



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

PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2022

JBH Farm

5955 Kingwood Road, Markleton, PA 15551

10 AM – 2 PM

- Call to Order @ 13:01
- Additions to the Agenda
 - Somerset Mini Grant
- Public Comments
 - None
- Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve previous meeting minutes (Pierce motions, Don 2nd – motion passes)
- Activities, Updates and County Reports

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| Allegheny (Riley) – Annual status reviews and new VAOs | Somerset (Don) – Reminder that annual North American Manure Expo meeting is in Pennsylvania and is an excellent opportunity for CECs for NM. |
| Armstrong (Jess) – working on a growing greener grant project for grazing. | Washington (Tom) – Two field days this fall in September & October. |
| Beaver (Rich) – New manager adjusting well, also have a new 7ft. no-till drill. | NRCS Advisor Report (JB) – New soil conservationist in Somerset (Alissa), but now the office is looking for a new District Conservationist. Working on EQUIP allocations, and very busy with updating Grazing plans. Also have CSPs left. There are lots of requests, but the workload for EQUIP is limiting the capacity of NRCS to provide assistance at this time. 3 day livestock training will happen in July. |
| Fayette (Pierce) – participated in conservation day at the fairgrounds (800 participants). Possible outreach event for PG in the future. Corn planter and no-till drill are in heavy use. | SCC Advisor Report (Laurel) – poultry manure HPAI makes emergency NMP changes need to have permits to haul off site. Pay attention to Spotted Lantern Fly Quarantine zones and be extra concerned about bio security. |
| Green – No Ag Tech. | PA GLC (Tom) – Next round of funding is available for field days as well as some funding remaining from last year. Coming to the end of the 5 year agreement and will be applying for the next 5 year contract. |
| Indiana (Jason) – No updates | DEP (Paul) – New CD liaison Ryan |
| | ARS – Not present, but Kathy has a new boss and they are still limited in field work because of COVID work restrictions. |

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee
 - Working on scholarships from the Grassland Evaluation Contest and filling in gaps left by Dan G for the contest management.
- Website/Social Media
 - Updated as able. If CDs have items they want to share out, please send to Laurel.
- Grassland Evaluation Contest
 - More details in new business
- Anniversary Committee
 - On hold until the 45th anniversary
- Treasurer's Report
 - Not available

New Business

- Grassland Evaluation Contest
 - Contest date September 29, Ag Progress Days Site
 - Advertisement flier, sponsors.
 - Debate on whether or not sponsors should be included on the flyer sent to the schools to advertise the contest.
 - Should advertisement sent to the schools be separate to a sponsors flyer?
 - Create a separate flyer for sponsors
 - Benefit of sending this out before the competition is that other sponsors could see and be inspired to donate.
 - Possible to make a banner to have at the contest for the sponsors.
 - Recommended changes to the brochure
 - Include homeschoolers as eligible participants
 - Remove sponsors from the brochure and change the “sponsors” to Partners
 - Change Cooperating “Agencies” to “Organizations”
 - Include a sentence indicating you must be in 4H or FFA to participate in the National Contest.
 - Study Guide
 - Registration is no longer available in the guide, but is now available online.
 - Needs to be re-typed. Possible intern opportunity for intern/ PT employee in Fayette/Allegheny CDs.
 - A minimum of 15 volunteers needed to facilitate event
 - We will be generating a list of volunteer positions
 - Make sure if you need your clearances you start the process sooner rather than later because it can be time consuming. Riley has the list of folks who have already obtained clearances and will send out a list.
 - T shirts
 - Shannon (Cambria) has a cost estimate for t-shirts \$5-\$8 per person.

- Offer a good opportunity for advertising (both for sponsors and the contest when we share our press releases with winners)
 - We already saved money on our field day and from the conference so there is extra room in the budget for tshirts. It would only need to be added as a line item to our budget.
 - Motion for all Grassland Evaluation Contest participants and volunteers (and a few extras) with a maximum dollar value for tshirts being \$800. Rich 1st, Pierce 2nd motion passes.
- So far we have raised \$4,100 and we are waiting for more donations to come in.
 - Still need \$1,000 more to cover all of our scholarship obligations.
 - Need someone to take over the spreadsheet for scholarship tracking.
 - Is it possible to give out checks at the contest so we are not tracking scholarship winners over several years?
 - Discussion to be continued.
- Discussion of making SWPG into a non-profit to issue our own checks for the grassland competition in order to give checks at the event and reduce the long-term record keeping.
 - Discussed once before, however complicated because there are now two tiers of non-profits (separated by income). We would be classified in the lower tier, which would not be subject to audits. However this could make some organizations less likely to donate.
 - Possible item for future discussion.
 - Might be able to have Penns Corner pre-write checks that we could give to teams.
- SWPG 2022 conference
- Somerset Mini Grant
 - Used to pay for port-o-john at field day
 - Motion to approve request for funds Jess 1st, Tom 2nd, motion passes.

Old Business

- Changes to Bylaws
 - Not available for review so will need to be moved to the next meeting.
- Appalachian Grazing Conference – Waterfront Hotel Morgantown, WV March 10-12, 2022
 - Lots of FFA kids (about 60). Greg Judy was a great speaker.
 - Next meeting for the next conference will be in July.
 - Great field day
- Western PA Grazing Conference was held March 17th
 - Went well, but the vendors were late and sparse. Vendors are the key, but we need to do a better job of getting them to participate.

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

- SWPG Meeting Thursday, September 15th Location TBD
 - Changed to September 12th at Tom's Farm in Washington County.
- SWPG Meeting Thursday, November 10th Location TBD

Southwest Project Grass Committee Members

Executive Committee

- Chair: Jason McGinnis (2024), Vice Chair: Tom Ulrich (2024), Secretary/Treasurer: Riley Kinney(2023), Financial Secretary: Sue Moon, Advisors: JB Harrold, Laurel Rush
- Don Williams (2023), Jim Cowell (2024), Rich Huether (2023), Jessica Schaub (2024)
- Appointed:
 - Financial Secretary: Sue Moon
 - Advisors: JB Harrold & Laurel Rush

Website/Social Media:

Laurel Rush, Tom Ulrich

Grassland Evaluation Contest Committee

Pierce Wilson, Tom Ulrich, JB Harrold, Laurel Rush, Jason McGinnis, Carl Rohr

SWPG Anniversary Committee

Pierce Wilson, Sue Moon, Riley Kinney, Tom Ulrich, JB Harrold, Laurel Rush

SWPG 2022 Conference Committee

TBD