

**January Board Minutes
January 14, 2003
Copper King Inn, Butte**

John called the meeting to order at 1:09.

Minutes Approved

November minutes approved after clarification by Roger. Roger clarified the statement in the November minutes "John asked if the Prevention Committee and the weed Coordinators involved in the [WMA] plan had been contacted and were in support, and Roger stated that they were", saying he did not remember that question and did not state that the weed coordinators had been contacted and were in support. He did not feel the above statement was portrayed correctly. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

Secretary Report

Becky reported that the annual meeting numbers were at about 275 and that things were basically on track for another successful meeting. She reported that there were 20 tables for vendors and only about two were available for extra vendors.

Annual meeting

Roger reported on speakers and the agenda and said things were coming along fine.

John Day brought up late fees, and asked the board members to get their registration materials in on time, stating that Becky is put in an awkward position to have to give special favors to board members who can't follow the same rules as everyone else.

The board came up with one day attendance fee that is fair for everyone involved. Becky explained that at the last board meeting, a single day registration was approved, but after further discussion by the eboard, it was decided that this could be a considerable loss of funds for the Association. Barry moved that we charge \$50 dollars for new members, which would include membership dues and \$30 for those who were already members for single day registration. Lunch would be included but not the banquet. John Moodry seconded. Grant amended motion that the eboard and annual meeting committee come up with a plan for next year's meeting. All were in favor.

The presenter's fees are currently up to the person who puts on the conference. Roger suggested offering scholarships for the presenter's registration fees. Marty moved that we leave the decision up to the person (VP) in charge within the boundaries of the budgeted \$1500.00 amount. John Moodry seconded the motion. Amy called for question, all were in favor.

John Day asked if applicator credits were taken care of, and Kim Goodwin replied that private applicator credits were applied for, but commercial applicator credits were not. Hank McNeel asked that all educational credits and such be taken care of prior to the annual meeting.

2004 annual meeting

Jerry Marks reported that next year's meeting is set for the week of January 13 – 15 in Billings at the Holiday Inn. Becky suggested we only advertise for the two days the actual convention takes place. She also suggested making a cost comparison with the Hotel & Convention Center. Roger stated that he would set up the board meeting dates for the 2003 year.

Designer Plates

Kim presented the design of the MWCA license plate. Dave Burch brought up that we should try to have our logo on the plate. Suggestions were made for the design of the logo. Some felt the logo should be included, but others felt it wasn't necessary. Amy motioned to accept the plate as is. Bob Ullom suggested getting an attorney to look over the contract because of the ownership issues surrounding additional advertising for the license plate design. John Day also suggested that we meet with the graphic designer in person to answer some of our questions. Roger suggested coming up with a marketing strategy for this project so we can have a basis to go from in addition to meeting with an attorney. Motion was seconded by Marty Malone. Question called for. All except Dave Burch were in favor. Roger talked with Tim (graphic designer) and the bottom line is that we have the flexibility to do what we want with advertising. We can use the image for what we want, don't necessarily have to go through this graphic designer to do that. The

graphic designer will receive \$.50 cents per plate, and the MWCA will have no additional fees associated with using the image for future items.

Treasurer and Budget Report

Revisions to the budget included the addition of \$490 dollars in CD income and the 2003 membership income is around \$5970. John Moodry asked about membership income and Becky explained that it was currently reflecting two years worth of membership. Scott suggested we look forward to possible changes at the next board meeting regarding the budget. Scott brought up that future grants have a 3% grant administration fee from the noxious weed trust fund, and we need to look at changing our policy from \$500 to the 3% fee. All grants need to be approved by the MWCA prior to sending to the DOA. John Day suggested grants be submitted at the September meeting and then finalized at the November meeting. The budget was motioned to be approved by Marty and seconded by Stuart Schilling. All in favor.

Advisory Committee

An advisory committee was formed on December 13 to work with the eboard and other ad hock members of the Association. This was done to improve communication efforts within the Association. One key effort was to look at the problems between extension and weed coordinators and to facilitate a better relationship between those entities. A letter has been drafted by Roger. Jerry Marks and John Day will approve the final draft before it goes out.

