

**MWCA Board of Directors Meeting  
September 15, 2005  
Columbus Fairgrounds**

Members present: Dave Brink, Jerry Marks, John Maki, Jim Gordon, Jennifer Cramer, Dave Burch, Amy Adler, Clint Clark, Scott Heidi, Ellen Engstedt, Jim Freeman, Jim Larson, Jack Eddie, Bob Gilbert, John Moodry, Margie Edsall, Scott Bockness, and Becky Kington

Members absent excused: Kim Goodwin, Diane Rice, Paul Wick, Marilyn Marler, & Marijka Wessner

Members absent unexcused: Dave Schulz, Melissa Half & John Day

Guests present: John Simons, Carla Lawrence, and Lee Smelzer

*April minutes approved – Scott B. motion to approve, Jerry M. seconded. All were in favor.*

Old Business

**Review last year's budget** – Margie presented the 2004/05 budget to the board.

**Mutual fund report and CD update** – Margie reported that the MWCA has lost about \$3,800 in the mutual fund. She asked to take it out and put into a two year CD at 3.25% interest. Original investment was \$10,000 in 1998 and is currently at \$6580. Discussion among board ensued and a working group will be put together to look at the alternatives with this funding. **Team will be Chair Scott Bockness, Margie Edsall, Amy Adler, John Moodry, Ellen Engstedt, Jim Gordon, and Jerry Marks.**

**Assessment Committee update** – Executive committee has been meeting with assessment committee previously and Bob and Jerry have decided to maintain the current assessment committee and those committee members include Jerry Marks, Steve Saunders, Dave Brink, Kim Goodwin, Marijka Wessner, and Dave Burch. Jerry reported that he would like to pull the committee together with Terry Profota and would report back with their progress by the November meeting. Jerry and Becky would both contact Terry and get a meeting put together before the next board meeting.

**06 Annual Convention update** – Scott handed out the tentative agenda and the theme is “Back to Basics and Beyond”. He reviewed the workshops and the strands and asked for input from the board. *John M motioned to raise the registration fees for the annual convention to \$135 this year and Jim Gordon seconded. All were in favor.*

**Committee updates** – We need a mapping committee chair and Bob asked for suggestions. *John Moodry motioned to have Jim Larson to sit in as interim chair until the committee finds a replacement. Amy Adler seconded the motion. All were in favor.* John Day currently manages the chair of the Management committee and Bob asked

Burch for input on what was happening within that committee as John will be retiring. John would be contacted to see if he was still interested in being chair.

#### New Business

**Review 2005-06 proposed budget-** Margie reported on the proposed budget and reviewed the proposals. The board reviewed the budget. *John Moodry moved to accept the proposed budget and Jennifer Cramer seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

**Promotion of fund raising for NWTF** – Dave reported that the summit committee is now the advisory weed committee to the governor. Their last board meeting met and discussed how to get more money for the NWTF. They felt a private foundation should be established with private individuals to help find the funding to reach the 10 million dollar cap. The board would like to see the MWCA be a tool for establishing a private foundation. Scott said the real success would be in finding key individuals who would have the background in fund raising to sit on that working group. Scott asked the board if it would be comfortable having the summit committee look into the possibilities. Some concerns were raised over liability issues and Scott stated that they would look into all aspects for consideration prior to committing to this. Ellen suggested running a foundation as a group under the MWCA, but it would have its own officers, bylaws, articles of incorporation, etc. etc. It will be a long-term process. *Bob recommended we form a committee to look further into the process and report back to the board so we have a more concrete idea. Jim Gordon moved to do so and Jerry Marks seconded. All were in favor.*

**Future MWCA Funding Proposals-** The executive committee met in July and talked about our carry over and asked the board for any financial proposals. Becky asked the board to order more Weeds of the Prairies books. She also asked the board to increase the price from \$20 to \$25 each. She would like to order 50 books by November. *Jennifer motioned to order the books and Clint seconded the motion. All were in favor.* John Moodry asked the board to consider hiring a full time staff person and passed around a job description of the position. He asked the board for their comments and review. Scott stated that the financial committee will come up with a work/financial plan to present to the board prior to the November meeting. Financial concerns were the major consideration of the board. *Jack motioned for a short and long term financial plan in regards to the secretary position and Amy seconded. All were in favor.* Scott requested a working group be built to work on the financial plan and the NRCS and SNWEAC to pursue options with the Zero Spread Campaign. **Working group – Scott, Margie, John Moodry, Amy, Dave B.** This group would work with NRCS and SNWEAC prior to the November meeting.

