

*Montana Weed Control Association
Spring Board of Directors' Meeting
April 14, 2004
Yogo Inn, Lewistown*

Voting members not present (unexcused): Mack Cole, Scott Heide, and Dave Schulz.

Guests present: Dale Butori

Minutes approved

The January board minutes and the e-committee minutes were approved by John Moodry and seconded by Scott Bockness. All were in favor.

Treasurers' Report

John Moodry reported that we are working with the bookkeeper and Becky to be on the same system-Quickbooks. John explained the annual meeting billing and costs and we will probably end year in the red. License plates are showing some great returns. 100 plates per month are being sold without a marketing campaign, and Kim has been sending out thank you cards. ***Request from the board to have the expanded versions of the budget for future meetings.*** John also explained CD investments and requested that we move them to one bank, First Interstate. He also requested that we move them to a longer term CD for a better return. ***Jim Freeman moved we move the CDs to a longer term under the conditions that John spelled out and Jim Gordon seconded.*** All were in favor. ***Clint Clark motioned that we move the Barb Mullin award into a CD and Scott seconded.*** All were in favor. John asked for budget requests. ***Chuck moved we move to accept the treasurer's report and Kelly seconded. All were in favor.***

Old Business

2004 Convention Wrap up

Jerry summed up the evaluations, what worked and what didn't. A suggestion was made to have a breakfast business meeting instead of a lunch meeting on Thursday of the annual convention. The annual meeting committee will be meeting this summer to work on agendas and hotel details. A bid process is trying to be implemented. No other comments.

Weed Week in D.C.

Scott reported on the value of folks attending DC Week for this organization. We need to be involved in the national movement to stay on the radar screen. Because of the pressures on agencies, we need to keep fighting to keep their involvement. Diane reported that the networking that was established was amazing and she reiterated Scott's enthusiasm. She went through her report (which will be in the next newsletter), and both she and Scott thanked the board for sending them to represent the MWCA. Steve suggested we keep the same people to keep continuity every year. Jim reported that Montana puts the pressure on at the national level in the biocontrol world. Jim also explained how risk assessment works in both the scientific and political realms.

Summit Committee activities

Committee has been working on the weed plan update and new plan will be written and finalized in late fall, before the legislature meets. Four members of the summit committee and guests met with the governor recently and updated her on what was happening in the weed world. Committee did bring up action items for the governor as well. Committee is trying to get private landowners involved and they are going to ask for two individuals to fill those positions, Dave asked for names from the board. Jerry reported on the educational positions at MSU and that a group of individuals from this board met with representatives from MSU and encouraged them to fill the weed specialist position and the biocontrol positions that are currently vacant. MSU officials state that lack of funding is the problem.

Newsletter

Jerry reported that the ecommittee will review the newsletter and there has been and will be more involvement from the committees and members of the board. ***John moved that the dates of the newsletters come out in April, June, September, and December. John Day seconded and all were in favor.***

New Business

Assessment committee

Jerry reported that a new committee has been formed to look at our organization and how we keep evolving to meet new needs. The new committee members are Marijka Wessner, Kim Goodwin, Dave Brink, Steve Saunders, and Bob Gilbert as chair. Scott reported that we need to periodically review ourselves and keep on course. The specific charge of the committee is to conduct a type of survey from the membership and other organizations to get input about the MWCA and report to the board at the early fall meeting. It is a self assessment. This committee will only bring back an assessment and no action is being taken by the committee. ***Chuck moved we appoint the committee members and Jim Freeman seconded. All were in favor.*** Steve asked for some latitude with the board regarding costs incurred by the committee. John Moodry asked that budget requests come to him. Steve stated they will call upon the areas and area reps help with this process.

