

PA Grazing Lands Coalition (GLC) Meeting
Oct 12, 2016, 10:00 AM
Mountain View Country Club
100 Elks Club Road, Boalsburg, PA 16827
Phone: 814-466-7231

Chairman Cliff Hawbaker called the meeting to order. Cliff went over plans for day and conducted introductions.

Attendance: Directors present were Duane Hertzler, Justin Geisinger, Mike Kovach, Cliff Hawbaker, John Courtney, Helene McKernan, Russ Wilson, Ann Swinker, and Dick McElhaney. Technical Advisors present were: Susan Parry, Tim Elder, PA NRCS; Aaron DeLong, PASA; Susan Richards, Capital RC&D; Dave Hartman, Penn State University Dairy and animal Science; Kathy Soder, USDA-ARS Pasture Lab.

Election of Officers: Motion was made by Dick McElhaney, second by Ann Swinker to accept ballot; Ballot voted upon and accepted.

Chair: Matt Bomgardner
Vice Chair: Cliff Hawbaker
Treasurer: Justin Geisinger
Assistant Treasurer: Duane Hertzler
Secretary: John Courtney
Assistant Secretary: Helene McKernan

Member Directory: Discussed directory and went over member list and available voting members. Helene McKernan moved to member at large. Ann Swinker moved to representative of PA Equine Council, Donna Foulk moved to technical advisor. Susan Parry will reach out to Mike Badger and Steve Reichard to find out their intentions for remaining on the board. Dave Williams moved to technical advisor. Unclear on status of Susan Beal, it was suggested to replace her spot on the board by Dick McElhaney, seconded by Duane Hertzler. Board agreed. Cliff suggested trying to find a replacement in another livestock industry not represented. Helene McKernan suggested reaching out to someone who could represent "specialty" species. Duane Hertzler suggested adding an AG Industry person. Ann Swinker suggested Cory Chelko from TA Seeds. Helene will get Cory's contact information to Susan Parry. Ann Swinker said she thought Jess Williamson had been added to the advisors list. Motion by Duane Hertzler and Cliff Hawbaker was voted on and approved to accept changes discussed.

Technical Reports: reports were previously emailed to members. Technical advisors in attendance gave short overview of their reports.

Kathy Soder (ARS-Pasture Lab) shared that due to retirements positions within ARS are being currently evaluated. Current employees have taken over those who retired projects. Kathy briefly overviewed information from her report that had been sent to board members prior to meeting. Kathy Soder asked for input as to future research topics. Also, they are doing a non-funded conservation practice survey. Aaron reported on PASA field days and the new developments in the revised Dairy Apprentice program. He asked for input as to other grazing operations the apprentices could visit.

Dave Hartman (PSU Extension) reviewed his written report that had been sent to board members prior to meeting. A lengthy discussion developed between PAGLC members present on surveys and potential questions that should be included on surveys. Ann Swinker suggested a letter to PA Ag with suggestions of potential questions to include in surveys. A motion by John Courtney, seconded by Mike Kovach was made to develop questions and potential answers on grazing content that could be on record for utilizing in surveys and to be included within the suggested letter to AG. Board approved motion. Susan Parry will post technical reports she received on the website.

Tim Elder (NRCS NW Grazing Specialist) gave oral report. Quarterly NRCS reports will be Mailed and posted on web site. 20th annual NWPA grazing Conference will be in Clarion on March 16, 2017 and will feature Jim Garrish as a speaker. *Susan Parry* (NRCS) gave brief oral report. Pasture NRI detailed report is being developed, an on-going annual study. Reported that NRCS and PSU have hired a shared equine specialist, Laura Kenny, located in Montgomery County that will do educational programs, train the trainer programs, plus other responsibilities.

Ann Swinker (PSU Equine Specialist), briefly overviewed information from her report that had been sent to board members prior to meeting.

Aaron DeLong (report for PASA – Franklin Egan) Gave oral report. Aaron reported on PASA field days and the new developments in the revised Dairy Apprentice program. He asked for input as to other grazing operations the apprentices could visit.

Susan Richards (RC&D) Gave oral report.

Mike Kovach (PA Farmers Union) Gave oral report. Reminded that Dairymen have been invited to the Oct 18, PDA Technical Issue meeting.

Susan Parry reminded members that all reports will be posted on PAGLC website.

