

January 13, 2004  
MWCA Board of Directors' Meeting  
Billings Holiday Inn

November Board minutes – *Amy approved the minutes motioned as written and Scott seconded, and all were in favor.*

Treasurer's report - *John Moodry moved we accept the financials and Barry Rice seconded. All were in favor.*

2005 Meeting update – Becky reported that the next annual meeting will be in Helena, at the Colonial Inn and will start on January 24, (Monday).

Membership dues increase – *John Moodry motioned that the current \$250 sustaining will increase to \$275 and the name will be renamed to the "Legacy membership" (offer same options). The motion was seconded by Scott and all were in favor.*

Board member expenses – Jerry Marks spoke to Board concerning financial support for travel expenses. Discussion will be sent back to e-committee.

Bylaws revisions – Jerry suggested we wait until after the retreat to review the bylaws. *Jim Freeman motioned we table the bylaws review and John Day seconded. All were in favor.*

Update on license plates – Kim reported that we pay \$35 per plate and the MWCA gets \$20 of that amount for each plate sold. We are averaging between 60 and 70 plates per month. She was also working on newspaper advertisements to promote purchasing the plates across the state, which would come with a noxious weed ad as well. *Chuck motioned that we approve expenses for thank-you notes and Jim Larsen seconded the vote. All were in favor.* The subcommittee will look into obtaining specialty products and offering them for sale.

Committee reports

Education – Marijka will take over the chair of this committee. The silent auction will take place again and half the proceeds will go towards the DC trip. The committee is also looking at revising/updating the coordinator handbook.

Research needs – Jim Freeman reported that the committee will look over revising the weed management plan and to look at the duties of the committees of the MWCA. They would be looking for fundraising ideas for the committee.

Legislative – John Moodry passed around the brochures for the pamphlet for the voter information on the Constitutional amendment that will be on the November ballot. John is asking the board for \$1200 to print 10,000 copies. *John Day motioned we approve the printing of the brochures and Barry Rice seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

Coordinator support – Replacement for the western area noxious weed representative for NAWMA will be Sharon Scognimiglio. Spring training will be in Livingston in March and agendas will be forth coming. The coordinator handbook is also being updated.

**Prevention** – Jennifer reported that Paul Wick is vice–chair. This committee is focusing on trying to keep noxious plants shipped into the state via plant companies & catalogs. Working to submit a bill to get this practice stopped.

**Management** – John Day reported Mike Chenoweth will be the vice chair to this committee. The committee is working on updates for the state weed management plan and “boiler plates” will be added to the weed coordinator handbook. New invader procedures are also being reviewed.

**Biocontrol** – Jim Larson reported that this committee will focus on getting Toadflax bugs out in better shape this year. On-the-ground bugs is the number one focus of this committee. The committee is very concerned about MSU and their research program and Jim has spent a great deal of time working with them. We still need to establish a very strong connection with APHIS. Whitehall and Townsend schools are very involved and working with other schools to try to get biocontrol measures in place. Washington DC will be another key focus for the biocontrol efforts.

**Mapping & inventory** – Ken Cook is the chair of this committee and reported the committee wants to jumpstart the mapping process again. The committee will also review the coordinator handbook and make suggestions and revisions. They want to have a standardized form for all data to be input and keep it simple. The committee will work with Dave Burch to discuss the Freedom of Information act when filling out grant work. DOA will rehire their GIS person within the next couple of months. NRIS site will be up and running this spring and folks will be able to start training.

### **Area Council Reports**

**Western** – John Day talked about the replacement for the weed specialist position at MSU and suggested the MWCA address that issue. Research needs committee will look into this more and ask the MWCA to back their decisions on this issue. Jerry suggested he and the chairs of certain committees get together to strategize how to handle this.

(other area council reports for this meeting have been lost)

### **Other business**

Chuck Jarecki suggested we convey a more professional image in our newsletter. ***Chuck Jarecki motioned that we appoint an editorial board for our newsletter and it was seconded by Jim Larson. Bob Gilbert called for motion.*** Bob Gilbert and John Moodry opposed this motion on the basis of censorship. Discussion ensued about who the audience of the newsletter is and how we have to address the audience in a professional manner. ***Bob Gilbert motioned to table the discussion and the Executive Committee would address the issue. Barry Rice seconded, and the motion passed.***

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.