Marketing constitutional amendment 40

John Moodry reported that the pamphlet has been created and about 7500 have been handed out at the spring coordinator training. He requested we get these to as many Montanans as possible (outside of the weed world even). The legislative committee does have a draft version of a public service announcement for all types of media. Media blitz will begin around August 15 for this issue. Voter information pamphlet will come out in October. Everyone will have the same format for flyers and PR so we send the same message consistently. Diane suggested we use county fairs, newspaper inserts, and any other form of public awareness we can to get the message out. Bob Gilbert also suggested we go to local service clubs because they are always looking for speakers. Need to ask Ralph to have a PSA for Governor Martz supporting the issue. Jerry asked if we had a select group to handle this and John Moodry stated that the legislative committee will handle this. Several board members asked about funding to support this cause and it was suggested the legislative committee submit a budget request and if we have to cash in a CD, it would be well worth our efforts. ***John Day moved we cash a CD if necessary to fund this campaign and Kelly Leo seconded. Scott suggested we look at the July CD. All were in favor.***

Expenses for board members

The ecommittee has proposed we set a cap on reimbursing voting board members up to \$100 for room and travel expenses. Jim Freeman suggested we place a cap on the room fee as well. *Scott motioned that we set a cap of reimbursement at \$100 fee based on actual expenses: single state rate and actual gas receipts for all voting board members at board meetings. Question was called and Chuck suggested we have a standard form made up for all to fill out. Seconded by Jim Freeman. All were in favor.*

2005 annual convention

Bob reported that we toured the facility in February and the facility and the people were great. Bob is asking for input on speakers and agenda for next year's meeting. Bob suggested we spend part of a day touring the Capitol and the floor sessions. Diane suggested a legislative no-host bar and appetizers, and Becky suggested we combine the vendor session with the legislative reception. This would also help pull in the vendors from MABA. Industry reps suggested we add some crop classes to our agenda to pull in some folks as well. Give out with calendars and weed ID books on the same day. Silent auction items out on table as well.

Weed summit committee grant

Jerry explained that the summit committee received a DOA Trust Fund grant and the committee has asked that it be administered by the MWCA. *Kelly Leo moved we accept administering this grant for the weed summit within the MWCA and Rosemary Koch seconded. All were in favor.*

Other business

Scott asked if we need to form a DC committee, and Jerry suggested that be a project housed under the legislative committee. John reported that we do have a line item in the budget for \$3,000. Dave Burch suggested that we submit a grant this next year for this purpose. (John guarantees it will be a balanced budget) Chuck suggested that we maybe look towards other areas to get Trust Fund grants to cover costs which would open up funding. Jerry would like the legislative committee and the executive committee to deal with this issue.

Committee and area reports

Management committee - John Day handed out his report (which will be in the newsletter) and discussed what was going on.

Prevention committee – Kim Goodwin has been helping work out the issues with the seed catalogs selling noxious weeds. Met at the annual meeting and talked about the major chain stores selling invaders. Not much recourse right now other than to go in and tell the store managers they have to abide by state law. There is a state law and the Dept. of Ag needs to be contacted and they will handle the problem. Kim reported that we need to put more teeth into our law through the Interstate Commerce Act.

Research committee – Jim Freeman reported that the committee has made recommendations on Trust Fund grants, they have encouraged the MSU research program to continue and have reviewed and offered opinions on the weed plan to the summit committee. They are supporting filling the position at MSU and encouraging ongoing dialog with them on continuing research.

Biocontrol committee – Jim Larson reported on upcoming activities within this committee. They were involved in international risk assessment conference which spurred work back in D.C. to address Montana's concerns with biocontrol. Risk

assessment is a high priority with the committee right now. There needs to be a way to set priorities with MSU to get grants to the Trust Fund to address those priorities. Needs to continue to be better distribution in the state, and also working on trying to fill the biocontrol position at MSU. Gained much important information from the national convention in the areas of biocontrol.

