

**MWCA Board of Directors Meeting  
September 16, 2004  
Colonial Inn – Helena, MT 59729**

Voting members not present (unexcused) – Dave Schulz

Guests present – Kim Johnson

**Minutes approved** – *Scott approved the minutes and Bob seconded. All were in favor.*

**Treasurer's Report** – John Moodry presented the 2003 – 04 budget for the board to look at and the proposed budget for 2004 – 05. Mutual fund is at \$6,200 and has not moved. Two CDs have been rolled over into First Interstate with one left at Valley Bank. They are all in 60 month CDs at 4% interest. *Amy moved we approve the budget for 04 – 05. Jim Gordon seconded. All were in favor.*

**Old Business**

**Education position at MSU** – Financing was the major issue in getting the position financed at MSU. They will fill this position as resources become available. Jerry will write a letter to support filling that position to Board of Regents and President Geoffrey Gamble. Jim Freeman also reported that there would be pressure at the legislative level to push appropriate money to fill the position and MSU asked for a heads up if that happened.

**License plate update** – Kim reported that we are selling about 100 plates per month and we do not have a marketing campaign. We need to strategize our marketing. MT Stockgrowers and other related groups could be targeted. Bob suggested we target several ag groups and have smaller ads and Carla suggested we use a slip in and make CD covers advertising the plates. Carla can help with match funding. The board has approved \$2,500 for Kim to use for marketing. John Moodry mentioned that the RMEF has advertising on Ebay for their sample plates.

**Assessment committee update** – Bob Gilbert reported they haven't met. However, by email, the committee has come up with some ideas. They will meet shortly and after this summer, they will get rolling shortly.

**CA 40 update** – Diane Rice sent out a PSA for everyone to distribute to newsletters. Diane and John Moodry will be looking at radio spots. It is imperative that this proposed legislation get out to the voters in short order. An insert will go out in the MWCA newsletter and Taylor Brown will be contacted. We have \$5,000 budgeted to work with on advertising.

**2005 Annual Convention update** – Becky reported on the agenda for the 2005 annual meeting. There were no questions or comments. Major changes include the time of the event (Mon – Wed), the awards committee dissolved into a working group with Margie

Edsall as team leader, and the business luncheon has been changed into a business breakfast meeting.

**MT Noxious Weed Plan update** – Weed summit committee is working on updating the plan. Jim Olivarez reported they have been meeting once a month. Celestine has been contracted to revise the original plan. Several agencies and organizations have come on board in a much more active fashion. The committee is updating new action items in the plan which has been the primary dialog along with the financial aspects of the plan. The draft completion date is projected to be at the end of October 2004 and then to have a final draft by mid –January 2005 (in time for annual meeting). They will distribute the plan among other organizations for input before the final draft is produced.

### **New Business**

**Nonprofit convention** – Scott Bockness asked if any board members would be interested in going to the nonprofit convention. Kim Goodwin and Marijka Wessner were interested in attending with several members of the executive committee.

**Brochures for MWCA/membership drive** – Kim Goodwin reported we have over a thousand addresses from the license plate purchases. We need new brochures and 5,000 brochures will cost \$1,500. We haven't had a brochure for the association for many years. Kim will have a draft brochure by the next meeting as well as bids for that.

**Travel reimbursements for non board members** – Kim Goodwin opened discussion on getting private landowners to attend board meetings and be reimbursed for travel. Scott felt that if we invite an individual, we can reimburse them, but it would open Pandora's box if we opened it up for every one to be reimbursed. Dave Brink felt that if they wanted to come to the board to provide input, they should go through their area councils to do so.

**Trust Fund Grant proposals** – Becky Kington suggested we apply for a Trust Fund grant for brochures and Jerry Marks promoted a grant for the updated plan which would help with membership drive. If we were to include all of those aspects in a Trust Fund grant, that would be acceptable to the board. A proposal and budget for grants would be accepted by the November meeting. Jim Freeman asked that the board let the committees know what the association priorities are so the committees can make some decisions regarding grants and Jerry asked that the committees also come up with ideas to present to the board.

**Nominations for elected positions and awards** – Scott Bockness brought up the elected positions that are up and they are VP, chemical industry rep, environmental rep, Ag rep, and member-at-large rep. Becky addressed the awards for the annual convention and asked that folks be engaged and nominate people.

**2006 annual meeting update** – The 2006 annual convention will be in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn January 10 – 12. Marijka Wessner reported that Missoula be considered in the future because they are building a huge convention center.

**NAWMA meeting** – Scott reported that several individuals will be attending the NAWMA meeting in South Dakota this year. Jim Larsen encouraged people to attend because it isn't expensive and it is close. Several board members talked about the importance of getting issues on the table at this meeting.

