout. Discussed commercial applicators to area crew trainings and in 2004 would try to solicit commercial applicators for that, several vacancies were opened. Jolene Lambert is now treasurer and Paul Tryon is Vice Chair. Set date for crew training 2004 for May. Discussed media campaigns such as what Idaho is currently participating in and will try to implement a media campaign. Working with Jim Story in his efforts and other biocontrol issues. Other discussions included some issues with Montana Rail Link. The group may meet with other areas and a representative to MRL prior to a meeting with the Missoula County Attorney. Peter Rice is doing research with Plateau and noxious weeds, as they have little data on this product and its affects. They will be meeting at the annual convention.

Southwestern Area – John Moodry reported that Jay Cole has resigned. Jack Eddie has taken over this position. Pam Converse took over the position in Broadwater County and Bob Wagner has resigned in Madison County. They have not met and will meet at the annual meeting.

Southcentral Area – Scott reported they haven't seen Stuart Schilling and they haven't met recently. Trying to find an area rep for their area.

Southeastern Area – Amy reported they haven't met since the previous annual meeting and probably won't meet until the annual meeting.

Northeastern Area – Bob reported they have snow. The fall coordinator meeting went well in Sidney and the food was outstanding. Don't have a real collaborative group and if it needs to get done, they do it - they don't meet to do it before hand. Marijka reported that an opportunity to meet to address area issues will be offered at the annual meeting.

Central Area – Clint Clark reported that after his depression from his last meeting, he has made calls and has not had positive input from his area. He is trying to get all counties to pay membership dues to the MWCA. He will try to work with Otto to pull together this area.

BLM – Hank reported that they have 8 full time weed scientists and Montana has four of them. Their budget is in the works. For those who would like to use Plateau, isn't approved by the BLM so be aware.

Ag Rep – Mack reported that he took calendars to MACo convention and all of them went. Met with MT Farm Bureau and would like the board to consider how we work better with other organizations, especially in education on weed management. Barry reported that the cattle market is up and maybe producers will start spending more on weed control efforts despite the drought.

Jim Gordon – Reported that for the first time in years, new compounds have been introduced and work extremely well on Kochia. Payload is one of them.

Next board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13 at the annual meeting from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Grand.