Dick McElhaney and Duane Hertzler (*Nat GLC*) National received grant money. Details of allocations are being discussed and the process of distribution is being evaluated. States will benefit. Duane Hertzler has been added to the National Executive Board. Next National Grazing Conference will be Dec. 2-5, 2018 will be in Reno, Nevada

Minutes: At the July meeting, there was not a quorum. A motion by Helene McKernan, seconded by Russ Wilson, was made to accept the minutes from July, with actions taken by the board in July. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: approved to be filed subject to audit (Mike Kovach, Dick McElhaney motion). The current balance in treasury account is \$10,970. Duane Hertzler and Susan Parry went over the treasurer report that had been sent out prior to the meeting. Directors were also requested to compile and submit their quarterly reports, which must be received within two weeks for reimbursement. Helene McKernan mentioned the header on report needs correct terminology.

Correspondences: none at this time

Committee Reports: Board discussed committees and chairs. Technical Committee needs new chair to replace chair Susan Beal. Discussion followed. The board concluded that at this time, to have Susan Parry be the Technical Advisor liaison instead of designating a specific “chair.” Executive Committee will reflect the newly elected officers. Membership Committee will stay the same. Grants Committee will stay the same. Grant report and activity was summarized; GLC assisted 12 groups with educational mini-grants for grazing activities statewide this year. Duane Hertzler and Susan Parry discussed that the grant committee will be led in the near future by Susan Richards and Capital RC&D, as part of evolving administration/organizational changes.

Old Business:

Executive Committee gave presentation on three proposals (provided to PAGLC board members prior to meeting) regarding accounting/banking services that will be conducted by Capital RC&D on behalf of PAGLC. A lengthy discussion followed. A Dave McElhaney/Mike Kovach motion passed to accept proposal #2 with modifications of approved signatures. PAGLC treasurers and RC&D will look into number of signatures, bonding and some other details of proposal. Capital RC&D will perform some administrative duties, such as; meeting notices, executive meetings, etc. It was also discussed to obtain a computer for Justin Geisinger to utilize during treasurer capacities. Motion (Duane Hertzler/ Dick McElhaney) passed to allow up to \$500 for computer/printer purchase for use by Treasurer.

Proposal 2) Using GLC checks (GLC name and treasurer address), signed by RC&D: Invoices to be paid are submitted to RC&D. RC&D will work with GLC treasurer and the Bank of Landisburg to make RC&D staff additional approved signers of GLC checks. On a monthly basis, a listing of checks to be paid is submitted to the GLC treasurer. Upon receipt of the approval, checks will be printed on GLC checks drawn on the Bank of Landisburg. Checks will be signed and mailed out by RC &D. Copies of the checks and supporting documentation will be filed in a binder specifically for GLC.

Projects- Discussion on Pasture Soil Health Project by Susan Richards and Russ Wilson; Sjoerd Duiker with PSU is also conducting a CIG project that looks at the integration of grazing/pasture into cropland, which Russ is assisting with. They are also discussing potential for a Beef Marketing Network project in the NW part of the state.

CBF – Mountains to Bay Grazing Alliance (CIG Project). Kelly is working on calendar and hopes to have available end of November. PAGLC board members contributed information toward the development of the calendar. Discussion followed that the calendar could be available and distributed by January (in time for Farm Show).

Susan Parry stated that the “Know Your Farmer” stand that is at the farm show would like PAGLC involvement again this year. PAGLC board agreed to be involved and discussed some marketing tools to have at the stand, such as; banner, pull-ups, etc. Dick McElhaney volunteered to man the booth on Wednesday AM prior to the board meeting. Susan Parry will be requesting additional volunteers; will also research/develop GLC outreach materials (banner, pull-up, and tablecloth) and report cost to the Executive Committee.

New Business:

On motion by John Courtney and second by Mike Kovach, it was decided to work to have Ag Survey/ Ag census questions reviewed and revised to better document grazing activity and benefits of grazing. Susan Parry will follow-up on this by contacting NASS.

John Courtney requested an update on the Apprentice Project. Aaron DeLong gave an update and shared the Young Farmer proposal presented to USDA was rejected, but PASA is funding internally.

A lengthy discussion followed on Statewide Collaboration on Grazing Events and how events could be shared by organizations and not duplicated. Board members had suggestions and ideas such as coming up with a list of topics to cover (either advanced or beginner) or adding a calendar on our web site that organizations could post their events on. Susan responded by showing them the calendar already posted on the website. This might help duplication of events being conducted by different organizations. We also discussed coming to meeting in January with a list of activities from each partner so it can be discussed.

The NE Pasture Consortium (NEPC) will be held in March in Maryland. The next PAGLC meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan 11, 2017 at the Farm Show Complex. Meeting location and time will be distributed, when finalized, to PAGLC members.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.