Idaho Annual Conference

John asked if we wanted to have representation at the Idaho meeting from this Association? This year's conference will be in Napa, Idaho. The 5th and 6th of February will be the convention dates. Vince stated that it is important to realize the Association doesn't have the money to pay for someone to attend all other state conventions. People who wish to attend those functions need to pay their own way. No further discussion.

DC – Weed Awareness Week

About \$600 has been raised to send representation to Weed Awareness Week in D.C. The education committee has submitted a grant proposal to the trust fund for \$2886, and this funding would cover support for travel to DC and proceedings costs. A silent auction at this year's annual meeting was being held to support this cause as well. Marty Malone and John Day will be heading to DC to represent Montana during weed awareness week. Last year was a great success and key contacts were made at this convention. John Moodry suggested that the legislative committee make this a permanent commitment from a budgetary standpoint. The legislative committee felt that counties would kick in for this and so would other important contacts. It was also suggested that the raffle at the annual meeting be a funding source. He motioned we make this a permanent funded source from here on out for \$3000 every year. Scott said that we need to have revenue streams in order to facilitate something of this magnitude. Vince suggested we wait to make this a firm motion until the coordinators get together and discuss this. He felt that the coordinators could come up with this money. However John Moodry felt that at least having it in the budget as a line item is all we need to do at this point. Scott seconded the motion. Mary called for question and all were in favor.

Committee Reports

Strategic Plans were asked of all committee chairs. The plans should revolve around the Montana State Plan.

Education Committee – the plan for the year is the education. Long term plan is to administer a survey to be distributed at the annual meeting to gather info about the needs of the MWCA. Committee is to function as a support committee for the planning of the annual meeting and to handle the proceedings. A silent auction is to be held for fundraising.

Research Needs- the committee is using the state plan to implement its goals. Riparian issues are at the forefront, vegetation and filter strips discussed, working with the MT Sheep Institute to implement grazing strategies, risk assessments to be done on different species of weeds and natives. Vince asked if integrated projects being researched and Marko stated that none were being done. Roger asked to do a research update at the spring coordinator meeting.

Legislative committee – The plan is for a reactive committee rather than proactive due to the nature of the committee. HB 128 (protect trust fund) is currently in the works and Diane Rice has been championing this

bill. There has been overwhelming support for this bill. A key committee question is how do we fund to get to the ten million dollar cap? If bill does pass, it will be on the 2004 ballot for constitutional change, and ratified in 2005 session if the voters approve. SB 127 is a housekeeping bill to make sure interest from the trust is going to the grants program and not getting tied up at the DOA. Letter from the eboard to legislative constitutes was suggested. DOA budget hearing will be held on Jan. 20 and Dave Burch explained some of the issues to be presented at that meeting, including reallocation of funds from the DOA that will take away from on-the-ground application for this year. The Dept of Interior was evaluating disbursement protocol of the Craig/Heffley bill, which is still in appropriations. Trail Symposium is being held and they requested that the MWCA be a sponsor of the organizations committee. With this sponsorship, we would get pre-paid registration with exhibition space. Carla H. and Judy T. will be presenting at the seminar. The Trail Symposium is asking for a \$500.00 sponsorship. Carla said that this is the first time the weed issue is being presented at their convention and where it might go into the future. Dave Burch suggested that we review our decision to send the President and Past-President to the Weed Awareness Week in D.C. We need to consider sending the legislative representative as one of the key players. John Moodry suggested that our elected legislative representative should be considered to go back as well.

Nominating Committee

All elected positions on the MWCA board have someone to elect to that position.

Prevention committee

Jack Eddie stepped down as chair. Jennifer Cramer now fills as chair.

Management Committee

John Day will chair as Jim Ghekier has stepped down. Strategic plan will be forthcoming.

Bio-control Committee

Activities planned for 2003: Concentrate on distribution of new insects, including the one for Toadflax. More interest at local level for knapweed and spurge insects. Input from local levels that do have collection sites is important. Education materials for bio-control will be a priority. Jerry read through those who are helping with bio-control efforts across the state. John Moodry volunteered to handle bio-control in the Southwestern area.

