

GrassWorks Board Meeting  
November 10, 2016  
Schmeekle Reserve

Board Members Present: Wally Sedlar, Andy Jaworski, Larry Smith, Jason Cavadini, Laura Paine, Peter Arnold, Jim Quick, Dave Heidel

Staff: Jill Hapner, Heather Flashinski

Advisers: Vance Haugen, Otto Wiegand

**Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Wally S.**

### **Agenda and minutes review**

Minutes from September 29, 2016 reviewed

*Motion to approve: Larry/Laura – carried*

### **Financial report**

The financial report was reviewed by Jill. She started by discussing the need for building a new website. We need to find someone new to do it, and March would be a good time of the year to do it. We would need around \$6,000, and we currently have \$1,000. Dan Olson suggested that we consider paying for the rebuild out of general funds after the conference, and noted that the website could provide a good sponsorship opportunity. Currently there is money coming in for the conference, and income is about equal to expenditures to date. The NRCS grant account will be zeroed out once everything is finalized with Marathon County. The current checking account balance is \$31,159.55, and the savings account balance is \$20,006.85. The current foundation fund balance is \$15,484.64.

*Motion to approve financial report: Larry/Jim – carried*

### **Executive Directors Report**

Amazon Smile – up to around \$48

Displays – The displays have been used at 19 venues so far this year, with a few more to be added.

Newsletter – The second Graze edition will be mailed in November. Jill is working with Julie for two more powermails (small brochure in mail followed up with an electronic link). Julie agreed to be paid \$20/hr for her work. She will make our requests high priority. We will be asking her to do five powermails per year and two Graze editions.

Grazing Guides and Pasture Sticks – there have been 66 guides sold thus far, and 45 sticks. We discussed that guides should be given to anyone with a new grazing plan.

### **Bylaws Review**

The following amendments to the bylaws have been proposed:

- Article II – strike “voting” from section I so producers and landowners are known as “members” and all others as “associate members”
- Article IV – strike the bonding requirement from bylaws as it is not currently necessary
- Article V – revise to allow up to 2 non-producer directors

We also discussed that the changes need to be presented to the whole membership at the annual meeting.

*Motion to approve proposed amendments: Laura/Dan - carried*

### **Grazing conference update**

Heather passed around the report and mailing flyer. There have been three notable deaths in the grazing community that need to be recognized; Jerold Berg, Allan Nation, and Jeff Chrisler. There currently only 4 spots remaining in the trade show.

Awards – the list of recipients will not be limited to 25 people because there's not a good way to narrow it down. We may try to round the list up to 70 people and present the list at the conference on a PowerPoint. We need photos of each person on the list. This may be delegated to a committee of 2 or 3 people. Otto agreed to begin working on this because he has a lot of pictures. He will begin working on it during the last week of December.

Gift cards – we need to make sure that there are at least 25 gift cards secured. We need to make sure to keep giving them out during the auction to keep people around.

Advertising – we need to check with AgriView, and look into press releases and social media options

Auction – how can we keep people from leaving the main room? Would it help to have slides to promote the auction items beforehand? We could try to promote the items in the last powermail as well.

Raffle – we need to obtain a license through the state in order to be legal. It only costs \$24. There will be a 50/50 raffle for a quilt and painting. We need to make sure to do the raffle at the very end, while selling tickets throughout the day.

Bar – last year there were not enough sponsorships to cover the bar. Do we still want to do it both nights this year? It costs \$600 each night to bring in beer. Maybe we should consider only having it the night of the auction or possibly the night of the jam session. It could be cheaper to give free beer than to have a cash bar.

Jam Session – it is possible that Byron could provide jars of jam. We need to promote ahead of time so people plan on bringing their instruments.

### Other matters:

- Food – started soliciting, but if anyone has ideas, let Heather know
- Volunteer forms – all members should be volunteers
- Photos – any farm photos should be sent to Heather
- Laptops and projectors – needed for the conference
- Pens – have been ordered
- Cake – 25<sup>th</sup> year cake has been ordered
- Handy hints contest

**Paul Daigle call in**

Paul called into the meeting to give an update on the NRCS agreement. The plans are all completed. There is a little bit of paperwork to finish up before reimbursement to Marathon County. Bill Kolodziej is working on that currently. Everything seems to be in good shape. The grazing specialists were all queried regarding the 2017 agreement. The new agreements will require a 50/50 match. Currently, the only counties interested are Marathon, Taylor, and Burnett. The goal would be 24 plans per year for three years. We will be reimbursed \$500 per plan. There is currently no paperwork in place for a new contract.

**Grazing Advocate Award**

Paul Daigle nominated Greg and Wendy Galbraith from Marathon County for the award. How do we make sure that they are present at the meeting? Do we notify them ahead of time or keep it a surprise?

**Board member terms**

Wally and Dave are up for re-election this year. Dave is interested in stepping aside. It is possible that his daughter could fill his position. It was decided that we will open his position, but if no one is found to refill it, then he will resume his position.

**Meadow fescue report**

Dan reported that there has been 20 acres planted at the seed farm. It currently looks good and will be marketed next year. It may be available for seeding next fall. It will definitely be available for spring of 2018. It looks a little different than other fescues in Olson's trials. It's possible that it's a tetraploid while most others are diploids. It yielded 2 out of 7 meadow fescues and had the highest quality. This topic will be taken off the agenda for the next few meetings now.

**NSAC update**

There was no discussion

**NRCS technical update committee**

At this point there is nothing to discuss, but Wally will be attending the meeting next Thursday.

**Ag Coalition update**

Larry passed out the agenda for the next meeting. We discussed the possibility of taking that opportunity to talk to Jimmy Bramblett about cost sharing and that the \$500 match is very tough for GrassWorks.

**Other business**

- Jerold Berg – how can we commemorate? We discussed the possibility of naming the Advocate Award after him. We agreed that the next step should be to write a letter to the family to notify them of this idea. We also discussed setting a duration of 22 years to naming the award after Jerold. It will be called the GrassWorks Jerold Berg Grazing Advocate Award.

*Motion to adjourn: Peter/Larry - carried*