Awards committee – The awards committee met prior to the board meeting and Rosemary reported that the committee discussed awards sponsorships, having businesses (even outside of the weed world) sponsor certain awards. The committee believes that every area rep should be able to come up with an awards nominee for each category. Talk ensued about consolidating the youth group and individual youth award since it is so hard to get nominees. It is important to have a great presenter or MC for the awards ceremony – Steve Saunders has volunteered to step in. Becky will require all coordinators at fall training to participate in nominations for the awards ceremony. The committee consists of Rosemary Koch, chair, Dave Brink, Kelly Leo, Jennifer Cramer, and Marty Malone with John Moodry and Becky Kington sitting in an advisory capacity. The committee acknowledged that it needed more organization for the ceremony and will plan on rehearsing this upcoming ceremony on Sunday evening.

Coordinator support committee – had spring coordinator meeting recently – good turnout. Fall training in Whitefish at Grouse Mountain Lodge October 12 – 14 and next spring will be in Dillon. Talked about producing more auction items for silent auction. Grant writing workshop will be held this fall. Becky gave out MWCA items of interest, mostly concerning the annual meeting. Kelly will be meeting with her committee soon to discuss fall training and registrations.

Areas

Western area

Dave Brink reported that their area is trying to work with MT Rail link and that their program has changed for the better. They will be working off rail for the first time. Celestine will help develop a long term plan for MRL and the counties will help cost-share some of this expense. Crew training will be in May in Flathead County and they are anticipating a good turnout.

Southwestern area

Jack Eddie reported that weed control activities will be dropping off with drought conditions. Crew training set for June 1 – 3 in Madison County. Completing an insert in local papers and also looking at weekly weed reports. Two new weed coordinators – Jefferson County may have Jay Cole back for half time, and Margie Edsall in Madison County.

Southcentral area

Dustin reported that Yellowstone County working on cumulative effects survey.

Southeastern area

Dale Butori reported for Amy Adler – crew training in Forsyth June 8 – 10. There will be several spray days in the area, and this area will be sponsoring the 50/50 at the annual meeting.

Central area

Clint Clark reported that Jim Sparks moved to Fergus County to work along side with Rosemary Koch, and Bob Montgomery has resigned. Lauren Haugarty left Petroleum

County. Judith Basin County re-upped their membership. Membership is still low and not much going on.

Triangle

Paul Wick reported that they have worked with DNRC State Trust Plan and worked out a more detailed six year plan. This has been due in large part to the audit that was completed. He encouraged everyone to work with their local DNRC representatives. Crew Training is being planned for May 27.

SNWEAC – Carla encouraged everyone to attend her meetings and be involved. Looking at a mass media campaign to link with local landowners engaged in existing successful projects in their areas. NRCS is looking towards getting a statewide weed specialist and possibly getting representatives in local weed efforts. This organization wants to be involved. She also reported on upcoming meetings and projects for 2004.

DOA – Dave Burch reported that Coordinator training workshop will be with the aquatic training during the week of April 20th. Council funded 79 grants this year. Council meeting will be on June 14 – 15 in Bozeman and MSU will be addressing the council. Gave about a little over 2.5 million in grant funding this year. They will have two interns working for them this summer as well.

DOT – Dan Williams reported that they have a project going on in Yellowstone County and they are looking at the effectiveness of their mowing program. In process of finalizing weed management plan for the DOT. Utility issues have come up in Western Montana and the DOT has a list of requirements for utility companies including working with the counties on weed control. Federal funds will be available for post re-vegetation on construction projects. Aggregate sources have to come from the contractors and in order to get weed seed free materials, the DOT will be trying to work with contractors in a more cooperative manner. TAP has weed models and ID books available for distribution.

BLM – Vic reported that Hank is going to retire this fall and right now 1/3 of his time is spent on co-op agreements and getting money for weed programs. No news from the federal end on a replacement for his position. Suggested the MWCA try to address this issue with the state director and how important these co-op agreements have been. They are talking about combining that position with another.

2005 Legislative Session – John Moodry asked that everyone be thinking about issues to address for that session in weed advocacy.

Environmental group support – Marijka asked that we become members with some of these other environmental groups so we can network with them. Would help create a dialog with them. *Becky asked that all elected reps look into becoming members of other organizations for the September meeting.*

Next meeting at Colonial Inn in Helena on September 16.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.