



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

PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2022

Kencove Farm Fence

344 Kendall Road, Blairsville, PA

10 AM – 2 PM

- Call to Order AT 10:12 AM
- Additions to the Agenda
 - Nominating committee (nominations)
- Public Comments
- Previous Meeting Minutes (2 sets) – some grammatical edits (added in saved versions).
 Pierce motions to approve min. with amendments, Jess 2nds, none opposed. Motion carries.
 - 5-6-2021
 - 11-19-2021

Activities, Updates and County Reports

Allegheny (Riley): No updates	Green (vacancy)	NRCS Advisor Report (JB): SWPG is a supporter of both the Western PA Conference in Clarion & WV Grazing Conference so we have two available registrations and someone needs to work the booth at both events. Livestock producers course will start in July. Leana was unable to come but wanted to say the Fayette NE pasture virtual event conference will also be available.
Armstrong (Jess): Red Bank Mahoning Grant for pasture work	Indiana (Jason): it has been really wet and muddy	SCC Advisor Report (Laurel): Spring virtual roundtables will be March 21 st & 22 nd and will be the same information both days. SCC sponsored credits are available. In other news, it is complaint season.
Beaver (Rich): PSU & Catagon Sheep Breed folks are having a grazing meeting	Somerset (Don): No updates	PA GLC (Tom): Went to the National Conference. Virtual fencing meeting – chatroom set up for grazing questions. \$10,000 mini grant for field day/event attendance for producers.
Blair (Rich): CIP & Grazing project with Bay funds.	Washington (Tom): Grazing workshop and funding for field day	DEP Report (Paul Cinkan) New Water Quality Specialist.
Cambria (Shannon): No updates	Westmoreland (Chelsea): New tech, not present at meeting.	Others: (Alyssa Gludd)

<p>Fayette (Pierce): Extension forage management at the Fairgrounds. Fall covercrop study, spring crop walk/lunch. Purchased a 2-row no-till corn planter available to rent and can be picked up on a trailer.</p>		
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Committee Reports

- Executive Committee
 - Bylaw changes. Executive committee votes first then we will bring to the body.
- Website/Social Media
 - More posts because we are a little more active this time of year. Will be sending the \$172 website fee.
- Grassland Evaluation Contest
 - A lot of updates. Will discuss below.
- Anniversary Committee
 - Tabled.
- Treasurer's Report
 - **Field subject to audit. Filed for Audit.**
- Nominating Committee
 - Jim, Tom, Dan, and Jason are up for nomination and we need a new Vice Chair.
 - The committee would like to nominate **Jason, Jess, Jim, and Tom** for the nominating committee.
 - Pierce 1st, Rich 2nd to close the nomination.
 - For the executive committee nominations, Pierce motions to keep **Jason as chair**, Rich 2nd, motion carries.
 - Jason motions for **Tom to hold the VP position**. Pierce 2nd, motion carries.
 - Pierce motions for **Riley to hold the Secretary position**, Jason 2nd, motion carries.
 - Jason motions for **Tom to hold the PA GLC position**, Piece 2nd, motion carries.

New Business

- 2022 Meeting Schedule – Locations are TBD for the September and November meetings. Possibility that Fayette has 1-2 farms that would be available for a field day. They are a stripmine crop system with grazing as option. Preference for the 1st two weeks of May.
 - **May or June Field Day (Host needed)**
 - **Thursday, September 15th**
 - **Thursday, November 10th**
- 2022 Budget
 - Budget was proposed in November and we need to approve it. Rich motions to approve budget, Pierce 2nd, motion carries.
- Changes to Bylaws (Please see attached)
 - 3 points were added under the meetings section to allow for remote meeting. (Rich read aloud the proposed changes)
 - Discussion related to the proposed changes indicated that 10 days is too great of time and should be reduced to 5 days. If there is a REAL emergency, the

- executive committee can make a meeting decision (whether or not to have a meeting)
- Next steps are to have the executive committee make a vote on the proposed changes and have a final vote with the whole group at the May meeting.
 - Question raised about how to garner greater participation in meetings and perhaps even public participation.
 - Could we do a FB live of the meetings?
 - Could we have a conference call line?
 - Some concerns were raised by agencies regarding live streaming. Registration might be required from a capacity standpoint.
 - Having an educational outreach component of the meetings is a good idea, but technological capacity of the meeting spaces is another concern.
 - Bylaws will be sent out for comment between now and May.
 - Grassland Evaluation Contest
 - Contest Date proposed for September 29th (Jess motions to hold the contest on the 29th at Ag Progress Fields at PSU, Pierce 2nd, motion carries)
 - Fundraising letters were sent. Need help so if **you** have an idea for a place to send fundraising letters let us know. We have available letter templates.
 - We need \$5,500 and we are typically not reaching our goal and the organization needs to cover the deficit.
 - PACD – does Grassland Evaluation qualify for mini grants? PACD will help us with this contest.
 - Letters drafted to request \$200 per Conservation District
 - We have to do more individual outreach per district so perhaps we can make it annual “donation”
 - SWPG is a 501(c)(3) so donations to the contest can count towards tax write offs.
 - Jess suggests that we task membership with producing 3-5 sponsors
 - We can also plug this scholarship opportunity with Envirothon groups.
 - This is one scholarship that you’re not limited on how many times you can win.
 - Add a “donation” button to our website for people to donate online.
 - PA GLC sent \$1,000 for the contest to be used for scholarship but not for contest expenses.
 - T-shirt discussion. Shannon was looking into it. SWPG could **vocer ???** the cost and we could get additional advertising and incentives for sponsors?
 - A few prices but there is some concerns about costs since we are already not meeting our fundraising goal.
 - We are a frugal organization so this might be something worth spending our money on.
 - Revisit the t-shirt discussion at the May meeting once we have assessed the progress on fundraising.
 - Volunteers – we typically need 15 to run the contest. So plan on participating and get your clearances.
 - County Field Day
 - Possibility for field day in Fayette sometimes in the first two weeks in May

- Western PA Grazing Conference Committee
 - In Clarion on March 17th (Registration due by March 10th)
 - As a sponsor we have a table and two registrations (need to be filled)
 - Sponsorship rate reduced
 - Rich motions for the difference in the reduce rate to be returned to SWPG by a credit. Rich 2nd, motion carries.
 - Jess and Tom will work the booth.

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

- Appalachian Grazing Conference – Waterfront Hotel Morgantown, WV March 10-12, 2022
 - Moving forward with an in-person event.
 - Deadline to register is March 6th or March 9th.
- Western PA Grazing Conference – Clarion, PA March 17th

Southwest Project Grass Committee Members

Executive Committee

- Chair: Jason McGinnis (2024), Vice Chair: Tom Ulrich (2024), Secretary/Treasurer: Riley Kinney (2023), Financial Secretary: Sue Moon, Advisors: JB Harrold, Laurel Rush
- Don Williams (2023), Jim Cowell (2024), Rich Huether (2023), Jessica Schaub (2024)
- Appointed:
 - Financial Secretary: Sue Moon
 - Advisors: JB Harrold & Laurel Rush

Website/Social Media:

Laurel Rush, Tom Ulrich, Danielle Rihel

Grassland Evaluation Contest Committee

Jason McGinnis, Carl Rohr

Grassland Evaluation Fundraising Committee

JB Harold, Laurel Rush, Shannon Pierce, Pierce Wilson, Jason McGinnis

SWPG Anniversary Committee

Pierce Wilson, Sue Moon, Riley Kinney, Danielle Rihel, Tom Ulrich, JB Harrold, Laurel Rush

SWPG 2022 Conference Committee

TBD