

**MWCA Late Fall Board Meeting
November 10, 2004
Livingston Best Western**

Members present: Amy Adler, Dustin Baker, Scott Bockness, Dave Brink, Clint Clark, Jennifer Cramer, Jack Eddie, Jim Freeman, Bob Gilbert, Kim Goodwin, Scott Heide, Chuck Jarecki, Jerry Marks, John Moodry, Steve Saunders, Marijka Wessner, and Paul Wick, Dave Burch, Carla Hoopes and Becky Kington.

Members unexcused: Mack Cole, Jim Larson, Diane Rice, & Kevin Suzuki

Guests present: Dale Butori and Theresa Hanley

September minutes approved – Bob moved we adopt the September minutes, Scott seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report- John Moodry presented the budget report – profit/loss statement. Scott motioned to approve the budget as presented. Jennifer seconded. All were in favor. John also asked that we have a fee for cancellations or refunds in the future at both the convention and at weed coordinator trainings. *Chuck moved that with more than 14 days notice, recipient would receive 100% refund, with 7 – 14 days notice a 50% refund, and with less than 7 days notice, no refund. Exceptions would be for extenuating circumstances like a death in the immediate family or severe weather that makes travel impossible. Amy seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

Old Business

CA-40- It passed. Diane Rice worked very hard to get this initiative passed. It had overwhelming support across the state with 75% approval. Dave Burch asked we recognize her efforts at the annual meeting with an award of some sort. The implementation process of CA-40 will go to the legislature this upcoming session.

2005 Convention update – Becky reported that the agenda was a work in progress and she had met with the MWCA education committee for input on some final strands. Moderators will be contacted by Marilyn and she is getting that organized. Bob reported that it was going well so far. Area reps will be asked to speak to the membership at the Wednesday breakfast meeting.

Brochures for MWCA – Kim presented the draft of the brochure and the costs for printing 500 would be about \$3,000 and 10,000 would be for \$3,800. Many suggestions were handed out by the board members. Only \$3,000 has been budgeted for promotion of the MWCA and \$2,500 for license plate promotion. Jerry suggested we come up with funding sources and that Marijka and Kim talk with John about those possibilities. *Amy motioned that we use an association CD to fund the brochures if we can't find the money within the budget. Bob Gilbert seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

New Business

Non-Profit convention – Jerry reported that six of us attended the Montana Nonprofit Conference and we all gained some great information, especially in the workshop, “Creating a Better Board.” Several board members reported on the workshops they attended and how much they took away from the convention. Kim stated there is a lot of opportunity for fundraising out there.

MWCA Future/Terry Profota – Bob reported that Terry Profota was a presenter at the nonprofit convention and was asked by the e-committee to address the board on a mission statement and structure. Terry came in and worked with the board on November 9, and through the process, came up with a new mission. There will be another workshop for the board before the annual meeting. The board also identified three tentative goals, networking, education, and research for the group. *Scott asked that we approve this mission statement, “Strengthen, support, and coordinate all weed management efforts in Montana in accordance with the Montana Weed Management Plan.” And Jim Freeman asked that it be put before the membership. Steve Saunders seconded. All were in favor.* John reported that he and Becky had talked with Terry about her fees and she reported a baseline of \$2,500 so we could have at least one more facilitated meeting. If the board decides what they want and give that to Terry, she can come back with a price tag for the cost of her services. Becky stated that while the CD’s have been a security net, the brochures and the meetings with Terry are probably worth more as an investment for the Association. *Amy motioned that we give the authority to spend one of the CDs if necessary to facilitate producing a strategic plan for the Association. Jack Eddie seconded. All were in favor.* Jerry set up a second meeting date with Terry for Tuesday, December 14, in Billings at 9 a.m. at the BLM office. Board members will need to bring a picture ID.

DOA Trust Fund Grants- Marijka presented her education committee proposal for a trust fund grant to the board. She explained her proposal for training in a “Death by Lecture” workshop to be provided to various weed professionals across the state. Trainings will be limited to 100 people and it will cost \$5,000 for the speaker fees. The matching funds will come from the CIPM and the MWCA silent auction. Later on, the matching fees will also come from the registration fees garnered from the workshops. All workshops will be held at Chico Hot Springs and will begin in February of 2006. *Jerry motioned we accept the proposal and Scott Bockness seconded. All were in favor.*

Nominations for Awards/Elections/DC Trip – Margie Edsall reported that the process for choosing award recipients went well, and there was a lot of participation. The MWCA will give a gift to Ralph Peck in appreciation of work done with a print and honorary membership. Flowers and a plaque would be given to Diane Rice at the annual meeting as well. Margie brought up the issue of the weed stopper award to be limited to category III weeds. *Jennifer motioned that we change the weed stopper award to category II and III weeds to just category III weeds for next year. Jack Eddie seconded. Jim Freeman suggested we not make that change for this year. All were in favor.* Becky brought up the issue of honorary memberships and Chuck J stated that it needed to be in our bylaws to have honorary memberships. *Steve motioned that we make Hank McNeel and Ralph*

Peck as honorary members of this organization. Seconded by Scott, all were in favor.
Honorary memberships will be presented to the membership for a bylaw change in January.

