



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 9-19-2013
Southwest Project Grass Meeting Hoss's in Indiana

Meeting started at 10:10 am by Jason McGinnis.

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

Those in attendance where: John Hewitt, Jim Resh, Dan Griffith, Rich Huether, Ryan Harr, Kathy Soder, J.B. Harrold, Lou Kopczyk, Jason McGinnis, Pierce Willson, Larry Chaikcic, Dave Steele, Bill Clouser, Jeff Leindecker, Carl Rohr, Don Williams, Andrea Daniels and Susan Perry.

Public Comment: None

Reports –

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- Penn's Corner RC&D – Dan gave a report. Flyers for the Grassland Evaluation Contest were handed out.
- GLCI – Susan Perry reported on GLCI activities.
- ARS – Kathy Soder gave a report on the ARS programs and their activities.
- DEP Report – Carl Rohr.
- SCC – Bill Clouser gave a report on the REAP program and the retirement of Jim Kennedy. This position is being eliminated.

Treasurer's Report: J.B. presented the Treasurer's report from Sue who was unable to attend. The cost of insurance for the Grassland Contest was discussed and how it should be handled in the budget.

- ❖ **Motion by Dan second by John to make Insurance for the Grassland Contest a separate Item in the Budget using monies from the Postage category.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved.**

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting was presented for review. There was one correction to the minutes. The second paragraph from the end should read Tim Peters not Tom Peters.

- ❖ **Motion by Jeff and second by Pierce to approve the minutes for the previous meeting with corrections.**
- ❖ **Motion approved.**

Grassland Contest Continued: More discussion was held concerning the facilities used for the grassland contest.

- ❖ **Motion by Dan seconded by Lou to investigate the possibility of using the Special Events building and the Grazing Demo area at Ag Progress Days with the intention of using this facility for the Grassland Contest.**
- ❖ **Motion Approved.**

Dan discussed the funding for the grassland contest. Penn's Corners records need to be updated to show that the funding of \$200.00 for the contest and \$150.00 for insurance comes from SWPG and not Somerset Conservation District.

Extensive discussion was held on the guidelines and rules for the contest. The committee will work on updating the guidelines and bring them back to the next SWPG meeting.

Appalachian Grazing Conference: In Laurels absence John reported that the tentative schedule for the conference is the 2nd week in March 2015. Laurel R. is now the Vice Chair of the committee. Please let Laurel know of any suggestions for speakers and topics. The theme for the next conference will be "Dollars and Sense".

2014 Grazing Conference: Jeff gave an update on the committee activities for the 2014 Grazing Conference. Discussion was held on the conference. A committee meeting will be held after Susan Perry's update after lunch.

Education & Outreach: J.B. reported that we will have more sticks soon for the field days. Susan stated that a rainfall simulator had been purchased. She will get the information on this to the group. J.B. asked for everyone to think about the May Field Day and if they could possibly hold this in their county.

Website update: Suggestion was made to put links to other sites such as GLCI etc... John asked everyone to think about what updates should be done and let him know.

NRCS Advisor Report:

- ❖ J.B. reported that the Northwest Pennsylvania Project Grass Grazing Conference will be held on March 13th 2014.
- ❖ There was a good turnout for Ag Progress Days. The tracker and panels were stolen from the location they were stored at the complex. The panels have been replaced but the tracker is too expensive so was not replaced.
- ❖ NRI was done in Allegheny County this year.
- ❖ J.B. stated that he is available for field days but you need to give him a call to schedule this.
- ❖ J.B. passed around a sheet titled Farmer Fencing Project. He suggested that this could be used as an example to make a more site specific sheet for farmers we are working with. He stated he is available to help with this.

11:45am – Break for lunch
Meeting reconvened at 12:35pm.

Susan Perry gave an NRCS grazing update.

The next meeting of the SWPG will be held at Hoss's in Somerset November 14, 2013 at 10:00am. Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm.

Submitted by: John Hewitt