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# **1989 Leafy Spurge Symposium**

## **Bozeman, Montana • July 12-13, 1989**

### **Foreword / Business Meeting Minutes**

## **Foreword**

ROBERT M. NOWIERSKI and PETER K. FAY

*Symposium Co-Chairmen*

These proceedings resulted from the “Leafy Spurge Symposium” held July 12-13, 1989 in Bozeman, Montana. The intent of the symposium was to provide current research results and technical developments relating to the management of leafy spurge. Topics of discussion included biological control, chemical management, cultural management, integrated weed management, plant physiology, and genetics.

Researchers, educators, weed supervisors, personnel from land management agencies, and ranchers presented some interesting ideas and along with the general audience provided some lively discussion. Their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions are found in these symposium proceedings.

Appreciation is extended to Jim Cuda, Barbra Mullin, Norman Rees, Reeves Petroff, and Bob Richard for their assistance in planning the symposium. We also wish to thank Joyce Ryen, Laura Estes, and Bonnie McCallum for their help in the production of the Proceedings.

# **Minutes of the GPC-14 business meeting: Holiday Inn, Bozeman, Montana, 12 July 1989**

D. BIESBOER, Secretary

## **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Robert Nowierski.

## **Report by Russell Lorenz, editor of The Leafy Spurge News**

R. Lorenz briefly described changes in the structure of the GPC-14 Leafy Spurge committee, (first formed in 1979), as proposed by the Great Plains Agricultural Council. These changes have been summarized by Lorenz in the Editor's Corner of the May, 1989 issue of the Leafy Spurge News. This summary is brief enough to warrant repeating in the minutes in order to keep the membership informed and up-to-date:

The name of the committee that has provided common ground for those concerned with leafy spurge has been changed. What used to be GPC-14 Leafy Spurge Committee is now the Leafy Spurge Task Force. This came to be through a reorganization of the committee system of the Great Plains Agricultural Council.

The Great Plains Agricultural Council (GPAC) is made up of the Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension Services of the Land Grant Universities in the Great Plains States and interested agencies of USDA. The purpose of GPAC is to provide an organization for effective cooperation and coordination in response to current and emerging issues of importance to Great Plains agriculture, including natural resources. GPAC evolved for cooperative efforts in developing special agricultural programs to combat the severe drought and economic depression during the 1930's. Since its origin, GPAC has held at least one meeting each year, and has maintained a committee system which has been very effective in addressing problems and carrying on the work of the Council.

Under the new system, six permanent committees of the GPAC are subject-matter oriented: Crops and Soils, Economics, Forestry, Range and Livestock, Water, and Wildlife. Each of these six committees can form a committee task force to address specific problems. Our complete nomenclature is now Leafy Spurge Task Force of the Crops and Soils Committee of the Great Plains Agricultural Council.

Lorenz noted that our administrative advisor for the GPAC was Donald Anderson. Lorenz also noted that he had provided the GPAC with an update on the by-laws and activities of the Leafy Spurge Task Force for the GPAC.

## Report by Donald Anderson, Administrative Advisor

Anderson began his report by saying that he has been the administrative advisor to the leafy spurge group since 1981 and has observed that the scope and diversity of research has increased tremendously since that time. After an informal meeting of 11 July with other concerned members of the Leafy Spurge Task Force, Anderson presented a recommendation for restructuring the traditional format of the Symposium. Briefly, the recommendation proposed several changes for future symposia. a) A technical research session be added to the symposium. This session would include the following aspects of integrated management of leafy spurge: biological control, chemical control, cultural control and preventative measures, and basic studies in physiology, biochemistry, and taxonomy. b) The technical session might be one day in length and be attached to the end or beginning of the regular Symposium. Otherwise the meeting would be structured as usual. c) The meeting time be changed to midwinter. This suggestion was made in order to avoid field research commitments in the summer. d) An Executive Committee would coordinate future activities of the Leafy Spurge Task Force and be composed of 9 members. The Executive Committee would be structured as follows: A Program Committee of 4 people representing these areas – Biological and Cultural Control, Chemical Control, Basic Research, and a Non-Research representative; the 3 Officers of the Task Force, namely the Chairperson, The Chairperson Elect, and the Secretary; the Administrative Advisor; and the Executive Coordinator.

