



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

## **PROJECT GRASS MEETING MINUTES**

**May 9, 2017**

**Bedford, PA**

**4308 US-220 BUS, Bedford, PA 15522**

**10:00 AM**

**Field day at the Glen Moyer Farm to follow**

**12:30—2:00**

Meeting called to order at 10:14 am by Dan Komarinski

**In attendance:** Dan Griffith, JB Harrold, Rich Huether, Dan Komarinski, Leya Ramer, Carl Rohr, Laurel Rush, Jessica Schaub, Pierce Willson, Karlie Wright, Laurel Hoffman, David Steele, Joshua Stoehr, Danielle Sheppard, Don Williams, Richard Voytko

**Conservation Districts represented:** Allegheny, Armstrong, Blair, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Cambria

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

### **Reports**

- Brief reports were given by the Counties present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Budget was amended to reflect changes made at the February meeting. All conservation districts have paid their dues.

**Treasurers report filed subject to audit.**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- ❖ **Motion to approve the minutes. First Pierce, second Karlie. Motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

- **Grazing School August 8, 2017**
  - Grazing school location changed to Bedford County, Glen Moyer farm. \$500 donated from GLCI, \$1000 value donation from Organic Valley including milk and cheese, donation from Somerset Conservation District
  - More information to follow as the event approaches.
  - Similar program taking place in Clarion/Forrest County on August 9th
  -
- **Appalachian Grazing Conference wrap up**
  - Approximately 340 attendees, 10-12 states represented
  - Farmer who received free tickets enjoyed the conference and will possibly be speaking at a future meeting about his experience

- Final AGC wrap-up meeting will be held soon
- **Mother Earth News Fair**
  - May want to look into SWPG attending the Mother Earth News Conference
  - Good audience with many small farms
- **NW Conference wrap up**
  - 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Focused a lot on soil health, cover crops, and livestock
  - Went over very well
  - 300+ people attended
  - Many need to consider new venue if it becomes much larger
- **Social media update**
  - Facebook page is up and running
  - Ginny and Leya are both able to post to the page Laurel is the administrator
- **Grassland Evaluation Contest – October 12, 2017**
  - Scholarship fun +\$3400 over obligations to scholarship
  - Student eligible till end of august for a total \$1500 next year possible -\$3000 depending on next year's winners
  - \$12,667.74 total Fayette donated \$750, Somerset donated \$300, GLC \$500, SWPG donates \$200/year
  - There was a \$250 scholarship request
  - There is more than enough to cover the next few years but fundraising is still needed
  - Send brochures to Envirothon coordinator, Ginny will be attending the 4-H leaders and Envirothon coordinators meetings this summer
  - We were not selected for the DEP EE grant. We need giveaways for teachers. The Districts can each give a few weed guides to hand out there.
  - Volunteers reminder to get clearances
  - Reminder to get the certificate of liability for contest
- **SW Project Grass Conference September 21, 2017**
  - Committee still needed
  - Westmoreland County Conservation District at Kim Miller's Kananga Farm
  - Would like to have a vet come and speak about benefits of breed when grazing
  - Will speak with Jeremy Engh with the Devon Breed Association
  - Approximate times will be 10 to 3

### New Business

- **PG mini-grant request**
  - Traditionally we only gave out \$100 at a time but we have had a low number of requests and Jason suggested that we spend that money how we see fit and ignore the \$100 cap
  - Discussion was had over the money that is set aside in the budget for the bi-annual conference and whether it should be used yearly or save for a larger bi-annual conference. This conversation was tabled.
- ❖ **Motion to split mini grant money evenly between Westmoreland County for the Grazing conference and Somerset County for Advanced Grazing School. First Danielle, second Pierce. Motion carried.**

- **Grazing sticks**
  - Greene County would like to order grazing sticks
  - The price per stick goes down as we order more
  - The sticks are a little bit more expensive than the last time we ordered them
  - 250 sticks \$5, 500 sticks \$4.50, 1000 sticks \$4.35, 2500 \$4.20
  - Set up charge \$200 per side, do not charge for the yardstick side would be an additional \$600
  - Wooden unfinished stick
  - Green County will be ordering at least 100
  - Karlie will speak with her board about writing a grant for the grazing stick in exchange for 100 of the grazing stick that we currently have
  - West Virginia NRCS will be printing bookmarks to go along with the grazing sticks explaining how to use them at no cost to us. We would like to place the Project Grass logo on them
- ❖ **Motion to get bookmarks printed to accompany grazing sticks. First Danielle, second Karlie. Motion carried.**
- ❖ **Motion to allow executive board to make a decision on making a deal with Green county and ordering the grazing sticks. First Pierce, second Jessica. Motion carried.**
- ❖ **Motion to adjourn the meeting. First Rich, second Leya. Motion carried.**

### Post Lunch Agenda

Pasture walk at Glen Moyer Farm

### Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

2017

- Advanced Grazing School
- Ag Progress Days
- SWPG Meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>
- September 21, 2017 SWPG Conference - Kim Miller's Kananga Farm, Ligonier, PA

### 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

Dan Griffith