



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

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

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**Minutes from 2-14-2012  
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Somerset County PA 10:00 am**

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Larry Lohr

In attendance:

Brittany Fabin, J.B. Harrold, Tom Matticks, Pierce Willson, Larry Chaikcic, James Cowell, Laurel Hoffman, Dave Steele, Rich Huether, Dan Griffith, Jeff Leindecker, Laurel Rush, Cody Waltemire, Daniel Over, Lorelle Steach, Lou Kopczyk, Kathy Soder, Don Williams, Ryan Harr, Susan Moon, Jason McGinnis and Larry Lohr. Conservation Districts represented: Allegheny, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Westmoreland, and Washington.

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports –**

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- GLCI – Report given by J.B. He brought some videos from GLCI. All the videos are on the website. Attendance has gone down at their meetings. Tom Matticks discussed the need to report all the grazing work being done into the NRCS system.
- Dan Griffith and Laurel Rush reported for Penn's Corner RC&D. There were 138 attendees at the no-till conference. The Grassland Evaluation Contest will be May 7<sup>th</sup>. PA Conservation Calendars are out now. Discussion was held on providing insurance for the contest. Penn's Corner is the official sponsor on the contest.

❖ **Motion made by Lou second by Laurel R. to pay for this with money from last year's sponsorship funding up to \$200.00. Motion passed.**

❖ **Motion made by Lou to purchase and sign the paperwork for the insurance for the contest. Seconded by Dan. Motion approved.**

Sue will check with the insurance company about individual insurance for farmers at the event.

- ARS – Kathy reported on ARS activities. Closely watching the budget. We are doing some research on flaxseed using grant funding. This is a four year project in five states with three to four farms in each state. This is only being done on organic farms. Looking at feeding it as an alternative fodder.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue passed out a packet of budget info and gave the treasury report. All dues for 2013 are paid at this time except Cambria County. Discussion was held on the 2012 Conference funding and the 2013 SWPG budget. **The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.**

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

- ❖ **Motion by Rich second by Pierce to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

**Larry Lohr 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 Lohr, John Hewitt and Glenn Moyer. The Nominating Committee recommended Larry Lohr, John Hewitt and Lou Kopczyk.

- ❖ **Motion by Laurel seconded by Rich to close the nomination and elect these board members. Motion approved.**

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

- ❖ **Motion by Lou seconded by Jim Cowell to elect the same officers as 2012. Motion approved.**

**Laurel turned the meeting back over to Larry.**

**Appalachian Grazing Conference:** Laurel and J.B. gave a report on the Conference and Laurel passed around the brochure. The higher registration rate has been postponed until March 1<sup>st</sup>. There were over two hundred people registered as of last Monday. The hotel extended the date for registration until February 20<sup>th</sup>. There are 23 vendors at this time.

**2014 Grazing Conference:** Allegheny County has shown an interest in hosting the 2014 Conference. Allegheny has not had a farmer director for a while. Jeff is trying to get with the county tourism department to start looking for a venue for this. Discussion was held on the needs for the conference. Discussion was held on the idea of partnering with the Northwest Grazing Conference. In the future we may need to look at partnering with them due to the funding being so much harder to come up with.

**Education and Outreach:** The healthy horse calendars are out now Dave stated he had some with him if somebody needed them.

**NRCS Advisor Report:** J.B. reported:

1. Northwest Conference and Appalachian Conference are looking for door prizes.
- ❖ **Jeff made a motion seconded by Rich to donate the extra Temple Grandin book we had bought and was not sold and the weed book that was left over from the Grazing School as door prizes for the Northwest and Appalachian Conferences. Motion approved.**
2. Pasture NRI – There are 12 counties across the State with twin our area (Washington and Allegheny).
3. March 28<sup>th</sup> - There will be an Ag engineering meeting held in Somerset.
4. There will be a pasture update meeting held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the REC building. 2 Conservation Planning credits will be available.

5. On March 9<sup>th</sup> is the PA Cattleman's College at the PSU Livestock Evaluation Event Center. Info was passed around.
6. I am waiting for dates for some stocker raiser meetings to be held by Keystone Beef Marketing Network. They are trying to get more stocker raisers in the area.
7. We are working on the new grazing planning tool to help plan pastures. There is the ability to put four different alternatives in up to four different groups. So now we have a co-grazing tool that we can use to help plan pastures. There is a nutrient budget sheet associated with this.
8. Equip Fencing Policy – There could be some changes coming to this. As we get more information on this I will get it to you.

**Private Funding:** Jason reported that we have not heard back from anyone on this at this time.

**May Field Day:** J.B. stated that John had said that the Bill Iams Farm in Washington County would be willing to host the May Field Day on May 16<sup>th</sup>. J.B. discussed the operation. The budget for the field day is \$100.00.

❖ **Motion by Lou seconded by Dan to approve holding the May Field Day on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Bill Iams farm in Washington County. Motion approved.**

A short business meeting will be held at the beginning of the field day.

**Keystone Production Sale first Saturday in May.**

**11:30am Break for Lunch**

**After Lunch Presentation:** Lorelle Steach discussed the Envirothon current issue for this year which is on grazing.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.**

Submitted by: John Hewitt