

MWCA Board of Directors
Winter Meeting
January 13, 2009, 10 a.m.
Billings Crowne Plaza

Minutes with Mistakes highlighted!

Call to order- Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Voting board members present were Paul Wick, Dave Brink, Gary Olsen, Amy Adler, Judie Tilman, Pam Converse, Danny McIntosh, Kelliann Morris, Lindsey Bona, Jack Eddie, John Moodry, Jim Ghekiere, Jude Law, Jennifer Cramer, Dave Schulz, Jim Gordon, Kenny Keever, Dick Zoanni, Mark Korte, and Lisa Surber.

November 08 board minutes approved – **John Moodry moved to accept the November minutes, Danny McIntosh seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Old Business

09 Annual convention update

Becky and Jack reported that 262 folks were pre-registered at this time and Becky discussed the workshops, hotel details and such for the conference. encouraged everyone to attend the summit session on Thursday.

D.C. Weed Awareness Week update

At the November board meeting, Becky and Dave Schulz were appointed to attend NIAW on behalf of the MWCA at the end of February. Dave Burch spoke about scheduled appointments for the Montana delegation and how there would be future changes in store for this event, including the possibility of moving it from February to October.

Bylaw changes

In November the board voted to change the mission, however this includes a bylaw change, and since that time, other bylaw changes have been proposed. The membership will need to vote on this at the annual meeting. The proposed bylaw changes include three changes to the bylaws:

OLD VERSION:

Section 1.1 Mission

The mission of the Montana Weed Control Association is to strengthen, support, and coordinate weed management efforts in the state of Montana in accordance with the Montana State Weed Plan.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

The mission of the Montana Weed Control Association is working together to strengthen and support noxious weed management efforts in Montana.

Mission: accept motion & send to membership by John Moodry 2nd by Brink; all were in favor.

OLD VERSION:

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 6.2 Descriptions

d.) Coordinator Support Committee

- 1.) The chair of the Coordinator Support Committee shall be elected biennially by the County Weed Coordinators during their fall training meeting.

2.) The state shall be divided into seven areas to coordinate weed management efforts. Area committees shall include Western, Southwestern, South central, Southeastern, Northeastern, Central and Triangle.

3.) Area Council chairs shall be elected at the Annual Conference by Area Committees.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

d.) Coordinator Support Committee

1.) The chair of the Coordinator Support Committee shall be elected biennially by the County Weed Coordinators during their fall training meeting.

2.) The state shall be divided into seven areas to coordinate weed management efforts. Area **councils** shall include Western, Southwestern, South central, Southeastern, Northeastern, Central and Triangle.

3.) Area Councils may choose to elect a Chairperson for their Area Council other than their Area Representative who serves on the Board of Directors. Such Council Chairs shall be voted on by their respective councils annually. If the Council Chair is someone other than the Area Representative, this will not be a voting position on the Board of Directors."

Jack Eddie motioned to accept the proposed changes with the change to "annually" included, 2nd Amy Adler; all were in favor.

OLD VERSION:

Section 2.2 Voting Members

Voting membership shall be limited to members present at the annual meeting or other meetings called by the Board of Directors. Those present will constitute a quorum for voting purposes.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Article II, Section 2.2: Voting Members

Voting membership shall be limited to members present at the annual meeting or **at all other meetings of the Association** Those present will constitute a quorum for voting purposes.

Discussion:

- Motion to accept by Gary Olsen, 2nd by Dave Schultz
- Jim Jacobs question proxy, and quorum
- John Moodry always been this way, no proxy as incentive to attend.
- Jack Eddy: goal to make areas stronger.
- Jim G – membership has its privileges
- John Moodry – members can vote at all general meetings,(excluded exe & board meetings should be changed)
- Justun J – question how we know they are in MWCA
- Amy – explains her process
- John Moodry- explains membership roster, maintained by MWCA
- Dave Brink – Western Council is their own thing,
- Jack Eddie – Membership voting important b/c members should impact MWCA

Ü The amended motion: ***Voting membership shall be limited to members present the annual meeting or at all other general meetings of the Association (excluding board and Executive Committee meetings.) Those present will constitute a quorum for voting purposes. John Moodry motioned to approve the amended statement and Jennifer Cramer seconded; all were in favor.***

Strategic plan & yearly objectives

Becky reviewed the strategic plan with the board and reiterated that the board needs to continue to be engaged in actively promoting our strategic plan – to keep it on the front burner. In regards to annual objectives, Becky had burned a CD with the presentation about the Association for board members. She showed the updated CD to the board. Gary reminded MWCA gives \$450 in a sponsorship to Montana Range Days, which reaches a large audience in Eastern Montana. Becky went through the annual objectives for the board and staff and what had been accomplished and what was scheduled to be done. Jim thanked the board members who had been engaged in soliciting for new memberships and that several board members had stepped up to the plate.

New membership forms & benefits outlined – Diana reported on the benefits associated with the new levels of membership the board approved of at the November meeting. There was discussion concerning the household membership and the number of members to be included in that along with re-wording the name. The benefits are:

***All members will receive the Weed Times, electronic notices and reduced rates for trainings and conferences.*

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$30

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$50 includes two memberships and one mailing of the Weed Times to the household address.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP- \$225 includes up to ten members. Please submit names, addresses and emails for all members.

BASIC BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP- \$100 includes one membership, a listing in *MWCA Directory* and for consumer weed control business a listing on the website advertising page.

PREMIER BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP - \$250 includes three memberships, business card listing in the *MWCA Directory*, the *Weed Times*, and the website partnership page. Consumer weed control businesses also receive a business card listing on the website advertising page.

