



**Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition  
Board Conference Call  
July 28, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**Members in attendance:**

Jim Carr, Chairman	Twila Phillips
Scott Cotton, Vice Chairman	Rod Christen
Jim Luchsinger	Brent Plugge, Advisor
Tim Tunnell	Lynn Myers
Bob Broweleit	Tamara Choat, Coordinator
Dana Larsen, Advisor	

This meeting of the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition was held via conference call on Monday, July 28, 2008. Chairman Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting (June 20):**

Jim C. discussed review of previous minutes. A copy of the previous minutes of the meeting was emailed to the board previously. Jim mentioned there was no statement of actual amount of coordinator's contract in previous minutes. Scott Cotton moved to amend previous minutes to state "see attached contract" to include contract amount. Discussion was to table additional discussion on coordinator's contract to the end of the meeting. Jim C. and Tamara Choat emailed the group a copy of the current contract for review.

Jim Luchsinger moved to accept minutes as amended. Brent Plugge seconded. Motion passed.

**Discussion of finances:**

Twila Phillips provided tax ID number. 11-3784602. Jim C. needed tax ID number to sign disbursement of payment for sticks. Discussion of credit card followed. Tamara said she would like to apply for a credit card through Tier One Bank, as well as a debit card, with the first priority being to use the debit card. Scott mentioned the concern of interest. Discussion followed that credit cards usually operate on a 21-day billing cycle. Dana said a credit card would give the organization a lot of flexibility in lining up payments and arrangements.

Lynn Myers moved to permit the application of a credit card and a debit card. Rod Christen seconded. Motion passed.

**Discussion of coordinator's contract:**

Dana Larsen mentioned the vehicle contract through the NRCS would require Tamara to cover insurance on herself for the use of the vehicle. Tamara said her first preference would be to *not* insure the vehicle/herself for this position through her personal policy.

Tamara will investigate options for either: 1) obtaining personal insurance for this vehicle and being reimbursed through NGLC, or 2) creating a policy for NGLC, and report back to the board on this at the Aug. 11 meeting.

**Discussion of NGLC Articles:**

Scott reviewed Articles. Discussion from Jim L. on definition of the council. Scott clarified Council is everyone that is attending a meeting, executive committee is all the board members and officers. Jim L. asked, per Section 1, why we are focused on tribal and privately owned lands, and no others? Scott clarified that the 1995 Farm Bill designated these lands in the creation of the national Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

Lynn moved to accept on a preliminary basis the articles of incorporation. Rod seconded. Motion passed.

**Discussion of NGLC By-Laws:**

Scott said the articles state who we are, by-laws say how we operate. Scott reviewed by-laws. The changes that were discussed and offered include, but are not limited to:

Edit Section 2 to include “two consecutive” as opposed to “a consecutive.” Discussion of how council members will resign or be asked to resign. Include “written resignation in Section 5. Change top sentence to “the organizations,” and open opportunity to other groups. Discussion followed on which groups to include as representatives. Discussion on an option to include separate list of “partners,” which would make it easier to amend. By-Laws will refer to separate list of partners, which we will finalize at next meeting. Include “fax” under Section 4. Change “Member” to “Membership” in header of Section 5. Discussion of how Chairman will be succeeded. Officers will be elected annually; remove “succession.” Elected officer to the council will be the chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer. State officers will be elected at annual meeting.” Should we change secretary and treasurer to elected offices? Should we combine secretary and treasurer? Make secretary and coordinator as one position? Elected officers of the council will be chairperson, vice chairperson and the treasurer. Secretary will be elected if no coordinator is present. (Later discussion clarified the duties of the Secretary will be handled by the Coordinator, per 5.5, and thus not an elected officer.)

State Technical committee representative will be changed to designated representative of the council. Tamara will create draft grid of approval and present to the board at the Aug. 11 meeting. Change “officers” to “officer positions.” Align to language addressing officers above. Discussion of Section 5 outlining duties of Coordinator as Secretary. Change summer meeting to annual meeting. Clarification that Coordinator will not vote. Discussion of financial approval, under Section 6. How do we approve all financial transactions? Do not want to burden workflow. Change to reflect approval plan of board and signature of fiscal entity. Discussion of regular policy formation procedures. Do we want to have to revote on them each year? Change to “resolutions shall stand unless edited or rescinded.” Change Budget, Section 1, to reflect clarification on report being due at Annual Meeting. Fiscal year is still the calendar year. Discussion on Section 3.3, and Section 3.4. The organization needs to have final approval of the advisors and members.

Jim L. moved to preliminarily approve By-Laws as amended. Rod seconded. Motion passed.

**Report from Coordinator:**

Tamara provided updated on the Aug. 11 meeting. A detailed agenda, registration and letter were mailed to all stewards and board members. She is still finalizing one workshop for that training session.

The Reeves Project Tour will be held Sept. 5 at the Reeves Ranch. Only one workshop, the Keynote Speaker, has not been finalized. Greg Judy has agreed to speak, and will be confirmed, pending the possibility of obtaining an animal behaviorist, such as a protégée of Bud Williams.

Tamara has been working with Scott to update web sites. Currently we are operating under two different web sites: [www.nebraskagrazinglands.com](http://www.nebraskagrazinglands.com) and [www.ranchmentors.com](http://www.ranchmentors.com). Tamara requested permission to pull [www.nebraskagrazinglands.com](http://www.nebraskagrazinglands.com) from the Web, as it is severely outdated. She will work with Scott to integrate two web sites into one, under the new domain: [www.nebraskagrazinglands.org](http://www.nebraskagrazinglands.org). Twila mentioned there was a July bill from Intellicom, for hosting [www.nebraskagrazinglands.com](http://www.nebraskagrazinglands.com). Tamara will make arrangements to end service agreement with Intellicom.

Tamara reported the Aug. 11 meeting and the Reeves Tour were the main projects she had been working on, with plans to start work on a SW Grazing Tour on Sept. 16. Discussion followed as to the nature of that workshop. A suggestion was made to seek Bruce Troester as a speaker.

**Report from SE Graziers:**

Rod Christen reported on SE activities. (*several previous*) June 27 Rod hosted a pasture walk. Observed pasture improvements. July 9, Steve Chick, State NRCS Conservationist, came out and participated in a field day. July 23 the local extension hosted a landowners luncheon for managing noxious weeds on CRP. Phragmites awareness was discussed. Jim C. mentioned that the NGLC was available and open to assisting with funding for future projects.

**Report on NRCS agreement:**

Dana working to propose invasive species initiative through EQUIP on watersheds. Ranchers and farmers could propose for conservation outside of regular EQUIP money. \$1.5 million addition. State sub-committee has approved invasive plants programs. Great time for NGLC to step up and build stewardship networks throughout state. Discussion to include targeted grazing in cost share, including permanent fencing. Process includes going through sub-committee. Does NGLC want to take a stand on this issue? Dana offered to present based on a letter to the sub-committee. Discussion on appropriated and over-appropriated status. Include a position statement as an agenda item on annual meeting.

Scott moved to approve this year's NRCS contract. Rod seconded. Motion passed.

**Return to discussion of contract:**

Tamara would like an agenda item to be added to annual meeting to discuss additional subcontracts.

Jim L. moved to allow executive committee to approve contract. Rod seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 p.m.