**Legacy membership**- John Moodry reported that with our dues increases, we hadn't made a decision on the "Legacy" membership as of the last meeting. John recommended that we have the structure at \$90 for a sustaining membership, do away with \$250 membership and have a donation/sponsorship box instead. Steve suggested offering two choices but give a good value, one at \$250 and one at \$500, but we need to itemize those expenses. Hank suggested we offer \$20 memberships for each individual after the ten in the group memberships. Steve mentioned a lifetime membership option as well too. ***John motioned that we set up our membership at \$25 for individual, \$200 for a group of ten, \$250 for a sustaining, \$500 for a "Legacy" and John and Becky would put a value on it. Jim Freeman seconded. There was discussion and all were in favor.*** A lifetime membership would be addressed with the e-committee. Jim Freeman mentioned that Gary Gingery was already an honorary lifetime member.

**NIWAW conference** – Jerry Marks opened up discussion on weed week in D.C. and the need to send two representatives to D.C. Nominations would be accepted by Scott Bockness for those representatives and a vote would be taken at the next board meeting. We might be able to use some license plate revenue towards sending two folks to this meeting. Dave Burch (through proxy) would like to let everyone know that experience counts when sending folks back. Carla's display can be set up at the Botanical Gardens at this year's meeting as well.

**Dave Burch report** – Tonda Moon reported that biennial pesticide reports are not due until 2005, agencies are responsible to meet with the weed districts, not visa versa, Trust Fund grants are due on December 3 (postmarked) hearings in March in Helena at the Hampton Inn and 28 copies will be needed for the Trust Fund. There has been talk about a grant writing workshop offered in the east and west side of state later this fall. A mapping workshop would possibly be offered at spring training.

**Past President position** – Due to an oversight by the executive committee, Bob Gilbert proposed that the past president be involved in the e-committee again and this would be a change in the bylaws. ***Bob proposed a change the past president be a voting member on the executive committee. John Moodry seconded. All were in favor.*** It will be voted on at the annual meeting by the membership.

**Bulk Mailing** – Becky Kington reported that there have been problems in the bulk mailing process with the newsletter. She has worked with the printing company and the postmaster to address the issue and not much can be done. The southeastern area is not receiving their newsletters and Becky will mail out newsletters directly to them if it becomes necessary. Also, the next spring newsletter will be sent out first class to make sure addresses are correct.

**Grazing fees** – Steve Saunders reported that grazing fees have been increased for producers on public lands. If fees are increased, weeds should be included in those discussions. The same with FWP to increase hunting fees. If those increase, weed management should be included in the discussions on those conversations. Jerry Marks suggested the e-committee watch for these changes and be involved and address in November.

**Hoary allysum** – Steve Saunders asked that someone poll the counties and see if they can find out how severe the problem with hoary allysum is across the state. Tonda Moon will work with Steve to address the issue and Jim Gordon stated that Celestine has done some research on this.

**SNWEAC** – Carla Hoopes thanked everyone for their help with the calendars. She reported on the income and expenses for the cost of the calendars. The 2006 calendar will focus on success stories. They are looking for a private landowner to chair the next committee for the 2006 calendar.

**Graytak booth** – Don Greytak has donated ten limited edition prints for our raffle at the annual meeting and he has requested a booth to display his work. There is no problem with that request.

**Coordinator Support Committee** – Kelly Leo reported that the fall meeting will be on October 12 – 14 at Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. She reported on the agenda topics and the business meeting on the last day.

**Education Committee** – Marijka Wessner reported that the committee will be meeting in October to discuss the silent auction, workshops, curriculum goals, and any other items necessary. Everyone is invited.

**Research Needs Committee** – Jim Freeman reported they are conducting business through email and have been working with the summit committee to update the plan, and they have been working with the Center and MSU in their research positions. They have been trying to work with MSU to impact where they feel research should be happening and with what. They encourage feedback from everyone to let them know where they'd like to see the research.

**Biocontrol Committee** – Jim Larson reported that a lot of insects moved around between several states this season. Setting priorities for the Trust Fund is a primary goal with the committee. They have put guidelines together to submit with grant applications to the Trust Fund in regards to biocontrol. This would include risk assessment criteria. There is a severe shortage in inspectors for ag related products, which has dropped the products inspected from 75% to 3% and it will impact this state. He reported on the specific insects and summarized what happened with them this year. The committee wants to set priorities this fall when they meet in November.

**Mapping Committee** – Jim Larson reported that section based mapping will be turned over to the DOA from the BLM. It will be available on the net and all coordinators will have access to it. This is one opportunity to have a yearly inventory of where the weeds are and where they are going. They will be presenting this project at the fall coordinator training meeting and will again present the information at the annual meeting and the spring coordinator training. It will be ready to go by September 30.

**Legislative Committee** – John Moodry reported that items to address for this legislative session will be discussed at the November meeting. Diane suggested that legislators get introduced to the officers of the MWCA at 1 p.m on the Monday of the annual convention. On Tuesday, the Ag committee meets and that would testify for the bill when CA 40 passes. The more times the MWCA name gets out to the legislators, the better it is. Calendars and weed ID books will be handed out to the legislators as well.

