



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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SUMMER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Garfield Bay Campground, Sagle, Idaho Saturday, July 24, 2021

Attendance

Officers:

Chair – Dave Wenk
Vice Chair – Adam Schroeder
Secretary/Treasurer – Absent (excuse)
Past Chair – Absent (excused)

Region Representation:

Region 1 – Chase Youngdahl (rep), Shelby Heiderman (alt)
Region 2 – Connie Jensen-Blyth (alt)
Region 3 – AJ Mondor (alt)
Region 4 – ABSENT
Region 5 – ABSENT
Region 6 – Sharayh Krantz (rep), Mitch Whitmill (alt)

Others attending:

Terry Lee (Camas County), Joe Slichter (Idaho County), Cindy Shelton (Jefferson County)

Chairman Wenk called meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Reports

Minutes from Spring Executive Board Meeting: Adam requested to have two sentences stricken from the record, on page 3 under Cost Share Updates; “Adam thinks the whole ISDA Cost Share process overwhelmed him”, and “He had no idea what the weed sups deal with concerning these matters”. On page 4, under New Business – Working with Legislators, Chase pointed out that the dollar sign (\$) in front of “500 printed” appears to be there in error. The 500 is in the context of the number of calendars, rather than a dollar amount. Motion by Adam to accept the minutes of the spring executive board meeting dated April 7, 2021 with the noted corrections, second by Connie. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Treasurer’s Report: Chase presented the Financial Reports on behalf of Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie. 2021 actual expenses to date \$6,054.92, budgeted funds remaining \$10,295.08. 2022 draft budget \$16,350.00. Chase passed along that there have been few expenses to date due to limited in-person meetings, and that the spring executive board meeting expenses are only for refreshments, as Trent Brusseau purchased lunch. Chase also asked, via Bonnie, if we should consider increasing the summer executive board meeting line item due to increased meat costs. Dave said that he was able to stay under the \$500 budgeted amount for the meat, as well as condiments and refreshments. The current amount is still adequate. Motion by Connie to accept the expenditure report as presented, second by AJ. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

INWCA: Terry reported that they are working on the calendars, and finalizing the conference agenda. The conference will take place [with the normal format] at the Riverside Hotel in Boise on Wednesday, January 12 and Thursday, January 13, 2022. Registration fee will remain the same, however the vendor

fee will be increased. Adam is set to be part of a panel at the conference covering recordkeeping updates. Adam reminded Dave & Terry that he had been set to give a presentation at the 2021 conference on urban/rural interface in weed control but had to back out due to a conflict with LIA. Terry mentioned that he will remind the [INWCA] board about this, and possibly have Adam as an alternate/standby presenter for this topic. Dave reported that Hall of Fame nominations are currently being accepted, and also reported that scholarship baskets are set to come back with the return of the in-person conference format. All are encouraged to contribute to this. The board has discussed a second scholarship fund with different parameters—for example, broadening the benefit to entities other than just the University of Idaho. AJ mentioned that the College of Idaho has a great botany program. Waitley has advised the board against this due to the amount of work behind it versus the payoff. It would take a lot of time to build up another endowment. The idea is currently on the backburner, but not ruled out.

State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee: Mitch was the only meeting attendee that sits on this committee, and he missed the previous (SNWAC) meeting. Not much to report. Some general conversation segued into rulemaking conversation. Connie asked about the effectiveness of this new committee. The general consensus is....the jury is still out. General discussion ensued. Adam believes that this committee should focus on cost share advisory. Mitch believes that the education funding that CWMAs were able to receive a limited amount of this year was born out of this committee.

IAC Presentation: Dave reported that he and Alan teamed up for a presentation at the summer IAC meeting in Coeur d'Alene. Was very well received, and they actually went over their allotted time with a high volume of questions. Mitch passed along that his commissioners were very pleased with the presentation. Dave & Alan emphasized importance of strong noxious weed control programs locally, as well as active involvement with the association and state issues. They are hoping to present at the summer meeting again next year.

ISDA Communications: No report.

