



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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2022 ANNUAL MEETING Canyon County Administration Building 111 N. 11th Ave, Caldwell, Idaho Monday, January 10, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Wenk welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were done and new weed superintendents were welcomed.

****Kerri Smith, Canyon County Commissioner** welcomed our association providing a brief update on the revitalization of downtown Caldwell and all the amenities they provide. She encouraged the group to spend some time walking around the Indian Creek area and enjoying dinner at one of the local restaurants.

ISDA Updates:

Jeremey Varley shared for the 2021 Cost Share Cycle 26 applications were approved with 23 CWMA's accepting the award. Close out emails have been sent to CWMA's. ISDA received 17 CWMA funding requests for 2022, Cost Share Review will be done January 26 & 27th virtually. \$852,000 has been requested.

Gwen Ayres, Organic Program Manager reported her department follows the federal rules and has USDA oversight. Per rule which states producer must manage weeds, she will be happy to work with a producer if we are looking at doing an enforcement. Do not hesitate to reach out to her. Google Organic Integrity Database and this will list all the growers. She requested we contact her if we treat a field so she can remove it from the list.

Daniel Sandoval, Ag Resources shared information about the new bar codes that are on our pesticide applicator licenses. Eventually they will be scanning those and you can look up all your credits online. Employee seminars can count as credits but you must get them pre-approved by ISDA. He stated they are testing at TVCC in Caldwell and masks are required. Metro is available and those tests must be taken at a particular site. At Metro when your test is complete you get your score then. It tells you a general idea where your weaknesses are so that you can study. Law & Safety is now the Core Competency, 50-75 questions and there is no math. Regarding Aerial Applicator for Drone-he feels this is an easy test and the lowest score he has seen is a 78%. The Apprentice category is limited to whatever endorsements the licensed applicator they are working with has. They are updating the website offering new training resources.

Michael Ottley, Cassia County shared he works with all department heads to get weeds controlled in his county. Cassia County is 1.6 million acres with 56% federal. He does not spray any roadsides. He shared additional information regarding his operating procedures.

Chris Adam, Kootenai County stated they employ 4 full time people. Due to weather in a good year they are able to do site inspections for 4 months. In 2 years they have inspected 1,217 properties covering 7,013 acres. They do no roadside spraying. They contract out some spraying each year.

Meet the New Weed Superintendents

****Joe Slichter, Idaho County** shared he did 25 years in the military and is now following in his Dad's footsteps. His Dad, Leon was a fieldman for Idaho County Weed for 20 years.

****Larry Shippy, Gem County** spent 20 years farming, 7 years at Ada County Weed and Pest and started at Gem County as the superintendent on December 15th.

****Travis Ashby, Franklin County** worked for the road department for many years before coming to the weed department.

****Shelby Thomas, Oneida County** has been with the weed department for 5 years before becoming the superintendent.

****Devin Wadsworth, Teton County** started in May. He has Fish and Game experience.

****Brett Plummer, Custer County** has been with the county for 2 years and has no weed background.

****Chris Adam, Kootenai County** shared his info with us during his county presentation.

****Andrea Higgins, Power County** not here.

****Jeremey Johnson, Madison County** has a sick baby and unable to be here.

Chairman Wenk encouraged the group to tour downtown Caldwell and have a good evening.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

Chairman Wenk welcomed everyone.

ICRMP Risk Management-Jim McNall reviewed why employment claims are the most costly and are often caused by poor supervision practices. Often times there is poor or no written documentation. He encouraged everyone if you are having issues call Tammy Middleton-HR Manager or Carl Erickson legal counsel. If you don't make the call to them it could easily cost your county \$2,500-5,000 and the county will pay that portion. He reminded everyone if you are in charge of buildings the snow needs to be shoveled to prevent collapse. There are more windstorm damage claims than there used to be. Auto claims are a big deal and driving is one of the hardest things to supervise. Distracted driving from our gadgets are a large factor. He shared there are short online videos for driving on their website that can be used for tailgate meetings. Always check to ensure your employees have a valid drivers license. Recent claims in the last 3 years include weed spray damaged trees, county vehicle backs into another vehicle, fence damaged by a district vehicle, district sprayed gravel onto claimant while he was riding his bicycle, weed spraying allegedly killing the dog, county vehicle was hit by a piece of firewood in the roadway. There are 2 claim types: 1. The kind we file. 2. The kind filed against us. Make sure you maintain a respectful workplace. This is determined by what you accept, what you allow, what you stop and what you reinforce. Make sure your employees have been through harassment training and keep that current. Online training is acceptable. A supervisor never looks into harassment/discrimination-report these allegations to a designated person. Complaints do not have to be formal. Never dismiss a complaint as invalid. There are time limits for employee cases. They have 6 months to file a tort claim, Idaho Human Rights claims are 12 months, harassment claims are 2 years. Always be aware for ethical breaches. Be aware of conflicts of interest, misuse of public funds, inappropriate relationships with employees/inmates/co-workers. Be cautious of employees who: are due to the public or gruff dealing with them, cannot blow up at the public, remind yourself you are a public servant. Be cautious of gifts you receive at free trainings etc. Always remember your behavior away from work reflects on your employment. McNall encouraged everyone to look at Idaho Code Title 74, Chapter 6. Title 74 is Transparent and Ethical Government. Chapter 6 Public Integrity in Elections Act.

IPDES-James Craft stated Idaho has 6 permit writers. IDAPA Rules 58.01.25 our permit is general (pesticide application). There are no CAFO permits at this time. Notice of Intent (NOI) is one permit. PGP-140 permittees (7%). Most permits expired October 21, 2021 that were filed in 2016. PGP Criteria-remember this. NOI-develop pesticide discharge management team 1-8 requirements for this.