**Prevention Committee** – Jennifer Cramer reported that this committee has been trying to meet through emails. Kim Goodwin is working on interstate commerce noxious weed issue and they are also working on the revision of the plan. Jennifer has grant money for education left over from a starthistle grant and the board asked for 200 weed ID books for the legislators and other key people. Jennifer said she could pull together these books for them.

**MACo convention** - Mack Cole reported that he would take calendars and other items to the MACo convention in Missoula. Amy would get him 150 weed ID books as well. The meeting is the last week of September.

**Southeastern Area** – Amy Adler is planning the fall meeting and it will be in October. They've had two watershed groups form over the summer. Rush Skeleton was found in Treasure County and they pulled twelve bags of it.

**Northeast Area** – Scott Heidi reported that everyone is still spraying. The lower Yellowstone Salt cedar Task Force has been working hard and more and more noxious weeds are being found. They are working on forming a task force for salt cedar around Fort Peck Reservoir.

**Triangle Area** – Paul Wick reported they will be meeting in October and will be having discussions on weed prevention areas.

**Central Area** – Clint Clark reported that the Salt Cedar Task Force is still very active in their area. They have several agencies working with them on mapping and inventory. Their area doesn't have a great deal of salt cedar in the upper area, so they are in a prevention mode. They are looking to have aerial mapping of salt cedar completed and have it funded through grants. They are also trying to increase membership.

**Southwestern Area** – Jack Eddie reported they were still spraying and aerial work is slated for fall. Watching sage grouse issue closely and working on getting an annual

newsletter out within the SW area. They are also working with private landowners to get credits and will provide several trainings this fall so they can get licenses renewed.

**Western Area** – Dave reported they hosted their annual training this spring and had about 90 in attendance. In June two weed levies were introduced; in Sanders County it failed and in Mineral County it passed. Rush Skeleton weed Task force and the Tansy Ragwort and Hawkweed Task Forces have all been active in the area and will be looking at Trust Fund grants. Eight counties in western area have been working with MRL this year to get the railroad to address their weed problems. Contractors were hired by MRL and they were not prepared for the problems they encountered this year. Celestine has been contracted to draw up a long term plan for MRL and a weed management plan. Container recycling has been an issue and area is looking into solutions to getting collection points in MT. Their council meeting will be in October.

**Jim Gordon** – The Wyoming Weed & Pest will be meeting on November 9 & 10 and Jim Gordon will have to be excused from the November board meeting. The chemical industry is shrinking, and some are merging.

**Steve Saunders** – Cattle prices at record highs and the reality is that inventories are at historic lows. Building herds and replacement numbers will drop as ranchers liquidate. The drought is not anywhere near an end and due to rain in some areas, quality of hay is poor. Rancher economic status is as challenging as it has been – look for more disposable capital on ranches, but won't be seen in weed management.

**Marijka Wessner** – She is working with environmental and conservation groups and celebrating the wilderness act in Missoula this weekend. The weed message will be out at this convention.

**Dan Williams** – MDOT is going to be asking for \$300,000 for their weed control budget in the upcoming legislative session. The DOT has increased fuel costs, more noxious weeds and they have generally been under funded. If they get this amount, it will get the DOT where the plan projected them to be. Highway contract will have ten units to bid on. Weed inventory was gathered by 30 counties and DOT can use this inventory to approach the legislators with. Need updated inventory by November from the counties – all 56 counties should participate if they wish to have funding. Looking at more contracting work for the roads in Montana, and they want to make sure the weed coordinators are a part of those contracts in the counties. Finalizing integrated weed plan. Post construction issues are still arising within the DOT. John Moodry asked that the MWCA provide support when the DOT goes to the legislature to ask for more funding.

**DOA** – Tonda Moon thanked the counties who allowed the noxious weed seed free intern to attend county fairs. They will try to do it again next year. Interns have been very effective.

**FWP** – Joe Weigand reported they have their 2003 fiscal activity report for weeds wherever he goes. It will offer how much funding is spent in each fishing access site in

the state. In regards to hunting fee increase, there is a dollar amount that can go to landowners for incentives to take care of weeds on their land. It is capped at \$500.

**BLM** – Hank McNeel reported that calendars will be distributed in the state office this week and will provide an opportunity to impress upon the powers that be how important weed control is. Budget figures look to be the same. BLM has several contracts with various biocontrol organizations around the country. Sept 21 & 22 the BLM field office will hold a workshop and when Hank retires, it will be filled with either a professional IPM or field scientist with GIS knowledge. Theresa Hanley will be the contact person for the BLM. She can be reached at 896 – 5068 or [thanley@blm.gov](mailto:thanley@blm.gov). Hank thanked everyone for allowing him to be involved in the MWCA. He asked that everyone remember these four things: communication, cooperation, commitment, and honesty. Hank will have a retirement party in Billings on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting will be on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Livingston at the Best Western Hotel.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.