**Zero Spread Campaign future** – John Moodry reported that Carla has asked if the MWCA would take on the administration of the Zero Spread Campaign, and take on the contracts and administration of that program. We would have to have the staff in place to do this. There would be NRCS and NWTF grant administration fees to contribute to this idea. Carla Lawrence reported that NRCS has put in \$100,000 to the Zero Spread Campaign and the response has been over 400 people. Jerry Marks felt the SNWEAC

should work closely with the MWCA on the decisions made regarding this decision. *It was agreed to set up a meeting with the NRCS leadership (Dave W./Lori V./Carla L.), and some MWCA folks/Carla H. to discuss the status of the campaign and potential MWCA administration. Carla Lawrence (NRCS) agreed to contact their people and put together some optional dates to meet with the group. Dave Burch agreed to contact Jim Olivarez to discuss this issue with the SNWEAC members to get their perspective on the Zero Spread Campaign.*

**Member-at-Large appointment** – Kelly Leo has resigned her position as member-at-large and at the ecommittee meeting, the ecommittee recommended Dale Butori be appointed as interium member-at-large for the rest of the term through 2006. *Margie motioned to approve Dale as member-at-large and Jim Gordon seconded. All were in favor.*

**07 annual convention update** – John Moodry reported that he has been dealing with the staff at the new convention center in Missoula but the site is extremely new and questions from the staff haven't been overly positive. He is looking into the Colonial Inn at Helena for 2007 and the Colonial is looking at making the breakout sessions in a different way to accommodate our numbers. The week of January 15<sup>th</sup> is available at the Colonial in 2007, and John asked for input from the board. Becky asked the board if they would consider holding the convention in Helena every legislative year and then move the convention around every off year. Jim Gordon asked that we get back to the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominations for awards & elected positions** – Margie asked the board to consider two new awards for the awards ceremony: Outstanding Commissioner Award and Outstanding MWCA Board Member Award. Becky asked to take out the “board” and the position would be strictly for those who are doing work within the Association. Jim F. felt there should be a “Presidential award of Merit” for special recognition which can be offered if they wish. *John motioned that we have a Presidential Award of Merit and the commissioners award and Jack seconded the motion. All were favor.* The theme for this year's awards ceremony will be a Hawiian Luou and the show will be the entertainment for the evening. John asked for nominations for 2006 as well. He would like more emphasis in the newsletter on nominations.

**Car wash stations with FWP** – Scott will be meeting with FWP to discuss vehicle undercarriage washers. He will approach them to partner with the MWCA to provide this program for hunters to wash their vehicles during hunting season. Ellen offered to meet with Jeff Hagener and see if he would be willing to do this. Several board members reported that these car wash stations are already taking place around the state during hunting season.

**MNA Convention** – Becky asked if anyone was interested in attending the Montana NonProfit Association Convention. It was in direct conflict with the fall coordinator training so coordinators would probably not be interested, but Bob and Jerry were interested and Marijka would be asked. Early registrations needed to be submitted immediately.

**Promotion of MWCA with other organizations** – Becky asked for input from the board to come up with a policy for choosing who we would like to have memberships with. Becky asked the board to send her ideas and she would formulate a list. The list will be ready for the November board meeting. She will get that out to the board for their input and a list for priorities will be targeted. There was discussion on various booth charges for different organizations. Jim and Ellen mentioned approaching other organizations to exchange memberships or newsletters.

**Other business - *John Moodry motioned to have Jim Larsen ask the NAWMA board to consider having their annual meeting in Montana. Amy seconded the motion. All were in favor.*** Bob requested that committee and area reports be posted in the newsletter and not at our board meetings. So these reports would be submitted to the newsletter in the future.

Becky reported that a working team was put together for the web site and that team is working to update the site and prioritized three categories: a contact list, weed ID with an emphasis on Montana photos, and MWCA info. Several members of the board suggested we use other updated and complete information from other sites such as the WHE project site and the Dept of Ag site to complete these lists. **The working team is Dave Brink, Dustin Baker, Guy Moody, Scott Bockness, Becky Kington, and Marty Malone.**

Jerry Marks has concerns over removing the committee reports from the board meetings. Amy and Bob both stated that if the committee is active, they can report what is happening, but for general reports, the best avenue is through the newsletter to reach the membership.

Biocontrol committee will meet on Nov 1 at the city center in Bozeman at 9 a.m.

The next board of directors meeting will be held on November 10, 2005 at the Great Falls Heritage Inn at 9 a.m.

The e committee and awards committee will be meeting on November 9, 2005 as well.

2-4 D Task force has met and labeling has changed. More information will be in the newsletter.

John Day's retirement party will be held on Sept 24 in Stevensville.

The shed will be moved to Dillon. The board wants us to look into a trailer or a smaller shed, but decided not to sell the shed.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.