



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

**PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 14, 2019**  
**Hoss's in Somerset, PA**

Meeting called to order at 10:14 am by Jason McGinnis

**In attendance:** Leya Ramer, Dan Komarinski, Jason McGinnis, JB Harrold, Rich Huether, Don Williams, Tom Ulrich, Richard Voytko, Pierce Willson, Sara Hlatky, Ben Schweiger, Susan Moon, Laurel Rush

**Conservation Districts represented:** Beaver, Blair, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington

**Agencies represented:** SCC, NRCS and Farmer

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue gave treasures report. 2018 budget summary positive balance. Monies have been moved to a money market account to accrue more interest. All dues paid. 2019 budget was reviewed. Laurel will have a conversation with Penn Corner about how we can improve financial transactions between SWPG and Penns Corner. Question was raised about giving monies for the confrenct to districts up front. The decision was to leave monitary transactions in regard to the conference as is.

- ❖ **Motion to void check to Penns Corner for \$200 scolarship and use money to pay food bill for Grassland Evaluation Contest in the 2018 budget. In the Grassland evaluation contest, move \$200 from sponsorships line item into the food line item for a new total of \$400 in the 2019 budget. First Rich, second Don. Motion was not passed due to no quorum.**

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- ❖ **Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. First Dan K., second Pierce. Motion was not passed due to no quorum.**

**Reports:** Reports were given by the Counties present.

**Committee Reports**

- Grassland Evaluation Contest: Tentatively October 10, 2019  
Now is the time to talk to the schools to gain interest in participating. Teachers need to know before June to get permission to attend. Schools may consider bringing more than one team. Dan G. may retire someday. We need to find an apprentice to learn the ropes and take over the cair. We need to find someone to take over at least the scholarship portion of the contest and allow the committee to help run the contest. This could be any district staff person not just a voting member.

- Website/Social media: The calendar and website were both updated. Still need to finish up the advanced grazing school article and two Fayette field days. We are trying to be more conscience of posting articles on the Facebook page regularly. Everyone needs to like the page and invite friends to like the page. If you see articles or upcoming events please chare them to the committee to be shared on the page.
- Executive Committee: Moved to pay for food at grassland evaluation contest out of general fund. Discussed drawing farmers to attend Clarion grazing conference with sponsorship tickets.
- GLC: Held at the Farmshow in January. Will be sending sponsorship check for the grassland contest. Upcoming meetings July 10,2019 and October 9, 2019. We will be listed as a technical advisor so we can send any Project Grass member. Discussions were had about finding a perminant attendee so we may be able to sit on the GLC board in the future.
- Grants:
  - Non-point source mini-grant is upcoming.
  - Conservartion Innovation Grant coming up. Discission was had about a well pump monitoring system to indicate possible pump faults.

### Old Business

- Grazing stick update
  - Grazing sticks were ordered. JB will receive the grazing sticks and distribute them to the counties. Grazing stick will be distributed to counties who ordered sticks individually, counties who host Project Grass events, and on an as needed basis for educational events. If districts would like to request quantities of sticks to distribute at educational events they should submit a request.
- Western PA Grazing Conference - March 13-14, Clarion, PA
  - Leya and Danielle will attend to man the booth. JB will bring the display boards. We have one farmer attending using a ticket from the drawing. We will need to send an email to get a second farmer to attend. Names submitted must be willing to attend the SWPG meeting following the conference to discuss what the conference experience.
- Nominations of the Executive Committee include
  - Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer, Don Williams, and Rich Huether
- ❖ **Motion to accept reappointing Leya, Don, and Rich. First Pierce, second Tom. Motion was not passed due to no quorum.**

### New Business

- Appalachian Grazing Conference
  - We have sponsored the conference. We have a vendor space and 2 free passes which were awarded to Fayette and Washington Counties
- 2019 Spring Field Day
  - Pierce and Fayette County offered to host the Field Day. Looking at going to a Dairy that has converted to grazing. Possibly will be held on the Ben Brown failly farm. Pierce will continue to work on the field day and requet assistance as needed. Field day is tentaivlety schedueld
- 2019 Fall field day was discussed. Potential to be held in Washington County at Bill Iams Farm.

- Western PA Grazing Conference involvement - Update
  - Discussions were had at the September 2018 meeting about interest in hosting a conference similar to Western PA Grazing Conference. Danielle will look into costs of holding the conference at other locations and report back.
  - Danielle will sit on the Western PA Grazing Conference planning committee representing SWPG
- Discussion was had about the National Soil Health Conference being held in Pittsburgh in 2019. This may be something we want to keep on our radar.
- **Next Meeting**
  - May Field Day 9am
  - Brady's Restaurant  
3242 St. Rt. 31  
Acme, Pa 15601

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❖ **Meeting Adjourned 12:04**