Elected positions – Marijka Wessner has accepted the nomination of VP for the MWCA, at least six other individuals declined the position. Environmental rep candidates would be Marilyn Marler and Bill Neumiller, Member-at-large candidates would be Dale Butori and Kelly Leo; Industry Rep candidates would be Ron Honea and Jim Gordon, and Steve Saunders suggested Shawn Erickson as well; Ag Rep candidates will be Mack Cole and John Maki (Mack will decline if someone else will step forward). Steve suggested Alan Wang for ag rep as well and Dale Butori would approach him.

Scott handed out the ballots for the DC nominations and asked the board to vote on those. Jim Freeman suggested that in the future, the President and President-Elect always be one of those positions that go. Discussion ensued and the consensus felt that anyone who would be a benefit to the board should be allowed to go without the limitations of the president or past-president position requirements. Scott Bockness and John Moodry will be the representatives to DC this upcoming year as voted on by the board.

NAWMA meeting- This year's meeting was in Rapid City and several members of the board attended. Scott reported that they had a great speaker and that the convention had 160 in attendance. Next year's convention will be in Kansas. This group represents all weed managers in North America and several members from this organization were involved in its creation. They are active in the political scene and Dave Burch suggested the MWCA become a sustaining member of the North American Weed Management Association. Jim Larson is the treasurer of this organization and currently is considered our rep for that group.

Senate Bill 144 – Dave Burch reported that the Craig Heffley bill has been passed and signed by the President on October 30. All three of our congressmen have supported the bill. It was cut to 15 million from 100 million. It will be run through USDA secretary of Agriculture and may run through APHIS. Scott handed out a draft letter to Ann Veneman for the board to review. Dave suggested the letter state that we support the funding coming through the State & Private Forestry and then through the MDA like the Cooperative Forestry Assistance program does. Montana would be set up to go. When funding becomes available and depending how it comes to Montana, Dave suggested a million be requested for the permanent trust fund, and \$25K be requested for each county, and that the wording in the letter state where we would like that money to be channeled through. The MDA would also draft a letter and both would need to be consistent in their message. John Moodry and Dave Burch would work together to finalize the letter and get that sent out. ***Jerry motioned that we support a letter to the secretary of agriculture requesting funding provided by SB144 be funneled down through the state and private forestry program within the Montana MDA. Motion seconded by Steve Saunders and all were in favor.***

MWCA fund raising Campaign – Kim explained a program where you can participate in a shared fundraising campaign. This program is called Montana Shares. In order to

participate, the MWCA would have to become a member. As a member we would be offered an ability to have people contribute to our organization – It costs \$600 to join in the program and an additional \$200 each year. The potential return would be up to \$8,000 per year (average). We have to show that our efforts benefit Montana. We would have to be a 501 (c)3 organization, of which we are not right now. This idea would be tabled until the next fiscal year when we will officially be a 501 (c)3 organization. Readdress at spring board meeting

Mosquito Association – This organization has wanted to join forces with us at our annual meeting. They are trying to re-build the organization and many individuals involved in the MWCA are involved in the Mosquito Association. They would like to work with us in a joint manner – to utilize the annual convention & trainings. The board agreed that they could be a part of the vendor process. If the two groups were to merge, the registration needs to be flushed out, Dustin and Scott would work on details. ***Jim Freeman motioned that the two groups merge together for the annual meeting and registration details would be decided within the planning committee. Jennifer seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

Committee reports

Education committee – Marijka reported that the education committee met recently and worked on the annual meeting agenda. Silent auction items can be brought to the annual meeting and results for the silent auction will be announced on Wednesday morning. Kim suggested we ask each county to contribute to the silent auction and Clint Clark reminded the group that the area reps were to contact their counties. Jim Freeman suggested we try to develop an online format for getting training out there for those who need to get re-certification credits. John Moodry suggested the DOA have a website for those private applicators to go to find out where trainings are being offered. Dave agreed to look into it.

Coordinator Support committee – Jennifer Cramer (new coordinator chair) reported that the Spring Coordinator training is March 8 – 10 in Dillon. It will be in conjunction with the DOA training session which will occur the day before spring training. Dave asked that the MWCA handle the registrations, and the DOA will pay for the costs of its training session. Jennifer reported that Whitefish was a success and a nice place.

