

PA GRAZING LANDS COALITION

PA GLC

21 January 2020

Wyndham Garden Hotel

310 Elks Club Road, Boalsburg, PA 16827

10:00 AM

The Board meeting was called to order by Tom Calvert, Chairman. Directors Duane Hertzler, Tom Ulrich, Shelly Oswald, Cliff Hawbaker, Ann Swinker, Glen Cauffman, and John Courtney were present. Denise Coleman-NRCS State Conservationist, and Susan Parry - NRCS State Grassland Conservationist, were in attendance. Technical Advisor Dave Hartman- PSU Dairy and Animal Science was in attendance. Also present were guests Jessica Matthews - PASA & Dairy Grazing Apprentice, Cheryl Burns – Capital RC&D, and Lisa Blazure –Stroud Water Resource Center. All were introduced.

TECHNICAL ADVISORS REPORTS

Ann Swinker distributed information on an Equine Council identification program. Dave Hartman summarized current Beginning Courses and on-line webinars available and upcoming. Tom Calvert announced a series of Sheep and Goat Seminars. Jessica Matthews announced there are currently 6 Dairy grazing apprentices and one individual has completed the program.

Cheryl Burns updated the group on the status of the work we are sharing with them and the Chesapeake Bay watershed work. Five podcasts interviews will all be published shortly. Up to 20 additional podcasts on innovative grazing topics are being worked on for release as well. Pasture walks are being planned and social media presence is being expanded and updated and coordinated with Jennifer Albright. Cover crop grazing is a current emphasis.

Lisa Blazure, Stroud Water Resource Center, outlined PaGLC role as a sub-awardee of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant. The grant runs Jan. 2020 thru Dec. 2022. We have a role in recruiting three peer-to-peer grazing advisors, establishing grazing groups, and establishing educational programs involving farmer to farmer as well as web-based material. At least 800 acres are to be converted to rotational grazing through the programs.

Denise Coleman, State Conservationist, informed us of the possibility of our being part of Collaborative Conservation Grant that is being developed through National GLC to publicize, maintain, and establish grazing programs. The state conservationist is reviewing the application to provide a letter of support, which is a required element of this new Farm Bill grant program, and PA GLC will be asked to support the project, which may create a need to revise or add onto our plan of work. Denise led a discussion about potential technical and outreach benefits for the PA GLC that could be a part of the requested letter that's being developed. A focus of this grant proposal is outreach to the underserved.

MINUTES

Minutes of 9 October 2019 were reviewed and on motion by Shelly Oswald and second by Ann Swinker, accepted.

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TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurers report dated January 3, 2020 was distributed, discussed. On motion by Cliff Hawbaker and a second by Shelly Oswald, the report was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National GLC: Duane Hertzler drew our attention to the First National Grazing Lands Coalition bus tour to be held this summer, 14 June 2020-16 June 2020 in Nebraska. Denise Coleman has been appointed as an advisor to the National Board.

Grants: Of the current budget, \$2,000 spent and applications for another \$1,000 are in process.

Media: mechanics of posting and accessing podcasts is being worked on as they are being rolled out soon.

OLD BUSINESS

The new NRCS PA recordkeeping booklets are now available to record grazing and soil health field conditions. A new NRCS equine publication is now available, titled Pasture Management Guide for Horse Owners. Participants on the Chesapeake Bay tour highly recommended the experience. Susan Richards wishes to recruit grazing advisors in the bay watershed.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Shelly Oswald and second by John Courtney, a Treasurer computer and supply stipend of \$100 per quarter was authorized.

On a successful motion by Ann Swinker with a second by Shelly Oswald, We will pursue filling part time position or positions for social media and fulfilling our commitment as a sub awardee to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant, and prepare for the possibility of expanding those position to reach underserved communities and fulfill other obligations if our partnering with the National GLC is funded by their grant proposal being considered.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

John Courtney
Secretary