



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

PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2021

Conference Call

888-844-9904

Access Code: 17-66-832

9 AM – 11 AM

- **Call to Order** – 9:00 AM
- **Additions to the Agenda**
 - Reassignment of the nomination committee.
 - Re-elect executive committee (2 year appointment).
 - Rich, Don and Riley Sunday
 - Tom Ulrich motion, Piece second, motion carried.
 - Re-elect executive chair
 - Don motion to keep chairs, Rich from Beaver second, motion carried
 - Re-elect PA GLC representative
 - Tom Ulrich (current)
 - Piece motions, Rich seconds, motion carries
 - NW PA Grazing Conference Representative
 - Danielle (current)
 - Piece motions, Rich seconds, motion carries
 - Approved after Butler dues are received (Ian says they were sent this week)
- **Public Comments** - None
- **Treasury Report** – Sue
 - 2020- see attached report.
 - Proposed budget
 - Interest has decreased from last year
 - Income is based on bus tour, dues, and anniversary income
 - Pierce from Fayette question about interest being at a variable rate and is that still the best option?
 - No changes recommended at this time until further investigation into interest bearing accounts can be explored
 - Question from Rich about Butler dues, but Danielle from Butler contacted the Manager (Ian) and dues will be paid soon.
 - 2021 treasury report – Pierce motions to approve. Don from Somerset seconds. Motion carried.
- **Previous Meeting Minutes** – no minutes

- **Activities, Updates and County Reports** – Quorum declared.

Allegheny (Riley): None	Fayette (Pierce): Multi species cover crop study for (10-15) farmers across the county and will have a field day.	PA GLC
Armstrong	Greene	Penns Corner RC&D
Beaver (Rich & Jeff): Outdoor MM workshop	Indiana	Southern Alleghenies RC&D
Bedford	Somerset (Don): Interest in the county for REAP (this year and last year for equipment and projects)	DEP Report (Carl): Does not represent DEP anymore
Blair (name): Field day in the fall	Washington (Tom Ulrich): None	ARS (Kathy Soder): Still remote, but field research is active. Full building renovation next year
Butler (Danielle): Work in Buffalo Creek RCPP grant	Westmoreland (Dan Griffith): Equine video series	Farmer Reports
Cambria	NRCS Advisor Report (JB): Contracting, but rising material costs and logistics are creating barriers	Others: None
Centre	SCC Advisor Report (Laurel): 1. June deadline for not doing things in person, but more activities in person might be possible in the future. 2. Fall NM training schedule is posted with some virtual and some field work.	

Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee**
 - None
- **Website/Social Media (Tom)**
 - Processed the reimbursement and tom should receive that soon.
 - Facebook – since November we have posted 7-8 times (104 views)
 - 87 page likes and 90 page followers (would like to get to 100 because FB will give more info about who follows your page)
 - Southwest PA Project Grass
- **Grassland Evaluation Contest**
 - Contest this fall?
 - Envirothon was virtual, so does that mean we should look to do the same.
 - May 31st PA gathering size restrictions will be lifted
 - Interest in reaching out to typical participants (schools, FSA, 4H) to gauge interest in participating this year.
 - Regardless we should move forward with date selection to accommodate lesson planning
 - What might schools be allowed to do for travel is still a question

- Hosting the event at Penn State should be investigated to ensure we are allowed to host the competition there or if we need to select a different location
 - There is interest in proceeding this year whether or not PSU can accommodate so the competition does not dissipate.
- What might other barriers (beyond COVID) that prevent participation in the contest?
- Possible dates: September 30th or October 14th
- Next steps:
 - Talk to PSU and see what they say about hosting at the Ag Progress fields
 - Send our possible dates out to FSA and 4H advisors to see what the participation interest would be for this fall
- Carl interested in being on the grazing contest committee
- **Anniversary Committee**
 - Bus Tour – continue to table the bus tour because fall might be too soon for a crowded bus and the number of other events we are planning.
 - Maybe investigate alternatives to the bus as transportation for the tour.
 - Pause the planning for now and once there is more information we can move forward.
- **Conference Committee**
 - None

Old Business

- **Spring Survey Results**
 - Mixed results with in person and fully remote work, but there are opportunities for participation in in person, outdoor field days with COVID restrictions such as masks and distancing.
 - RCD did some field days (last fall)
 - Not many other field days planned
- **Appalachian Grazing Conference**
 - In person event in March 2022 (tentatively the 2nd weekend in March in Morgantown in the Waterfront)

New Business

- **PA GLC Meeting (Susan Perry & JB)**
 - July 20th meeting, Somerset, PA
 - Hosting a field walk in the morning (at Tom's farm) and business meeting afterwards
 - They wanted to partner with SWPG for the event
 - Don (Somerset) agrees we should assist
 - Agenda is not fully developed so there is room for ideas from the group
 - Looking for opportunities to make it a local event (SWPG table, local caterers, local speakers)
 - Looking for hotel suggestions

- Once there is an agenda, SWPG can offer promotional services (social media)
 - Pierce motions SWPG assists with this event as it fits into the agenda, Don seconds, motion carries.
- **National GLC Conference**
 - Looking for nominees to participate in the national conference, Tom applied to go because registration was due.
 - Possible will attend as a farmer
 - Conference is in South Carolina
- **Date for next SWPG meeting**
 - Next meeting **July, 20th in the afternoon** – face to face meeting after the GLC meeting.

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

- Green County pasture field day
 - Fall (September or October)

Southwest Project Grass Committee Members

Executive Committee

- Chair: Jason McGinnis(), Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski(2018), Secretary/Treasurer: Riley Sunday(2019), Financial Secretary: Sue Moon, Advisors: JB Harrold, Laurel Rush
- Don Williams (2019), Jim Cowell(2018), Tom Ulrich (2018), Rich Huether(2019)

Website/Social Media:

Laurel Rush, Tom Ulrich, Danielle Rihel

Grassland Evaluation Contest Committee

Dan Griffith, Jason McGinnis, Carl Rohr

SWPG Anniversary Committee

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

SWPG 2020 Conference Committee

TBD