

**GrassWorks board meeting
7 am, Saturday, January 16, 2016
Chula Vista Resort**

GrassWorks board members present: Kevin Mahalko, Larry Smith, Jim Quick, , Wally Sedlar, Cheyenne Christianson, Julie Engel, Dave Engel, Laura Paine, Andy Jaworski, Dave Heidel.

GrassWorks Board Members excused: Peter Arnold and Dan Olson

Guest: Jason Cavadini

Advisors: Paul Daigle

Staff: Jill Hapner

Minutes review. The minutes from the November 17, 2015 board meeting were reviewed.

Motion to accept minutes. Julie/Wally. Motion carried.

Next year's conference:

Chula Vista is booked next year for this weekend. The first and third weekends of January are available. There was a consensus that the first weekend was too early.

Motion to approve going ahead with booking the third weekend in January for 2017. Dave V./Dave H. Motion carried.

Replacement for Julie Engel

Julie Engel has announced her intention to step down from the GrassWorks board but has agreed to stay on through March to complete Treasurer's responsibilities related to the conference. Jason Cavadini has expressed interest in joining the board. He will be officially appointed by the board to fill out Julie's term at the March meeting.

Officer elections.

Election for President.

Julie Engel nominated Laura Paine/second by Dave Vetrano.

Laura nominated Wally Sedlar/second by Andy.

Laura declined to run, citing time constraints.

Unanimous vote for Wally for President.

Election for Vice President

Dave Vetrano nominated Laura Paine for Vice President/second by Andy Jaworski

Unanimous vote for Laura for vice president.

Election for Secretary

Jason was nominated to be Secretary by Wally/second by Julie.

Unanimous vote for Jason for Secretary. Jason will take over Secretarial duties at the March meeting when he officially joins the board. Until that time, Laura Paine will act as both Secretary and Vice president of the Board of Directors.

Election for Treasurer

Andy Jaworski nominated for Treasurer by Julie/second by Cheyenne.

Unanimous vote for Andy for Treasurer.

Other business.

Representation on NSAC:

Currently Cheyenne is our representative. He has not been getting a lot of emails from them. Kevin said that they may not have his email on file. Kevin has been getting their emails and will start passing them along to Cheyenne.

Ag Coalition.

Larry has been the representative for these monthly meetings. He will continue in 2016. Kevin and Dave will be backups. Also Wally.

NRCS Technical Committee:

Wally agreed to act as the representative for GrassWorks at these bi-monthly meetings in the State Office.

National Value Added Conference Committee.

Theresa Feiner would like someone from GrassWorks to serve on the conference committee for the National Value Added Conference. No one has volunteered as yet.

NRCS grazing plans.

Paul reported that some of the plans they are doing for the NRCS grant are ones that were identified by NRCS. The remainder of the plans that are required under the grant will be submitted by grazing specialists around the state. Paul needs a committee to help rank and select which plans we can pay for with these funds. Paul, Laura, Jill will be on the committee.

Board packets

Jill shared the contents of the packets she made for board members. It has important documents for the organization. Jill is planning to work on updating these documents as needed, starting with the by-laws.

Hidden Valley Meadow Fescue

Larry gave an update on the Hidden Valley Meadow Fescue. Byron Seed took the seed Larry gave them and were going to produce the seed in Canada. It was contaminated with weed seed so they couldn't ship it into Canada. Allied Seed (Ron Schmitt) offered \$0.07 per pound. GrassWorks wants \$0.25 per pound. Karl Dallefeld of Prairie Creek Seeds offered \$0.25 per pound. Byron Seed has agreed to go ahead and produce and sell the seed and we have a contract with them. The board decided to form a subcommittee to have discussions with Byron Seed and others to determine how to proceed.

Meeting dates for 2016

The following GrassWorks board meeting dates have been set:

Thursday, March 10; Thursday, May 12; Thursday, September 29; Thursday, November 10.

The first two dates will be at Schmeekle Reserve. Discussion was held on where to hold the rest of the meetings. No decisions were made at this time.

Motion to adjourn. Julie/Andy. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 am.