Pesticide Discharge Management Plan

Developed by the time the NOI is filed and includes:

1. Pesticide discharge management team
2. Problem identification

3. Pest management options evaluation
4. Response procedures
5. Spill response procedures
6. Adverse incident response procedures
7. Documentation to support eligibility considerations under other laws.
8. Signature requirements

James stated they want to know more of what we are doing. He is not familiar with the small and large entity classifications. They will be writing a new permit this year and there will be a public comment period. There will be adverse incident reporting. The expired permit is still valid. Idaho cannot be more or less stringent than EPA with the new permit. They cannot use EPA's NeT system, it is no longer supported for Idaho. They will piggyback with EPA for reporting and NOI will be ran with the new page.

What to Expect

No Action Assurance Memo sent via email October 2021

Permittees who were covered under the 2016 permit:

*Do not submit a new NOI-you will remain covered under the 2016 permit until DEQ issues a new permit.

*Must continue to comply with the 2016 permit conditions.

*Must submit annual reports by February 15th to troy.smith@deq.idaho.gov

Use the Annual Report Template paper form-Appendix G in 2016 PGP

Normally submitted through NPDES eNOI System

Annual Report-Appendix G of the PGP ignore the top section. See the user Guide Volume 4 on the General Permit website. Public Info, Newsroom-sign up for notifications.

It was asked if a glossary could be developed for terms regarding waters of the us?

It was suggested we visit this request during the comment period. See contact info below.

Troy Smith is the Bureau Chief.

James Craft, IPDES Compliance Supervisor

208-373-0144

James.craft@deq.idaho.gov

A delicious lunch was hosted by Trent Brusseau, Corteva. He is ill so was not able to be with us today. Our thanks to Grubbin' BBQ for catering. Dave will send Trent a thank you for doing this for us.

Business Meeting

Reports:

Kali Sherrill gave a brief synopsis on the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. Alan Martnson added they participated in the rulemaking process. He stated when the Weed Free Hay and Forage Increase goes before the legislature we need to have people there supporting the increase. Adam Schroeder will go and support.

Adam Schroeder left for another meeting.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting: Motion by Terry Ruby to accept the minutes as written. Second by AJ Mondor, motion carries.

Financial Report: The 2021 fiscal year ended 9/30/2021 with a checkbook balance of \$18,375.80. Budgeted funds remaining were \$8,964.22 with expenses totaling \$7,385.78. The 2022 budget prepared by the executive board totals \$6,625 with \$6,182.04 remaining prior to our meeting; current checkbook balance as of 1/10/2022 is \$20,482.84. Motion by Michael Ottley to accept the financial reports as presented. Second by Alan Martinson, motion carries.

Matter of Secretary-Treasurer Position-Chairman Wenk announced that Bonnie is not going to continue in this position effective at the spring meeting. There was no interest from the general membership. Alan Martinson explained the by laws state one person cannot hold two positions on the board. It does state the

secretary-treasurer is one position. He stated by suspending numerous articles of the bylaws we can deal with this matter. Motion by Alan Martinson to suspend Article 1. A1, Article 1 A 3, Article 1 B 7 of the By-Laws to allow the Executive Board to address the secretary/treasurer position. Matt Voile feels we need a timeline on this matter in the motion. Alan amended his motion to include until the 2023 annual meeting. Chase Youngdahl seconded the amended motion, motion carries. Chase will serve as the secretary and Alan will serve as the treasurer.

New Region Representatives:

Region 1	Shelby Heiderman	Chase Youngdahl-alternate
Region 2	Alan Martinson	Joe Slichter-alternate
Region 3	AJ Mondor	Dave Humpherys-alternate
Region 4	Michael Ottley	Terry Lee-alternate
Region 5	Travis Ashby	no alternate at this time
Region 6	Mitch Whitmill	Bryce Fowler-alternate

Chairman Wenk congratulated the new representatives and reminded them they are required to make 50% of the Executive Board meetings. Representatives are also tasked with communicating what occurs at meetings with the members of said region.

Awards:

5 Year-

Adam Schroeder-Ada County
Sharayh Krantz-Lemhi County
Mark Wheeler-Butte County

15 Year

Mitch Whitmill-Jefferson County

20 Year

Kali Sherrill-Twin Falls County

Weed Superintendent of the Year for 2021-Bonnie Davis-Washington County.

How to Prepare for Really Bad Days-Bryce Fowler covered a rollover accident that happened in 2015 and is still being dealt with today. He covered the investigations and numerous agencies that were involved in this incident. He discussed how these accidents are a life changing event for all involved and they aren't always something that get resolved. If you are interested feel free to contact Bryce with any questions.

Bio Control Updates-Paul Brusven shared new agent updates for yellow starthistle, houndstongue, white top, yellow toadflax and numerous knotweed species. He stated Joey's focus is vector corridors for rush skeletonweed and leafy spurge. Idaho distributed 636 releases and 288 releases out of state. Paul shared the Bio Control Education trailer is available for all to use, contact Paul if you are interested.

University of Idaho Technical Assistance-Tim Prather shared an eradication project they did on the Lochsa Drainage of leafy spurge. He encouraged all to go to them for assistance with plant identification. Send photos to: ericksonweedid@uidaho.edu if you send to this email Rich Old and Tim will both receive it. In 6 months they received 70 plants. The Pacific Northwest Weed handbook has just been updated and dates are current at the top of each page. XID is no longer available as a phone app. Tim is requesting 4 or 5 superintendents to help with producing a workshop idea that involves issues with small acreage owners.

Chairman Wenk thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the annual meeting.