



Southwest Project Grass
6024 Glades Pike, Suite 103
Somerset, PA 15501

PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2018
Hoss's in Somerset, PA

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am by Dan Komarinski

In attendance: Laurel Rush, Leya Ramer, Kathy Soder, Dan Griffith, Richard Voytko, Mike Martin, Tom Ulrich, Susal Moon, Dave Steele, Don Williams, Danielle Rihel, Cody Waltemire, James Cowelle, Ben Schweiger

Conservation Districts represented: Indiana, Westmoreland, Beaver, Washington, Cambria, Somerset, Butler, Bedford, Greene

Agencies represented: SCC, NRCS and Farmer

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- ❖ **Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with corrections. First James Cowell, second Tom. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Sue gave treasures report.

- ❖ **Motion to approve the treasurers report. First Don, second Rich V. Motion carried. Treasurer's report filed subject to audit.**

Budget Discussion: Discussed creating a new line item in the budget for the Grassland contest to include all contest costs. This line item will include the \$400 that is currently listed under insurance for the location, the \$200 listed under sponsorship and adding \$200 for food and beverages for a total of \$800. Discussed adding \$500 to sponsorships for Northwest grazing conference and \$500 for Appalachian grazing conference for a total of \$1000. Discussed where the funds for the upcoming purchase of the grazing sticks at \$2500.00 will come from. There were concerns from some members that this purchase was not going to be recouped in the year 2019 thus leaving the budget unbalanced. It was decided that the executive committee will hold a meeting to further discuss balancing the budget.

Reports: Reports were given by the Counties present.

Committee Reports

- Grassland Evaluation Contest– Tentatively October 10, 2019
 - Contest update – October 11, 2018. It rained. 15 teams 57 kids. 1st place West Perry. 2nd place Sugar Valley. Submitted \$500 grant to PA GLC to continue support. PA livestock \$500 contribution. Considered conducting event as a PSU Extension event but committee decided against it. Dan will be sending reminder letters to all contestants when their eligibility runs out.

- ❖ **Motion made to pay for the Grassland Evaluation contest food from SWPG budget. First Dan G., second James Cowell. Motion carried.**
- Website/Social media:
 - Website some issues this month but it has been updated, including past and current events. Pictures needed from Dan K. field day and a write up from the advanced grazing school.
- ❖ **Motion made to add Danielle Rihel as a social media manager. First Leya R., second Tom U. Motion carried.**
- Executive Committee: No update.

Old Business

- Grazing stick update
 - Last meeting a motion was passed to purchase 500 sticks at \$5 per stick for a total of \$2500.00.
 - Order is being placed. Invoices to counties will be sent out very soon.
- 2018 SWPG Fall Field Day - update
 - 40 attendees. Great feedback from attendees and the landowner.
 - Funds were available to purchase grazing sticks from SWPG
- SARE Grant – Update
 - One year grants. Issue for college students is pairing with a spring semester.
 - Tom will continue to work on it
- Western PA Grazing Conference - March 13-14, Clarion, PA
 - Update

New Business

- Nominate Executive Committee
 - Tom U., Pierce W., and Dan G. were elected to the nominating committee
 - Terms are up for: Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer, Don Williams, and Rich Huether
- Appalachian Grazing Conference
 - Online registration is open
 - We committed to contribute \$500 sponsorship to the Appalachian Grazing Conference – We have a vendor space and received 2 free registrations. Names were drawn and passes awarded to Fayette and Washington Counties
 - They will be printing a new planning calendar and need photos submitted for it.
- 2019 Spring Field Day
 - Reinforced that we will be holding a field day. Pierce and Fayette County offered to host the Field Day. May be held later in the year.
 - Looking at going to a Dairy that has converted to grazing.
- Interest in hosting a conference similar to Western PA Grazing Conference
 - Discussion on the benefits and possible issues with hosting a conference
 - JB will discuss with Tim in the North West about allowing Danielle Rihel to sit on the Western PA Grazing Conference planning committee representing SWPG
 - Danielle will look into costs of holding the conference at other locations and report back
- DEP Environmental Education Grant
 - Possible Projects or field days

- \$3,000 minigrant or \$25,000 for regional or state wide, Focus on Ag, Nutrient Management, or similar topics
 - Application due January 11, Final report due 2020
 - Look into obtaining a grant for the conference, grazing sticks, etc.
 - **GLC Meeting**
 - Leya Ramer attended the GLC meeting
 - If we want to be on GLC board as a permanent board member they want us to elect a single member to represent SWPG, We can sit as a technical advisor and send alternating members to represent SWPG
 - GLC added SWPG as a technical advisor
 - It was decided that we will remain a technical advisor for now and we will consider sitting on the board in the future
 - JB will speak with Bill Patton about representing SWPG as a board member on GLCs board
 - **Next Meeting**
 - February 14, Somerset Hoss', 10am
- ❖ **Motion to adjourn the meeting. First Leya R., second Tom U. Motion carried.**