



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

Officers:  
Chairman: Jason McGinnis  
Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jeff Leindecker

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**Minutes from 5-21-2015  
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Somerset County PA 10:00am**

Meeting called to order at 10:11 am by Jason McGinnis

In attendance:

Jeff Leindecker, James Cowell, Laurel Rush, JB Harrold, Jason McGinnis, Dan Komarinski, Rich Huether, Don Williams, Susan Beal, Ryan Harr, Dan Griffith, Tom Ulrich, Hannah Hoblitzell, Genny Christ, Kathy Soder, Becky Berger, Jessica Schaub, Patricia McIntire.

Conservation Districts represented: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland.

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports –**

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- GLCI – Susan Beal mentioned the National Grazing Lands Conference in Texas. The conference is December 13-16.  
Penn's Corner RC&D – Dan Griffith reported that he is waiting on a speaker for the no-till conference. The Grassland Evaluation Contest budget will be discussed later in the meeting.
- ARS – Kathy Soder reported that ARS is busy and funding is good.
- SCC - Season of complaints. Looking at silvopasture and how it relates to nutrient management.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was passed out. Jason asked Jeff to check with Sue whether Bedford was a year behind on dues, or if there was a typo indicating that they paid their 2014 dues on 1/23/15. (Jeff checked with Sue and that was a typo. Bedford is current with their dues.) **The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.**

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Jason pointed out a correction on page 3. The cattle chute vote was made, and the group continued the discussion before moving onto the Grassland Contest Update. Jeff will move that paragraph up and insert a footnote into the minutes.

- ❖ **Motion by Ryan second by Jeff to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with that correction. Motion approved.**

**Appalachian Grazing Conference:** Laurel discussed the meeting and said it was smoothly run. The next conference committee meeting is in June and they will have another conference in two years.

**2016 SWPG Grazing Conference:** Fayette County will host this conference. Teleconference was held on Monday of this week. This will be a one day conference. Friday, September 23, 2016 is the first date choice. The fairgrounds will cost about \$1000 to rent for the day. Speakers are being sought. Another committee call will be held in July.

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

- Pasture NRI this year. One farm in Venango County, one in Washington County, one in Greene County. Susan Parry is contacting the farmers to get permission. Should be done in the first week of June.
- September 4-5: Field day at Russ Wilson's farm in Forest County. Greg Braun is on the agenda. The 4<sup>th</sup> is more of an agency day focusing on pasture and soil health, with the main field day on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Russ took an old crop farm and made it into pasture. He moves cattle 4-6 times a day and has an automatic gate on a timer. JB will get a flyer to Jeff to email to the group.

**New Strategy Regarding the Handling System:** Jason reported:

- Jason prepared a draft letter. The discussion is that we can put our name on it as an advertisement, or provide money toward the purchase of the handling system.
- Discussion about the pros and cons of the system, and KBMN.
- Tom brought up the idea of a train-the-trainer program for District staff.
- Send ideas about this system to Jeff.
- The money situation was tabled for now.

**Grassland Evaluation Contest** Dan reported:

- Dan handed out copies of the financial spreadsheet and went over the numbers.
- There is a \$5364.24 deficit between current balance and obligated funds.
- Yearly costs include Lunch + Insurance + Facility Use.
- Money for scholarship fund should be made out to Penn's Corner and sent to Dan.
- Money for the contest goes to Sue Moon.

❖ **Motion by Ryan seconded by Dan K. to transfer \$700.00 from Penn's Corner 09 Project Grass to 02 Project Grass Youth Development Account. Motion approved.**

- The new balance for the scholarship fund is \$6064.24, with a \$4664.24 deficit.
- Sue Moon has \$600 for the contest to be used for the scholarship fund.
- Kencove and PLA said they'd donate, as well as All Around Fence.

❖ **Motion by Rich seconded by Dan G. to move \$4664.24 from SWPG to Penn's Corner 02 Project Grass Youth Development Account to cover scholarships. Motion approved.**

❖ **Motion by Rich seconded by Jeff to authorize Jason to sign the indemnity agreement with Penn State. Motion approved.**

- GEC committee to be formed to help Dan G. with fundraising and publications. This committee is not taking over JB's role with the GEC.
- ❖ **Motion by Rich seconded by Genny to create a Grassland Evaluation Contest committee. Motion approved.**
- Jason appointed Dan G. as chair. Jeff, Adam, and Genny fill out the committee.

#### **Handling System Continued**

- ❖ **Motion by Dan G. seconded by Dan K. “Whereas, KBMN will handle scheduling, transportation, inspection, and maintenance of the livestock handling system and will provide SWPG a list of farmers who have used the livestock handling system; and whereas SWPG will provide farmer information to KBMN of farmers interested in using the equipment, therefore I move to contribute \$2500 to KBMN for the promotion of SWPG with the livestock handling system.” The motion was changed by acclamation when Dan G. amended the motion to change \$2500 to \$1000. Dan K. seconded. Motion approved. Blair County and Washington County dissented.**

#### **Field Day Indiana County**

- The field day will be at Dustin Heeter's farm on October 13.
- Let JB or Adam know what you want to see on the agenda.
- Dustin has a beef cow/calf operation with pressurized water, streambank fencing/crossings.
- Adam Cotchen (ICCD) is the contact person if you have any questions.

#### **Criminal Background Check for Outreach Activities**

- Discussion about what PSU requires for child abuse clearances and where we go from there.
- ❖ **Motion by Ryan seconded by Dan K. that everyone who volunteers for SWPG outreach activities, where youth are involved, have Pennsylvania state clearance requirements for volunteers. Motion approved.**

**The group broke for lunch at 12:26 pm.**

**The meeting resumed at 1:00 pm.**

#### **Status Update of Revised Handout, Website, and Display Board Materials** Becky reported

- Drafts were presented to the group and comments were taken.
- Becky asked for pictures for the handout. She set up a dropbox account so that everyone can put pictures in the box for her to use. Or email them to Becky.
- ❖ **Motion by Jim seconded by Dan G. to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.**

Written and Submitted by: Jeff Leindecker