LEGACY MEMBERSHIP- \$500 includes fourteen memberships, a ¼ page add or double sized business card listing in the *MWCA Directory*, the *Weed Times*, and the website partnership page. Consumer weed control businesses also receive a business card listing on the website advertising page. Additional benefits include articles reflecting education or information associated with your business advertising in the *Weed Times*, and recognition at all MWCA sponsored events and publications, and recognition at the annual convention.

FOUNDING MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000 includes ten memberships, ½ page ad in the *MWCA Directory*, the *Weed Times*, and a double sized business card listing on the website partnership page. Consumer weed control businesses also receive a business card listing on the website advertising page. Other benefits include or articles reflecting education or information associated with your business, recognition on as a Founding Member on the MWCA home page and recognition at all MWCA sponsored events and publications, and recognition banners and an award at the annual convention.

Danny McIntosh motioned to accept the member benefits, seconded by Jim [redacted] on, all were in favor.

New Business

Review MWCA finances

Judie reviewed the finances and called for questions. **Danny McIntosh motioned to accept the finances and Amy Adler seconded. All were in favor.** Becky reminded everyone that this is the last meeting of the fiscal year and all committee chairs and area reps need to be thinking of annual objectives and the budgets associated with them for the next fiscal year and those will be presented at the Spring Board Retreat.

Staff reports

There was nothing Becky or Diana added to the reports handed out to the board members in their packets. They have been busy with the annual conference.

Web services & eTapestry performance review

Diana explained that we reached a level of maturity with the website and we are at a point where we need to revamp the website. Ecommerce is not satisfactory and the website is not backed up. Becky and Diana answered questions from several board members.

MWCA Educational survey update

Kellieann reported they had sent out 200 informal educational surveys and received 85 back. This survey has been designed to give all educational weed entities an idea of how to proceed and what the areas of need are. She passed out a report to the board on the current results. She answered a few questions and explained how everything was going. She was going to keep pestering folks for results.

Schedule 2009 board meetings & locations

The Spring Retreat will be held in Fairmont April 1 & 2 and the Fall Board Meeting will be at the Missoula Garden Hilton, November 18 & 19.

Legislative updates

John Moodry reported on legislative bills that are relevant to this association. **LC 1317** concerns non-compliance and toughening up the process. **LC 1316** is a placeholder at this time. Senator Esp has put both of his bills on hold at this time until he receives more input from the weed folks. Dave Schulz discussed that we back off of changes of this law at this time and proposed we form a committee or work group to really look into changes of the weed act. Several board members provided input. Dave Schulz is looking for input in the LC 1317. **SB 1818** – John Moodry reported on the Invasive species council act. There are 2 bills in place, not sure which one will happen, and Dave Burch reported there may be a council or not with the ways things are going. **LC 1034** is proposing elimination of special revenues account for the general fund and the MDA (Trust Fund) would have to go back every two years to appeal for the money. There is a good chance we would lose the funding for the trust Fund if this passes. **SB 164** is a good neighbor policy bill that proposes that FWP put 40% of land acquisition prices into weed management or maintenance. Joe felt that while it was a good idea, it was weakly worded. Becky has been asked for letters of support for both the invasives species bill and LC 1034. Since there has been no decision regarding any final bills, the MWCA will withhold letters of support at this time. Regarding SB 164 Becky asked Joe about the possibility of asking Debby to put in a line item for noxious weed control, not as maintenance. Joe stated that the agency generally as a rule opposes a line item for noxious weed control because it would limit their opportunity to spend more money on noxious weed control. No decision was made regarding the letters of support so the MWCA will not provide letters of support at this time.

Coordinator Committee update

Amy reported on activities for Spring Coordinator training in Bozeman on March 17 – 19 at the Holiday Inn. She has secured Jewel as the entertainment for this event. There will be a Railroad Summit the evening on the 17th and she is working with Jane Mangold on a tour and other activities in the area for that week.

Publications updates and orders

Becky explained that we are nearly out of *Why Should I Care* brochures and recommended we don't do a re-print of the membership brochures which will be obsolete as of February 1st. She recommended we add membership information to the "Why Should" brochure and do a reprint. **Dave Brink motioned we update and reprint 10,000 of those brochures. Danny McIntosh seconded. All were in favor.**

Extension Letter

Lisa explained that there are only about 20 extension agents who are currently members of MWCA and she would like to send this letter out to all extension agents immediately to try to get their membership before the membership change. **Jack motioned to send the letter and Jim Gordon seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Other business

MSU LRES

Carla Hoopes reported the head of the MSU LRES Department, John Wraith, has left his position and Bruce Maxwell has been operating as head of LRES during the interim. They are interviewing three candidates for this position. She asked for board input and involvement in this process.

Montana Dept of Ag

The Dept has a programic EIS for the Trust Fund happening and there will be scoping meetings across the state. They are going to be in 13 cities and towns across Montana in the next few weeks.

Fish Wildlife & Parks

Joe Weigand reported that regions two and three and a k all put in proposals for interns and all of those proposals were approved and funded. These interns are involved in mapping, monitoring and evaluation of fishing access sites and state parks.

Montana Dept of Transportation

Justun Juelfs will be taking a back seat in the veg management area in MDT. Mike Miller is taking over. MDT is very supportive of noxious weed management and while funds will be limited, the agency will do all they can to continue their efforts at the level they have been.

Montana Association of Counties Survey

Dave Schulz reported these surveys are in the process of being distributed to all commissioners and county coordinators as well as clerk and recorders. They include questions concerning budgeting and staffing and agency cooperation.