



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

Officers:
Chairman: Jason McGinnis
Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski
Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer

**Minutes from 9-17-2015
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Cambria County PA 10:00am**

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am by Jason McGinnis

In attendance:

JB Harrold, Jason McGinnis, Dan Komarinski, Rich Huether, Don Williams, Dan Griffith, Tom Ulrich, Hannah Hoblitzell, Adam Cotchen, Virgil Wilford, Dave Steele, Karlie Wright, Leya Ramer, Genny Christ, Kathy Soder, Becky Berger, Jessica Schaub

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

Public Comment: None

Reports –

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- GLCI – JB Harrold reported that their next meeting is October 14th in Boalsburg, PA.
- Penn's Corner RC&D – Dan Griffith reported that their meeting is after ours so we may want to shift our meeting a week later.
- ARS – Kathy Soder reported that ARS is waiting on the federal budget to be approved.
- SCC – JB Harrold reported for Laurel Rush. There has been informational meetings/webinars to discuss the Avian Flu. Information handouts are available. There have been some changes to the Act-38 Nutrient Management Program Administrative Manual. There are a series of trainings planned to review the changes in the manual in four locations across the state. Contact Laurel Rush for more information. The SCC is requesting that staff be invoiced for meals provided by Project Grass field days. It was discussed that Project Grass would ask for a \$5 donation for meals.
- Others-Dan Griffith reported that PFGC would sponsor Project Grass scholarships.

Treasurer's Report: The report was passed out. Bedford dues should be listed as 2015 dues instead of 2014. The Project Grass Sub-Budget SW Project Grass Conference balance should not be listed as a negative balance. A proposed 2016 Project Grass Budget will need to be submitted for the November meeting. **The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.**

Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion by Dan Griffith second by Genny Christ to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion approved.

Appalachian Grazing Conference: JB Harrod reported.

- The Appalachian Grazing Conference will be March 10-11, 2017 at the Waterfront Place Hotel and Conference Center in Morgantown, WV. The theme of the conference will be Growing Grass to New Heights. If you any suggestions or topic ideas, please contact Laurel Rush.

NRCS Advisor Report: J.B. reported:

- 49 grazing plans on 3,400 acres and 17 field days/conferences were completed.
- NRCS is hosting a basic survey training on October 6 (Somerset) and October 8 (Clarion). Contact the NRCS engineers for more information.
- There are a lot of changes in personal. Please refer any questions to the local NRCS office.
- KBMN is not interested in purchasing the cattle chute at this time. The \$1,000 check was returned to us and is located at the Allegheny County Conservation District office.

Motion by Dan Griffith second by Rich Huether to cancel the \$1,000 check to KBMN. Motion approved.

Display Board/Table Skirt: Becky Berger reported:

- Working on a potential draft of the display board. Estimating that it will cost \$250/panel and there are 4 panels total. They had to redo the logo since the old one was distorted when they tried to make it bigger. There will be 3-4 pieces of Mylar that will be put up on the display instead of attached 30+ individual pieces.
- Becky Berger is looking for pictures from the membership (ex. troughs). She will send out the drop box link to everyone.
- **Motion made by Rich Huether second by Becky Berger to use the \$1,000 from the voided KBMN check and field day meeting grant funds to pay for panels and table skirt with logo not to exceed \$150. Motion approved.**

Committee Assignments:

- Genny Christ volunteered to take over Becky Berger's position on the Website Committee when she ends her employment with the Conservation District the second week in November.

Grassland Evaluation Contest: JB Harrold reported:

- The PA Grassland Evaluation Contest will be held in Rock Springs, PA on October 1st.
- PLA approved their donation.
- Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Cambria County Conservation Districts sponsored the contest. The funding from the districts will go towards scholarships and there is no obligation to use those funds for t-shirts. A sign will be created for the event with the sponsors listed.
- There are 13 volunteers for the contest with clearances for the event. J.B. Harrold is collecting the clearances. Please re-send your clearances to JB if you had sent them to Jeff Leindecker originally. JB Harrold would like a copy of your clearances for field days even if you are not helping out with the contest.

Dues Reminder:

- Sue Moon will send out invoices for the 2016 SW Project Grass dues.

Jeff Leindecker's Resignation:

- Jeff Leindecker ended his employment from Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) and submitted his resignation to the Board. All of the SW Project Grass paper and electronic files are housed at ACCD. SW Project Grass has contacted the district manager of ACCD and asked to retrieve all of the paper and electronic files (minutes, KBMN check, clearances). Becker Berger will also contact Jeff for more information on the location of the SW Project Grass files.
- There is a need to find a better way of storing our files. Leya Ramer volunteered to look into getting a Google Drive account for SW Project Grass and act as secretary/treasurer.
- **Motion by Rich Huether seconded by Becky Berger to accept Jeff Leindecker's resignation. Motion approved.**
- **Motion made by Rich Huether second by Dan Griffith to nominate Leya Ramer for secretary/treasurer. Motion approved.**

October Field Day-Leya Ramer reported:

- There are 16 people registered for the field day.
- There will be a conference call with Dustin Heeter the 1st week in October.
- They received a lot of sponsors. GLCI donated \$500.
- There will be an evening pasture walk followed a presentation by a local veterinarian (TBD).

Proposed Bus tour with KBMN- J.B. Harrold reported:

- Jeff Leindecker talked to Jim Henry about setting up a bus tour. They are interested in having a tour for next year.

May Field day- Tom Ulrich reported:

- Washington County Conservation District wants to host the May Field Day. RC&D will help cover some of the costs associated with the field day. The feedback we received from the farmers show that they want to have more demonstration projects at the field days. Tom Ulrich is planning to have numerous demonstration projects for the field day attendees. There will be a \$15 fee for lunch. There will be 2 core and 2 category credits for pesticide applicators.
- **Motion made by Dan Griffith second by Don Williams to let Washington County Conservation District host the field day in May. Motion approved.**

2016 Project Grass Conference-J.B Harrold reported:

- We are looking at a possible Friday in September at Dan Komarinski's farm in Fayette County. They are still working on all the details.

2016 Dates to Remember Overview-Jason McGinnis reported:

- **February- SW Project Grass Meeting**
- **May-Field Day hosted by Washington County Conservation District (Tom Ulrich)**
- **July- SW Project Grass Meeting**
- **September- SW Project Grass Conference at Dan Komarinski's farm.**
- **October- Grassland Evaluation Contest**
- **November-SW Project Grass Meeting**

Training-Tom Ulrich reported:

- An example of a pasture training packet was distributed to everyone that included different grazing scenarios. A grazing training will be planned for the February SW Project Grass Meeting.

Next Meeting Date-

- The next SW Project Grass Meeting will be held at the Somerset Hoss's on November 12 at 10am.

- ❖ **Motion by Dan Griffith seconded by Genny Christ to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:46am.**

Written and Submitted by: Jessica Schaub

DRAFT