



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 11-19-2014
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Hoss's in Somerset

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

Conservation Districts represented: Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, and Washington.

Those in attendance where: John Hewitt, Jason McGinnis, J.B. Harrold, Jeff Leindecker, Hannah Hoblitzell, Tom Ulrich, Adam Cotchen, Rich Huether, Cody Waltemire, Dave Steele, Jessica Schaub, Laura Smith, Dan Komarinski, James Cowell, Susan Moon and Don Williams.

Public Comment: None

Reports –

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- GLCI – John handed out a GLCI activities update from Susan Perry.
- ARS – John handed out an ARS activities update from Kathy Sodor.
- Farmer Reports – Jim Cowell reported.
- Others – Laura Smith gave a Regional report from NRCS.

Treasurer's Report:

- Sue gave the treasurer's report. Copies were handed out to those present.
- Sue reported that the paperwork was never completed and the check never cashed for the insurance for the grassland contest.
- Discussion was held on the 2015 budget.
- ❖ **Motion by Adam and Seconded by Laurel to approve the 2015 budget as presented.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved.**

The treasurer's report will be filed.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for review. There were no corrections.

- ❖ **Motion by Jeff and second by Dan K. to approve the minutes for the previous meeting.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee was appointed for the 2015 elections. Appointed to the Nominating Committee were Dan Griffith, Laurel Rush and Tom Ulrich.

Appalachian Grazing Conference: Laurel gave a report. Handouts of the news release for the conference were passed out. Discussion was held on what to do with the admission to this that SWPG receives as part of our vendor package. Adam volunteered to handle the duties as Jim Resh had last year of drawing a name from the nominated farmers from the counties to attend and report back to the group.

Grassland Contest Continued: J.B. reported on the Grassland Contest. There were 9 teams from 5 schools that participated. J.B. reported that we are going to need funding to help cover the scholarship fund requirements within the next few years. The Grassland Contest finances were discussed. The background of the Contest was discussed by the group.

It was decided to set up a Grassland Contest Committee to work on fund raising for the Grassland Contest. Adam and Jeff volunteered to be on the committee.

GLCI has discussed the idea of having the Grassland Contest in the Harrisburg area in coordination with the KILE (Keystone International Livestock Expo) function.

2014 Grazing Bus Tour: Jeff reported on the bus tour and how it went. He handed out a financial report to the group and went over the report.

Laurel went over the review compilation. The bus tour turned out very well according to the reviews. Jeff gave Sue a check for \$1,761.34 for the SWPG share of the profits from the tour. Discussion was held on the bus tour.

- ❖ **Motion by Jeff, second by Adam to make a third category in the budget for Bus Tours to keep funding separate from the Conference funds.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved.**

- ❖ **Motion by Jeff, second by Dan K. that farms in the bus tour have their names submitted for the drawing by SWPG, to go to the next Appalachian Grazing Conference.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved**

Jason asked for a county to volunteer to host the next SWPG Grazing Conference to be held in 2016 and one to do a Bus Tour in 2015. There were no volunteers. It was decided that everyone would go back to their Districts and think about this so that it can be discussed at the SWPG February meeting.

Northwest Grazing Conference:

J.B. discussed the Northwest Grazing Conference. He handed out an agenda for the conference. J.B. will get the brochure and send to John for dispersal to the group.

Cattle Chute Project:

Discussion was held with the counties giving their District Boards feelings on continuing with this project.

- ❖ **Motion by Jim Cowell second by Jessica Schaub to move forward with the chute with KBMN. Roll Call vote was called for.**
Allegheny – Abstained, Armstrong – No, Blair – No, Fayette – Yes, Greene – No, Indiana – Abstained, Somerset – Yes, Washington – No, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Centre and Westmoreland not present.
- ❖ **Motion Approved**

A Cattle Chute committee was appointed. Members volunteering to be on the committee are Jim Cowell, Laurel Rush, Dan K., Jason M. and Jessica S. J.B. agreed to advise the committee.

NRCS Advisor Report:

- ❖ J.B. gave a shortened report due to time constraints. A full report will be given at the February meeting.

The next meeting of the SWPG will be held at Hoss's in Somerset February 19, 2015 at 10:00am.

- ❖ **Motion to adjourn by Dan second by Jessica.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

Simeon Yoder gave a presentation after lunch about Rejuvenating Exploited Soils using Grazing.

Submitted by: John Hewitt