## **SWPG logo**

Officers:

Chairman: Jason McGinnis

Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski

Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer

**Southwest Project Grass Chapter**

**6024 Glades Pike**

**Suite 103**

**Somerset, PA 15501**

**Minutes from 2/11/16**

**Southwest Project Grass Meeting**

**Hoss’ Somerset, PA**

Meeting called to order at 10:18 am by Jason McGinnis

**In attendance:** Dan Griffith, Dan Komarinski, Don Williams, Genny Christ, Heather Humbert, Jason McGinnis, JB Harrold, Jeff Leindecker, Jessica Schaub, Laurel Rush, Leya Ramer, Pierce Willson, Rich Huether, Tom Ulrich, Susan Moon, Ryan Harr, Carl Rohr, Louis Kopczyk, Jason Mihal, John Hewitt, Gisela Carmenaty, Mike Hamilton, Paul Shaffer

**Conservation Districts represented:** Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Treasurer’s Report:**  A written report was provided to the committee. This included a review of the budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 and a draft budget for fiscal yr 2016-2017. Notes: Dues will remain the same, removed postage allowance, increased website maintenance and fees allowance.

The treasurer’s report will be filed Subject to audit.

**Reports**

* Reports were given by the Counties present.
* Penn’s Corner - No Till Conference went well. Suggestions needed for speakers next year.
* DEP – Reorganization of water programs. Priorities: Implementing the Federal Clean Power plan on the state level, it’s in the supreme court now, community storm water management, climate change, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Reboot.
* NRCS – KBMN meeting taking place in our region. Speaking opportunities available. Are we interested in making a grazing pocket book incorporating soil health with GLCI.
* SCC – Discussion of potential impacts the Chesapeake Bay Reboot may have on the next nutrient management delegation agreement. Dan Griffith and Rich Huether have been selected to represent SWPA on the NM delegation workgroup committee for the next 5 years.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

* Minor corrections to previous meeting minutes needed. Motion to approve the minutes pending needed changes, first Jeff , second Dan G. Motion carried.

**Advisor Appointments**

* Motion to elect Laurel Rush as an advisor to Southwest Project Grass, First Dan G., Second Jeff. Motion carried.

**Election of Executive Committee (Laurel assumed the duties of the Chair)**

* Nominations made by the nominating committee for Jason McGinnis, Dan Komarinski, Jim Cowell, and Lou Kopczyk
* No other nominations from the floor.
* Dan G. motioned to close nominations and appoint executive committee, pending unanimous ballot, second by Don W. Motion carried.

**Election of Executive Committee officers**

* All Current officers accept nomination to continue in current position. Chairman: Jason McGinnis, Vice Chair: Dan Komarinski, Secretary/Treasurer: Leya Ramer
* Dan G. motioned to close nominations and appoint officers, pending unanimous ballot, second by Jeff L. Motion carried.

**Project Grass name change and registration (Jason resumed the duties of the Chair)**

* Discussion was had about possible name change and registration. Laurel did research and brought options to register the organization or, possibly trademark or copyright the name.
* Name will remain Southwest Project Grass Coordinating Committee as stated in the Bylaws
* Motion made that publications, display materials, and things of that nature will list the name ‘Southwest Project Grass’. First by Dan K., second by Pierce W. Motion Carried
* Members will do more research and, contact attorneys and other knowledgeable sources to make a determination on possibly changing the bylaws and registering the official name.

**Dues, subscriptions to Stockman or Graze**

* A request was made that counties pay their dues before the next meeting.

**Appalachian Grazing Conference update**

* Actively searching for speakers for the event
* Teddy Gentry will most likely be the keynote speaker. Secondary options are still being evaluated.
* Date is set, March 10-12, 2017- Water Front Hotel - updates to follow
* Considering adding a Thursday tour of the new facilities at West Virginia University
* Strong emphasis on soil health
* New vendor structure - $500 minimum to be a sponsor. This is the same amount as we have donated in the past
* Consideration will be given to Project Grass sending a region farmer to the event, pending they attend meetings, possibly using free tickets given for being a sponsor of the event
* Looking to get more farmers involved in Project Grass in general

**Status update of display board, pictures, etc.….**

* Almost ready to be finalized
* 3 permanent sections, one interchangeable one
* Still searching for Nutrient Management pictures, manure in a pasture, and soil health information

**Table skirt options, pricing**

* Decided on loose fit, closed back table skirt, and green table skirt with white logo
* Motion made to take $20 from alternative pumps account to use toward the purchase of the table skirt by

Dan G. second by Pierce W. Motion carries.

**New Logo**

* New logo ideas will be discussed among the executive committee and then sent out through email to districts for a formal vote

**Grassland Evaluation Contest - September 29, 2016**

* Account status – still $2,000 in the negative if all students claim their scholarships, many students will soon be ineligible to collect the scholarship monies set aside for them
* New Committee members welcome
* Need to raise $4,500 yearly for the contest to fund itself
* Advertising, PR campaign for 2016 contest – Make contacts with 4-H and FFA school groups in individual counties to increase participation
* All documents for the contest are on the shared Dropbox drive

**Lunch Break at 11:30**

**Washington field day May 12, 2016**

* Itinerary & Times

**Bus tour with KBMN**

* You do not have to ride the bus but you must still register and pay the fee
* Do not want to use a second bus for a limited number of people. If there are people wanting and willing to drive we would appreciate it
* Second bus has been reserved, just in case. We can cancel later if needed.

**Project Grass Conference 2016 Update**

* On track with everything
* Meal is still in the works, leaning towards pulled beef
* Price of meal will be set in with the fee. Want to stay under $15-$20 for the meal.
* Want to cap registration fee at around $25
* Want more than one person from each farm to attend, want to see more people attending
* Flyer is nearly ready to go
* Need to reserve porta johns and hand wash station
* Bio-security – we will need boot wash pans and brushes
* Will need help from Project Grass members to help set up, park cars, ect.
* Phone conference for committee

**Beaver Co SW PG field day with Russ Wilson**

* Intensive grazing guru
* Will be hosting a Project Grass field day at some point over the summer on Beaver County farms where Russ will be talking about intensive grazing
* **Motion by Jeff L. seconded by Pierce W. to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.**

**After lunch:** Grazing Training by JB

**Dates to Remember Overview**

2016

* April 29 - KBMN Bus Tour to Young's Cattle Co., Belmont, Ohio
* May 12 -Field Day hosted by Washington County Conservation District (Tom Ulrich)
  + 2 Grazing and 2 Nutrient Management CEC’s for PA NRCS certified planners - 3 Act 38 Nutrient Management credits
* July- SW Project Grass Meeting
* September 29 - Grassland Evaluation Contest
* September 30 - SW Project Grass Conference at Dan Komarinski’s farm
* November- SW Project Grass Meeting

2017

* March 10-12, 2017 Appalachian Grazing Conference - Water Front Hotel - updates to follow

Written and Submitted by: Leya Ramer