A large amount of discussion followed Anderson's report. Q) What is the objective of changing the present system? A) R. Lorenz answered by saying that the objective was to preserve the scientific aspects of leafy spurge research and to provide long-term coordination of our efforts to control spurge. An important change will be to set aside a session strictly for consideration of hard scientific issues in spurge research. Q) Is there an established membership for the Leafy Spurge Task Force? A) R. Lorenz replied that the membership was not formalized and that a single individual should be designated from each representative state as its official representative. R. Nowierski pointed out that members of the Planning Committee should have 3- or 4-year overlapping terms to give continuity to session areas. Q) What time of the year should we meet? A) D. Anderson replied that the issue must be resolved by the yet unappointed Planning Committee. Several people voiced concern over the fact that the Executive Committee as proposed was so large as to be unmanageable. A motion was proposed that a six-member committee be formed composed of: 4 Program Committee members (serving terms of 4 years), the Administrative Advisor, and the Executive Coordinator. The motion was seconded. After much discussion, the motion was amended slightly to include the Chairperson (currently designated as President) as a seventh member whom would be in charge of the Symposium during the year in which he or she was chairperson. The amended motion was seconded. Eight voted against the motion, six voted for the motion, and everyone else abstained. The motion did not carry. Further discussion was tabled until next year.

## Minutes

R. Nowierski moved to have the minutes of the 1988 meeting approved. The motion was seconded and approval was unanimous.

## **Roster**

R. Lorenz noted that the roster was recently up-dated and a list was passed to members present at the business meeting to further update the roster.

## **Future symposia**

R. Nowierski asked if Symposia were still being planned for 1990 and 1991. T. Whitson confirmed that he was prepared to hold the Symposium in Gillette, Wyoming, for 1990 in the summer, and D. Biesboer confirmed that he had begun making arrangements for the Symposium in Minneapolis, MN, for 1991.

## **Election of secretary**

R. Nowierski called for nominations for Secretary. Gene Lehnert of Nebraska was nominated, immediately declined, and then suggested R. Masters of Nebraska as a nominee. He accepted, nominations were closed, and Buffalo Bob Masters was unanimously elected as the secretary for 1990. The 1992 meeting is expected to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Officers are now:

Tom Whitson, President. (Symposium to be held in Gillette, WY, in 1990)

Dave Biesboer, Vice-President

Bob Masters, Secretary

## **Funding for the 1990 Symposium**

It was reported by R. Nowierski that \$1750 remained in the Leafy Spurge Task Force coffers. After a short discussion a motion was made to provide \$500 of the balance to support the newsletter and that the remainder be used to support the conference next year in Gillette, WY.

## **Endorsement**

Gene Lehnert asked the Leafy Spurge Task Force to endorse a planning effort (RC & D Measure Plan #31-999-045) that will apparently be discussed at a National Grazinglands Weed Management Conference being held in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1990. The objectives of the conference are: a) to heighten national awareness of the threat that weeds pose to the nation's grazingland resources and the economic well-being of the states relying on those resources, and b) to heighten national awareness of the effect that weed management on grazinglands has on the quality and quantity of the nation's subsurface water supplies. A motion was made to endorse the plan, was seconded, and unanimously approved.

## **Leafy Spurge Newsletter**

R. Lorenz reported that the list of participants in the conference and other sources were being used to update the mailing list for the newsletter. He also announced that Billy Smith would assist him in preparation of the newsletter for the coming year.

A motion was made to adjourn, was seconded and approved.

*Respectfully submitted by D. Biesboer, Sec., Leafy Spurge Task Force, 19 July 1989.*