

GrassWorks board minutes
January 17, 2015
WI Grazing Conference
Approved at the 3/17/15 meeting of the board

Board members present: Julie Engel, Larry Smith, Dave Vetrano, Dave Heidel, Matt Hartwig, Andy Jaworski, Kevin Mahalko, Laura Paine, Peter Arnold

Advisors present: Brian Pillsbury

Staff present: Jill Hapner

Excused absence: Cheyenne Christianson

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 am.

Welcome and introduction of new board members
All present introduced themselves.

Agenda addition:

Dave Johnson updated the board on the development of the Hidden Valley Meadow Fescue seed project. GrassWorks is working with Larry Smith and Mike Casler to develop a partnership with Byron Seed to produce the variety for sale. Dave J. is the board's lead on getting this agreement in place. He is working with Dan Undersander to develop a memorandum of understanding with Bryon. Dan will also meet with Byron reps to present the idea in the next few weeks. The verbal agreement as it stands now is that GrassWorks will receive \$0.20 per pound of all sales. Byron would like to market a semi-load a year eventually. Right now Larry has about 125 pounds he produced on his own farm that will serve as the seedstock for the project.

Motion to proceed with this project. Dave Heidel/Andy Jaworski. Motion carried.

Election of officers.

President. Kevin Mahalko was nominated for president by Dave Vetrano. Second by Dave Heidel. Laura Paine was nominated for president by Julie. Second by Dave Heidel. Laura declined. Wally Sedlar was nominated for president by Julie. Second by Dave Heidel. Wally declined. The board voted unanimously to elect Kevin as President. Kevin took over running the meeting.

Vice President. Wally Sedlar was nominated for Vice President by Laura. Second by Dave Vetrano. The board voted unanimously to elect Wally as Vice President.

Treasurer. Julie Engel was nominated for Treasurer by Kevin Mahalko. Second by Laura. The board voted unanimously to elect Julie as Treasurer.

Secretary. Laura Paine was nominated for Secretary by Dave Vetrano. Second by Andy. The board voted unanimously to elect Laura as Secretary.

Conference report.

Heather was unavailable to give a conference report. Dave Johnson observed that it appears that the conference will be profitable, but we won't know for sure until all the numbers are in. Jill encouraged the board to gather feedback on how the conference went and we will share it at the next board meeting. A couple of comments/suggestions were shared:

Dave Heidel observed that the preliminary program that was sent out had a later start time than we ended up with and, as a result, he missed several sessions. It is difficult to know the exact program that far out, but it is important to at least keep the start time consistent.

Several board members felt that the sponsor 'infomercials' during general sessions were too much. A full review of the conference will be on the board's next meeting agenda in March.

Discussion was held regarding scheduling board meetings. Wally is unavailable on the third Thursday of the odd numbered months. We decided to change the day of the next meeting to Tuesday, March 17th. At that meeting, we will identify a schedule that will work for a majority of board members a majority of the time. Jill will contact Schmeekle Reserve and see if their meeting room is available on that day.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Vetrano/second by Wally Sedlar. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10 am to 2 pm. Schmeekle Reserve.