General Business

Update on Joint Calendar Partnering with INWCA: Dave reported that this will be an 11"x17" calendar. 2,000 calendars would be \$3,500. They are trying to get it completed by the winter meeting, and Rick Erickson with Helena Agri-Enterprises showed interest in sponsoring, which would cut cost. Contributions to this calendar are still being solicited, and it suggested to provide before/after photos of projects. Connie asked about the printing vendor, and Adam asked how photos would be selected. Some discussion followed. The plan is for this to be a 13 month calendar with various topics—CWMA spray days, educational engagements, aquatic activities, etc. Dave suggests sticking to noxious weeds for this, and not to contribute invasive critters. It was discussed that an important distribution target will be elected officials; commissioners, state legislators, etc. Some conversation ensued relating to sponsorship, and a contribution from our association. Motion by Adam for sponsorship donation from the IANWCS in the amount of \$1,400 towards the printing costs of these joint calendars, second by AJ. Further discussion - Mitch wants to see a dedicated line item in the budget for this. It was agreed upon to address the business of modifying a budget line item to accommodate this sponsorship. Motion carries unanimous.

Cost Share Update/CWMA Problems: Dave relayed some points that Alan prepared, centered on meeting with legislators & ISDA. Lloyd Knight gives updates to Senate & House Ag committees with general numbers, and apparently there was a lot of inquiries coming from JFAC around the time of the ISDA invasive species restructure (when Tom Wolf left and duties were split). Another message from Alan is to be on the same page! It is important that legislators are receiving consistency from us and not hearing differing stories. Adam suggested that some of us presenting to Ag committees could be beneficial in creating rules, or subsets of rules, that work better for us. An idea was floated to create a subcommittee within the IANWCS to work on CWMA issues. New cost share mapping requirements were discussed; the two accepted forms of mapping. AJ mentioned that the Survey123 was easy for their GIS folks. Concerns with some county legal departments on sections of the cost share agreement was discussed. It was shared that two CWMAs declined their award of funds due to being extremely late. It

was also shared that JFAC sent a letter to director Gould regarding the Utah & Idaho CWMA. Dave shared the letter. The end result was that Utah & Idaho CWMA received withheld funds after director Gould received this letter. Administrative fees were discussed—Dave asked a state representative in north Idaho to look into whether or not ISDA is using some of the funds allocated for cost share for their own admin fees. Chase mentioned that starting and ending dates with cost share cycles need to be more reasonable with built in flexibility. Once the cost share handbook is published in the fall, there should be no further changes until the following cost share cycle. A significant part of the delays experienced this year was due to handbook exhibit changes mid-stream—as late as after the initial award letters were sent out, which was in March. Adam thinks that we need to push to continually drive the cost share budget up, and to use some other states as comparisons for support. Ada County’s Weed budget alone is nearly what the state receives for cost share. It was initially discussed to bring the idea of a subcommittee within the IANWCS for cost share issues to the general membership. The discussion eventually led to the thought of “less is more” with this potential subcommittee.

Chairman Wenk called a recess at 10:45AM.

Chairman Wenk resumed the meeting at 10:55AM.

Funding Venues for Counties: Dave & Chase discussed ATV sticker fees as a possible funding supplement for county noxious weed programs. Examples were pointed out; Sheriff’s Offices and Parks & Recreation use this as a funding mechanism, the blueprint is out there to get started on something like this. It was brought up that ATV groups are well organized and powerful, and we would need to convince them that this is in their best interest as well. Connie suggested a cost-benefit analysis would be worth exploring to see if the potential revenue would be enough to make the process worth it. The Great American Outdoors Act was brought up; the bill was signed but never appropriated. If appropriated, up to 6 million could come to Idaho. Mitch thinks we should work towards increasing available cost share funding rather than creating a new funding structure. The sticker fee proposal/discussion was tabled. The summarizing discussion circled back to a subcommittee within the IANWCS to work on cost share issues. Adam, Alan and Chase were names floated for this subcommittee.