Mapping Committee

Currently BLM is handling mapping which will be transferred to NRIS and are working on category II and III weeds. They are facilitating a GIS web site where you can map electronically from your own computer instead of sending data back and forth through mail. NRIS site will give all EIA information for grant purposes. Still need a complete state map of weeds. Categories of weeds will be put on site at different levels of formatting. Strategic plan will be forthcoming. Only weed infestations on state and federal lands will be posted on web site, as private lands can't be touched.

Education Awareness and Outreach Committee

Carla reported that on March 6, in Missoula, there would be a statewide general meeting. The committee's strategic plan will be updated at that time. SNWAEC committee is a part of the MWCA and should be listed as such. John suggested we put our license plate image in the calendar next year. Hank suggested that these calendars go to our federal and state agencies, such as sending some back with the Washington DC folks. John Moodry made the motion to use the license plate design on the calendar and Amy seconded the motion. Logo and short draft will be included. Question called for, all were in favor.

Budget and Finance

Revisions will need to be made at the spring meeting, but a preliminary budget has already been drafted.

Summit Steering Committee

Jim Olivarez reported that the committee is responsible for acting on the implementation of the plan. Federal signatures associated with the plan trying to be secured. Phil Johnson working on non-government groups. The committee spent time working on state coordinator job description and had input with that. Idaho is receiving over 3 million per year for three consecutive years. Now is the time to make our presence known and to be in line. John Day mentioned that some counties had responded to his poll asking if and how counties were working with the state weed management plan.

Western Area

Two vacancies in the area were being filled, and there was ongoing discussion with voluntary roadside agreements for those who want to handle their own right of way. Tentatively planned 2003 crew training on May 21 in Plains. Also working on bio-control measures to have locations for disbursement of insects. Hawkweed Taskforce has developed a plan for mapping procedures and has a grant in for Hawkweed.

South-central Area

Having a tour this summer in Paradise Valley to show what has been done after the fires.

Triangle Area

Working on mapping with DOT in their area. 8 of 9 counties were represented at the last meeting. Discussed some issues to be presented at next meeting.

Central Area

Some key folks have had to step back and the area is hoping to reorganize this spring, and be more proactive this year.

Southeastern Area

Lower Yellowstone Salt Cedar group having a spray day in Treasure County, August 11 -12. Eastern MT Crew training, June 2-3. MDT Training was held on Dec 11 for MDT in eastern part of state. Another spring training will be in June concerning control applications. Weed coordinators and extension agents attend most meetings. Chairman left and now they need to refocus and regroup.

Southwestern Area

Exotic Plant management team, area crew training held in June in Dillon. MT Rail Link, the state weed management plan, and inspection of shops will be discussed at the next meeting.

MT Association of Realtors

Fred Bell reported that realtors were invited to weed summit, and brought forth weed disclosure in buy-sell agreements. There would be more than 26,000 contacts with realtors on this weed disclosure act. Wants to get continuing ed classes on noxious weeds for realtors. Complimented Roger on the job he did in Bozeman, where they had a great turnout. In 2003, noxious weeds will be a mandatory part of continuing Ed credits.

BLM

Hank reported the first draft of the EIS will be out in June or July and if a copy is requested, let Hank know. Look at EIS and support their actions. Really need to have letters of support along with letters of suggested revisions. Additional funding may be available but ear marked for southwestern states. Montana might get \$5,000 of that.

DOT

Contracted with Celestine to work on a strategy for roadside vegetation. A pilot program is being implemented in some districts with federal aid to get more money put on the ground for fighting noxious weeds. Asked to be present at area meetings to distribute maps before this spraying season. Need to have input from counties on contracted services.

Other business

DOA has opened up the state weed coordinator position, which will close in February. Dave Burch had traveled the state and visited a majority of counties, and Ralph was happy with the response.

John thanked the board for time and consideration of board in his tenure as President.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.