



**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 2-13-2014
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Somerset County PA 10:00 am**

Meeting called to order at 10:21 am by Jason McGinnis

In attendance:

John Hewitt, Susan Moon, Ryan Harr, Don Williams, Dave Steele, Bill Clouser, Pierce Willson, Laura Smith, Jeff Leindecker, Stephen Gilkinson, Tom Ulrich, J.B. Harrold, Jason McGinnis, Lou Kopczyk, Laurel Rush, Jim Cowell. Conservation Districts represented: Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, and Washington.

Public Comment: None

Reports –

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- Jason discussed the executive committee meeting that was held and the decision to attempt to get the county and agency reports back to a grazing focus for future meetings. Also the questionnaire sent to each of the 14 counties to get updates on the status of the projects that SWPG has put in over the years. This information will help in obtaining grants etc...
- GLCI – J.B stated that GLCI has not met since SWPG's last meeting.
- Jeff reported for Penn's Corner RC&D. As of now, Jan Lauer the manager with Allegheny Co is the Chair. Jeff will be the secretary.
- State Conservation Commission: Bill Clouser reported. To be eligible for the REAP program you must meet the requirements of Chapter 102 and Manure Management. They are still accepting applications for REAP at this time. He has been told that he will be receiving the PA Forage and Grasslands Award next week. Bill will be retiring the end of July. Bill was congratulated on his nomination and thanked for all he has done for the group. Christian Sauter is also retiring. Roy Richardson has moved to the Dirt and Gravel Roads program.
- Laura Smith reported for NRCS: Laura discussed the contracting they are doing. She also reported on the Toolkit Update.

Treasurer's Report: Sue passed out a copy of the treasurer's report. Sue went through, and discussion was held on this report.

- ❖ **Motion by Ryan, Second by Pierce to accept the treasurer's report.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved**

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for review. There were two corrections. The meeting was held in Somerset and Steve Gilkinson's name was misspelled.

- ❖ **Motion by Jeff second by Sue to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the noted corrections.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Jason turned the meeting over to Laurel Rush for the Election of Executive Committee Members and the Election of Officers.

Election of Executive Committee: Laurel opened the floor for nominations and presented the Nominating Committee choices for Executive Committee. The terms are up for Larry C., Laurel Rush, Jim Cowell, and Jason McGinnis. The Nominating Committee recommended Dan Komarinski, Laurel Rush, Jim Cowell, and Jason McGinnis

- ❖ **Motion by Sue seconded by John H. to accept these nominations.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Election of Officers: Laurel opened the floor for election of officers.

- ❖ **Motion by Sue seconded by Pierce to elect the same officers as 2013.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Laurel turned the meeting back over to Jason.

Appalachian Grazing Conference: Laurel and J.B. reported that the next meeting for the steering committee will be February 28th.

Grassland Contest: The contest will be held on May 6th. Sue passed around a flyer and discussed the insurance for this event.

2014 Grazing Conference: Jeff gave an update on the bus tour. Brochures and budget for the tour were passed around. Planning is being done for 200 people. Discussion was held on this.

Break for Lunch

Executive Committee Meeting: Jason went over the minutes for the Executive meeting that was held on January 16th with the group. Discussion was held on different portions of the meeting. J.B. discussed the brochure that we have and the information sheet we had put together for our accomplishments in 2007. It was suggested that these were items that could be updated to get the group's name out there to the public and to educate them on what we do. Discussion was held on purchasing a cattle chute to be used by farmers in counties that have paid their dues. This was another item that a majority of the executive committee felt might be good advertisement for the group. Discussion was held on possible future funding available through NRCS for projects. Discussion was held on this meeting and the results of that meeting. We will need to look at the bylaws to make changes to the way meetings are held.

NRCS Advisor Report: J.B. reported:

1. Dustin Huether will be requesting funding for a field day.
2. Keystone Beef Marketing Network will be having a field day.
3. J.B. passed around the Northwest Project Grass conference brochure.
4. February 22nd in Fulton County Will be the Northeast Pasture Consortium on Grazing.
5. J.B. informed the group that flash grazing of buffers will not be allowed now if the landowner is getting funds through NRCS.

6. NRCS is working on updating the grazing worksheet.

Laurel discussed grant writing possibilities that she is looking into.

Lou has volunteered to have the May field day in Cambia County on May 8th since Andrea has left Beaver County and they will not be able to do it now. The group thanked Lou for stepping up and taking this on.

❖ **Motion by Laurel, second by Jeff to adjourn.**

❖ **Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.**

Submitted by: John Hewitt