Negotiated Rulemaking: Adam reported that Turkish Thistle and Goatsrue were listed, but never heard any follow-up on Starry Stonewort (not sure on that one). Discussion of a prevention category during rulemaking to control sales of invasive ornamentals died from lack of support. The general feel was that statutes are outdated with confusing, varying categories in the noxious weed law...prevention & sales versus prohibited plants, etc. NWFF (Noxious Weed Free Forage) fees were increased to the highest possible amounts. Following Adam’s report, Connie shared her concerns about Turkish Thistle being listed, likening it to the Russian Olive issue. Idaho County suspects a hybrid between Turkish & Italian Thistles, and stated that it’s pretty well established on steep mountain slopes and remote roadsides. She thinks the listing was an overreaction. Adam told her that it would have been great to have had these concerns voiced during, or prior to, rulemaking. Some general discussion on county noxious weed levies took place. Concerns with noxious weeds on state and federal properties were discussed, and lack of recourse with the managing entities.

ISDA Pesticide Licensing Program Changes & Updates: Adam read the changes that were summarized in a letter. Aerial applications and apprentice category were the highlights. Changes are effective as of May 18 of this year, with enforcement of these changes set to commence in 2022. The issue of wind speed during applications was settled on 10MPH if not otherwise specified on the label. There was some pushback, but Adam prevailed. Mitch wanted clarification on the 4 hours of training for the apprentice license category. There is no requirement in this regard that Adam is aware of, just successfully passing the CO exam (formerly Laws & Safety). It was mentioned that Jeffrey Pettingill fought hard for this and we were sorry that he couldn’t see it through to the conclusion. We did it, Jeffrey!

New Business

2022 Budget Draft: This is to be reviewed and approved in October at the Fall Executive Board Meeting. The line item adjustment for our association’s contribution to the INWCA calendars was

revisited from earlier discussion. Motion by AJ to add a dedicated line item in the 2022 budget for the calendar sponsorship, second by Adam. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

LIA Nominations/Considerations for 2021-2022: Looking for candidates. Applications need to be in by end of August! No candidates from our association for 2021-2022 at this time. Dave reported that Patxi wants to bring in a Congressional Fact Finding Tour, where federal aides are flown out of D.C. to Idaho to tour the Ag industry. Dave asked the executive board if we would be in support of donating \$1,000 to this cause if our association does not end up sending anyone through LIA. We were all agreeable with this and concurred that the more exposure of our industry in Idaho to the feds, the more likely we are to develop additional funding connections. Motion by Adam to donate \$1,000 out of the LIA line item of the budget to the Congressional Fact Finding Tour contingent on us not sending anyone through LIA for the 2021-2022 cycle, second by Connie. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Fall Meeting October 6, 2021: This meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Riggins with Connie hosting, however Connie announced that this will be her final meeting with us, as she is resigning from her post in Idaho County at the end of the summer and moving to Hawaii. Dave relayed that Alan has agreed to host this meeting and it is tentatively going to be held in the Lewiston area on the same day as previously scheduled, October 6. Details to come later.

Winter Meeting/Annual Meeting 2022: The executive board meeting, as well as the annual meeting, is set to be held in Canyon County, not at the ISDA facility where we have typically held these meetings. AJ will host, and he mentioned that the Canyon County Commissioners are seeking exposure for the city of Caldwell, and they authorized his attendance for the summer meeting in exchange for the winter meetings being held in their neck of the woods. The dates are January 10 & 11.

INWCA Conference 2022: As reported earlier in the INWCA report, this will be held back at the Riverside Hotel, in-person, with the standard format of a general session on day 1, and breakout sessions on day 2. The dates are January 12 & 13.

Miscellaneous Discussion: Mitch wants to see the summer meeting moved to a weekday, as opposed to continuing with the tradition of holding it on a Saturday. His supporting argument included overtime issues and potentially improved attendance. It was agreed upon to agendaize this for discussion/decision at the fall meeting. Everyone thanked Dave & Chase for hosting the summer meeting and arranging fun activities prior to and after, and everyone thanked Connie for her service to the association and wished her well on future endeavors. Aloha, Connie!

Adjournment: Motion by AJ to adjourn, second by Adam. Motion carries unanimous. Chairman Wenk closed the meeting at Noon upon no further discussion.

Approved October 6, 2021