



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

**PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 8, 2018**  
**Hoss's in Somerset, PA**

Meeting called to order at 10:12 am by Jason McGinnis

**In attendance:** Jason McGinnis, Dan Griffith, Rich Huether, Susan Moon, Leya Ramer, Tom Ulrich, Don Williams, Pierce Willson, Virgil Wilford, Brian Bahorik, Danielle Rhea, Richard Voytko, Cody Waltmire, Michael Holly, Heidi Krigar, Dan Komarinski, JB Harrold, Laurel Rush

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

**Agencies represented:** Penn's Corner RC & D, DEP, NRCS, ARS, SCC, and Farmer

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue gave treasures report.

- ❖ **Motion to approve the Treasurer's report. First Dan, second Pierce. Motion carried. Treasurer's report filed subject to audit.**

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- ❖ **Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. First Tom, second Don. Motion carried.**

**Reports**

- Brief reports were given by the Counties present.

**Old Business**

- **Grassland Evaluation Contest – October 11, 2018**
  - Facilities are books and the check has been sent to PSU
  - Treasures report was given. We are well above our obligations for the next few years.
  - While talking to FFA and 4-H groups we need to promote the Contest.
  - Sent letter to PLA and will need to send letters to GLC for funding requests.
  - Will be sending funding request to districts statewide.
  - Will acquire insurance for the contest in July.
  - Will check into clearances.
- **Grazing stick update**
  - 250 sticks left from the last order
  - Suggestion to look into FFA or high school shop classes making the sticks for us.
  - Investigate and see what the costs and options are.
  - Laurel has grazing calendars if anyone would like some to hand out.

- JB will get prices for the next meeting.

### New Business

- **Nomination of Executive Committee**
  - Terms are up for Jason McGinnis, Dan Komarinski, Lou Kopczyk, and Jim Cowell.
  - All member expressed interest in remaining on the board except Lou Kopczyk.
  - Dan Griffith nominated Tom Ulrich to fill Lou Kopczyk position.
- ❖ **Motion to close nominations and the slate be accepted as a whole. First Dan G., second Don Williams. Motion carried.**
  - Current officers are Jason McGinnis– Chaiman, Dan Komarinski – Vice-Chairman, Leya Ramer – Secretary
- ❖ **Motion to retain current officers as listed. First Don Williams, Second Tom Ulrich. Motion carried.**
- **Bus Tour - Spring tour to West Virginia University Farms – April 27, 2018**
  - Dan and Pierce creating a brochure. More information on speakers to come. 10:30-2:30. Basic budget reviewed. Application for funding submitted to GLC. \$1000.00 available because it is considered a multi-state event. Caterer lined up. Cost is reasonable. Speaker cost mostly covered by the university. Creating a banner for the barn for hosting. Will look into reserving two school busses for pickup. Discussion of raising the Registration to \$25.
- ❖ **Motion to authorize the executive committee the authority to make final decisions on the bus tour. First Dan Griffith, Second Rich Voytko. Motion carried.**
- **New Website Manager**
  - Tom is doing this on a temporary basis until further notice. Past filed day write ups need to be added to the website. Only keep minutes on the website that are current for the year. Link the facebook page to the website. Tom will add free RSS news feeds form grazing news sources in order to gain more views.
- ❖ **Motion to replace Ginny with Danielle Rhea as a capable posting party on the Facebook page. First Laurel Rush, Second Leya Ramer. Motion carried.**
- **Western PA Grazing Conference**
  - The Western PA Grazing Conference will be changed to a two-day conference. The idea is to move the conference around the western part of the state. They are requesting funding in the form of sponsorships. Discussion was had on how much we want to donate to the conference.
- ❖ **Motion to donate a \$1000 sponsorship to the Western PA Grazing Conference. First Dan G., Second Dan K. Motion carried.**
  - \$500 from Misc. (or the general fund) and \$500 from the Appalachian Grazing Conference fund.
  - We will do a name drawing for the two registrations and choose two interested farmers to attend.
  - Districts are to submit a farmer name by February 16. Drawing to be held February 20.
- **Google email and calendar**
  - Email service is not working. Suite will cost \$5/month. Discussion was had on what to do.

- ❖ **Motion to pay additional fee to have a gsuite account for email. First Susan Moon, Second Dan G. Motion carried.**
  - Suggestion was made to see if the issue can be fixed before we commit to gsuite
- **Date for May Meeting**
  - May 10 meeting and pasture walk scheduled, tentatively for Somerset county
- ❖ **Motion to adjourn the meeting. First Dan, second Pierce. Motion carried.**

### **After Lunch Speaker**

Presentation from speaker Mike Holly - Dairy Farm Strategy Distribution in Pennsylvania and Implications to Productivity and Nutrient Management. Michael A. Holly\*, Peter J. Kleinmana, C. Alan Rotza, Tamie L. Veitha, Stephan K. Gunna aUSDA-ARS, Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Laboratory, University Park, PA 16802-3702, United States of America \*Corresponding author: mike.holly@ars.usda.gov

The documented emergence of alternative dairy production strategies may have implications for environmental losses. This study compared farm strategies and simulated environmental impact of the major dairy farm production strategies in PA (confinement, semi-confinement, organic, Amish farm management, and management intensive rotational grazing) using Agricultural Research Management Survey (ARMS). Average farm sizes and management strategies from survey data were then with the Integrated Farm System Model (IFSM) to simulate whole farm production and environmental impact. Results from the study will be used to identify recommendations for feasible best management practices to decrease environmental implications with negligible impact to profit margins.

### **Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember**

2018

- October 11 - Grassland Contest
- April 27, 2018 - WVU Tour

### **Southwest Project Grass Committee Members**

#### **Executive Committee**

- Chair: Jason McGinnis (2016), Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski (2016), Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer (2017), Financial Secretary: Sue Moon, Advisors: JB Harrold, Laurel Rush
- Don Williams (2017), Jim Cowell (2016), Lou Kopczyk (2016), Rich Huether (2017)

#### **Grassland Evaluation Contest**

Dan Griffith, Jason McGinnis, Lou Kopczyk, Carl Rohr

#### **SWPG 2018 Conference**

TBD