



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

**PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES**

**February 16, 2017**

**Hoss's Steak House**

**1222 N. Center Ave. Somerset, PA 15501**

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

**In attendance:** Jamie Douthit, Leya Ramer, Danielle Sheppard, Pierce Willson, JB Harrold, Jason McGinnis, Dan Komarinski, Laurel Rush, Louis A. Kopczyk, Don Williams, Dan Griffith, Tom Ulrich, Richard Voytko, Susan Moon, April Brummage

**Conservation Districts represented:** Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland

**Agencies represented:** NRCS, SCC, Penn's Corner RC & D

**Reports**

- Reports were given by the Counties present.
- Penn's Corner – Fundraising still needed for Grassland Evaluation Contest, Will need to pay for contest venue this year
- NRCS – fencing cap has been raised from \$25,000 to \$30,000, all EQIP contracts will require streambank fencing at 35 ft., less large projects this year requested through EQIP means more grazing projects will be funded, Capital RC&D request for us to host an advanced grazing school including plain sect.
- SCC – REAP still has tax credits available for this round, nutrient management delegation documents out for comment are currently being reviewed, included breeder poultry in animal weights,

**Treasurer's Report:** final number for 2016 presented, came out ahead \$1,182.01, total conference carryover to 2017 \$ 3,852.21,

❖ **Motion by Sue seconded by Dan G. to amend the 2017 budget.**

| <b>Expense</b>           | <b>Budget</b>     |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Alternative Water Pumps  | <b>\$170.00</b>   |
| Annual Chapter Field Day | <b>\$100.00</b>   |
| Conference - 2017        | <b>\$3,852.21</b> |
| Field Day Mini-Grants    | <b>\$400.00</b>   |
| Insurance/Rent           | <b>\$400.00</b>   |
| Library                  | <b>\$0.00</b>     |
| Magazine Subscriptions   | <b>\$450.00</b>   |

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Miscellaneous  | \$200.00          |
| Sponsorships - <i>Grassland Contest \$200 &amp; Appalachian Grazing Conference \$500</i> | \$700.00          |
| Website Fees & Maintenance   | \$225.00          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$6,497.21</b> |

Bottom line is still the same.

**Motion approved. Treasurers report filed subject to audit.**

❖ **Motion by Don seconded by Tom to approve the minutes.**

**Motion approved.**

### Old Business

- Table Skirt is complete. Showcased at meeting. Looks great.

### New Business

- **Election of Executive Committee**

- Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer (Financial Secretary: Sue Moon) Don Williams, Rich Huether
- No nominations from the floor.

❖ **Motion by Dan G. seconded by Danielle to close nominations with unanimous ballot.**

**Motion approved.**

- Meeting turned over to Laurel to elect slate of officers.
- Chair Jason McGinnis, Vice chair Dan Komarinski, Secretary/Treasurer Leya Ramer

❖ **Motion by Dan G. seconded by Tom to accept officers as presented.**

**Motion approved.**

- Meeting turned over to Chair Jason McGinnis

- **Grassland Evaluation Contest – October 12, 2017**

- Date Set - October 12, 2017
- Will need to pay fee for Ag Progress Days site rental
- Will look into other sites for next year

❖ **Motion by Leya seconded by Danielle to accept October 12, 2017 date for Grassland Evaluation Contest.**

**Motion approved.**

- Fundraising update
  - Suggested a conference call between grazing specialists, other project grass committees, and GLCI to try to raise money – JB will set up call
  - Will send out mailing requesting donations
  - Reach out to past teams and their local conservation districts for support
  - Laurel will send information to PDA Scott Sheally – workforce development

- **SW Project Grass Conference 2017**

- Pasture walk will potentially be hosted in Westmoreland County by Dan G. pending approval by WCCD most likely September 14, 2017
- Need for committee members

- **PR and contacts**

- Want to do a postcard mailing with dates, web address, and donation information
- **Appalachian Grazing Conference** update - March 10-12, 2017
  - Roughly 100 people registered, expect 300 -350
  - wvagr website has the agenda
  - educators from Pennsylvania will be hosting many breakout sessions
- **Drawing for Appalachian grazing registration.**
  - Pulled Matt Verbobus from Westmoreland County to receive free registration to AGC
- **Grazing School**
  - We will partner with Capital R C&D for the advance grazing school
  - Will be hosted on Amish farm in Shanksville, PA
- ❖ **Motion by Don Williams seconded by Tom to partner with Capital R C&D to help host the advanced grazing school.**  
**Motion approved.**
  - **Hoss's will not be closing. We will remain at Hoss's until further notice.**
  - **Policies**
    - Social Media Discussion
- ❖ **Motion by Sue Moon seconded by April to have a Facebook page with Laurel as the administrator and Leya and Ginny as sub administrators.**  
**Motion approved.**
- ❖ **Motion by Dan G. second by Tom to adjourn the meeting.**  
**Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 pm.**

### Post Lunch Agenda

Presentation by JB Harrold

### Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

2017

- May Meeting / Field day (TBD)
- Tentative: September 14<sup>th</sup> – Project Grass Conference – Westmoreland Co.
- Ag Progress Days
- SWPG Meeting November 9th

### Southwest Project Grass Committee Members

#### Executive Committee

- Chair: Jason McGinnis<sup>(2016)</sup>, Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski<sup>(2016)</sup>, Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer<sup>(2015)</sup>, Financial Secretary: Sue Moon, Advisors: JB Harrold, Laurel Rush<sup>(2016)</sup>
- Don Williams<sup>(2015)</sup>, Jim Cowell<sup>(2016)</sup>, Lou Kopczyk<sup>(2016)</sup>, Rich Huether<sup>(2015)</sup>

#### Grassland Evaluation Contest

Dan Griffith, Genny Christ, Jason McGinnis, Lou Kopczyk, Carl Rohr

#### SWPG 2017 Conference

(TBD)