



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

Officers:
Chairman: Larry Lohr
Vice Chair: Jason McGinnis
Secretary/Treasurer: John Hewitt

Minutes from 11-14-2013
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Hoss's in Somerset

Meeting started at 10:20 am by John Hewitt.

Conservation Districts represented: Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, and Washington.

Those in attendance where: John Hewitt, Rich Huether, J.B. Harrold, Lou Kopczyk, Jason McGinnis, Pierce Willson, Larry Chaikcic, Bill Clouser, Don Williams, Andrea Daniels, Jessica Schaub, Laurel Hoffman, Laurel Rush, Jared Zinn, Tom Ulrich and Stephen Gilkinson.

Public Comment: None

Meeting turned over to Jason McGinnis

Reports –

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- GLCI – J.B. reported on GLCI Activities and about a grant they received from NRCS for looking at soil health on grazing farms. Also GLCI is concerned that their money has not been utilized across the state equally. They are looking at sending money to each chapter for educational use.
- SCC – Bill Clouser gave a report on the SCC activities. Just over 2.5 million dollars available in REAP. Bill stated that he is generally available to help with Manure Management Workshops. Reminded the group of the presentations that are available to use for these workshops.

Treasurer's Report: Don and J.B. presented the Treasurer's report from Sue who was unable to attend. The 2014 budget was presented and discussed.

- ❖ **Motion by Rich second by Laurel R. to approve the 2014 SWPG Budget.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved.**

The treasurer's report will be filed.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting was presented for review. There were two corrections noted. 1. Second page under NRCS report it should say "Northwest Pennsylvania Project Grass Grazing Conference. 2. On page one the second to the motion to make insurance for the grassland contest was made by John not Jason.

- ❖ **Motion by Laurel R. and second by Lou to approve the minutes for the previous meeting as corrected.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Appalachian Grazing Conference: The next meeting of the full planning committee is January 24th. They are looking at going back to the waterfront for their location.

Grassland Contest Continued: Lou and J.B. reported on the Grassland Contest. Flyers were handed out. Contest will be held on May 6th. The changes to the eligible participants section were pointed out and how they differ from the Mid-America contest. Discussion was held on liability insurance. Jason suggested PA be put in the name to differentiate the state contest from the Mid-America contest. Also to highlight the differences in participants who are eligible between the two contests.

- ❖ **Motion by Lou second by Pierce to purchase the liability insurance for the Grassland Contest using up to the amount of funds in the line item for this with any additional funds if needed to be approved at a subsequent meeting.**
- ❖ **Motion approved**

Break for lunch

2014 Grazing Conference: Jeff was unable to attend today. J.B. passed out a handout on the progress of the steering committee. He explained the handout and the steps the group has taken to get to this point. J.B. explained the concept of having the conference as a bus tour due to costs in the area and the results of numerous questionnaires from the various conferences that have been held in the past. Extensive discussion was held on the direction the group wants the steering committee to go with this. The group thought that it would be good to have a morning session with farm tours in the afternoon. This will be taken to the committee. The next steering committee meeting will be held January 13th.

Education & Outreach: J.B. brought some sticks that NRCS had purchased to show to the group. If you need sticks let J.B. know. Jason discussed getting an executive committee meeting together in December to discuss lack of participation and ways to get possible funding. Discussion was held on this.

Website update: Suggestion was made to put links to other sites such as GLCI etc... John asked everyone to think about what updates should be done and let him know.

NRCS Advisor Report:

- ❖ J.B. reported that the Northwest Project Grass Grazing Conference will be held on March 13th 2014. This will be held in Clarion. The theme is Economics of grazing.
- ❖ Met with the Keystone Beef Marketing Network yesterday. They are putting some meetings together to get the word out on what they do and have been talking to J.B. and Tim about this. Will let the group know when these meetings are.

The next meeting of the SWPG will be held at Hoss's in Somerset February 13, 2014 at 10:00am.

- ❖ **Motion to adjourn by Rich second by Andrea.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

After the meeting J.B. went over the draft of the new 528 Job Sheet.

Submitted by: John Hewitt