Biocontrol committee – the Western area discussed bio weed control and where priorities should go. They thought the biocontrol committee should survey the weed districts to set priorities for research and that will be the committee's mission.

Prevention committee – Jennifer asked that Paul Wick become the chair since she has assumed a new chair position on the board. She will remain on the committee. Paul agreed to chair. The new revisions for the state weed plan have been submitted.

Legislative committee – the committee looked at several items within the weed law and after much discussion, decided that the weed law did not have to be changed. There was

discussion of the implementations of CA-40 funding – unused grant dollars (Trust Fund) might be utilized to increase the trust fund in order to cap it.

Summit committee – Jerry Marks reported they are working on subdivision development and weed control on city lots. County governments are responsible for noxious weed control on all city properties within their jurisdiction. Dave will be asking which counties have management plans filed from the cities within their jurisdiction. Dave Burch also reported that the weed plan will be out as a draft within the next week and printed and available for the annual meeting. Now wording in the plan states that the total budget for weed control is up to nearly 50 million. This committee is still very active.

Western Area – Dave Brink reported that at fall training, they invited the Northern Ag Plastics rep to speak to the coordinators. This company takes care of the used herbicide containers and currently, Montana is handled by a company out of Missouri. Northern Ag Plastics is based out of Washington and the idea is to set up collection sites and have NAP take care of them.

Southwestern Area – Jack reported that they were working on a newsletter for the members in their area. The SW area is planning a weed festival during the Beaverhead County Spray Day on July 9. This will be for everyone in the SW area.

Southcentral Area – Scott said they were gearing up for the MATE show at this time, and looking for help with the booth.

Southeastern Area – Amy reported that they had a meeting last week. They are having problems in that area and Amy asked what the area rep responsibilities are. They would like to look at the Western area bylaws. They had great participation at that meeting, but three county extension agents operated on their own agenda and it has created contention in the area. The area chair was nominated and is not a member of the MWCA.

Central Area – Clint reported that no accounts are set up. He asked what his responsibilities are as area rep. Dave Brink explained that he does represent the interested parties in the area, and that only voting members can establish policy. The MWCA needs a format that explains the duties and responsibilities of an area rep. Clint offered to do that. He has been able to garner no interest in an area council in his area.

Triangle Area – Paul reported that they had a meeting in September with all ten counties represented. They discussed the upcoming annual meeting and came up with one auction item from the triangle area – They decided they would hold their rep election at that fall meeting and Paul was re-elected once again. WMA's were discussed and they had a good discussion. They had an All Topo training session and had good participation.

Northeastern Area – nothing to report.

BLM – Theresa Hanley reported that calendars were distributed in the state office and the director and deputy director were given those calendars. No appropriations yet, but forecast is gloomy. They are looking towards other funding sources through challenge dollars. Had a workshop in September with the BLM weed coordinators and that went well. They are in the process of re-filling Hank’s position and she would like to be kept in the loop.

SNWEAC – Carla reported that they are working with the MWCA education committee actively, and now that the MWCA is setting goals and looking towards a strategic plan she looks forward to being a part of that process.

DOA – Held two grant workshops and they turned out well. Janet Kirkland is transferring to the pesticide application division. Trust Fund Grants are due Dec. 3rd. The Noxious Weed Committee will be meeting soon to add more weeds to the list. He petitioned for a category 4 watch list. Council meetings will be in conjunction with the MWCA annual meeting, held on January 24. New members for the council are Mack Cole, member-at-large and Bob Bushnell, sportsman representative. They are in the process of looking for someone to sit on the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Council. Nancy Peterson will be the new director of the Department of Ag in January, and Mary Sexton will be the new director of NRCS.

Ag Rep – Steve reported that the beef advisory committee met and they reviewed the animal and range science properties, and their participation is to provide field input and directional support for the research needs at MSU. Dec. 8- 10 the Stockgrowers will hold their annual meeting in Billings. Steve suggested the MWCA might be able to pick up a complimentary booth there if we desire. The Society for Range Science is very active in weed management issues and great information comes out of that program.

Environmental Rep – Marijka reported that she handled a lot of phone calls from the Native Plant Society regarding CA-40.

Member at Large – Kim reported that she will have a membership drive plan at the next board meeting. First step is to get the brochures finalized and printed.

Other business- Becky asked that all newspaper articles be submitted by November 19 for the winter newsletter. John Moodry asked that we invite all new directors to be involved and give an update on their audit at the annual meeting.

Board will have their winter meeting on Monday, January 24 at 2 p.m. the Colonial Inn.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.